# GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

## Abstract

Electronics & Information Technology department - Procurement of Windows-based desktops/laptops exclusively for use by visually impaired employees in Government offices - sanction accorded - orders issued.

**ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(IT-CELL)DEPARTMENT**

G.O.(Rt)No.147/2026/ITD Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 25-07-2026

Read:- 1. Letter from the Kerala Federation of the Blind dated 19/06/2025

## ORDER

Government have adopted the policy of promoting and implementing Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) across Government Departments, offices, autonomous institutions and other Government-funded establishments. Accordingly, desktop computers and laptops procured for Government offices are generally configured with FOSS-based operating systems.

2. The Kerala Federation of the Blind, vide letter read as 2nd paper above, has represented before Government that employees with visual impairment working in Government Departments and institutions face difficulties in effectively utilizing certain assistive technologies in FOSS-based environments. It has been pointed out that Windows-based operating systems provide better compatibility and support for widely used screen readers, accessibility tools and other assistive technologies required by persons with visual impairment for discharging their official duties efficiently.

3. Government have examined the matter in detail and are pleased to order that, notwithstanding the existing FOSS policy, Government Departments, Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings and other Government institutions may procure and deploy desktop computers and laptops with licensed Windows operating systems exclusively for use by employees with visual impairment, where such

employees require Windows-based accessibility and assistive technology solutions for the effective discharge of their official duties.

4. The relaxation granted under this order shall be limited to the procurement of desktops and laptops intended for the use employees with visual impairment and shall not be construed as a general exemption from the FOSS policy adopted by Government. The Head of Office or Department shall ensure that the equipment is required for use by employees and that the Windows operating system is necessary for accessibility purposes before undertaking such procurement.

5. All procurements under this order shall be made in accordance with the applicable Government procurement procedures and financial rules.

(By order of the Governor)
SEERAM SAMBASIVA RAO I A S
SPECIAL SECRETARY

To:
All Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Additional Chief Secretaries
All Heads of Departments
The Web and new Media, I & PRD, Thiruvananthapuram
Stock file /Office copy

Forwarded /By order
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Date: 27-07-2026
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Section Officer