

Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education

MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR THE CABINET FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2019:

Important Policy Decisions Taken and Major Achievements During February, 2019

A. Improving access

(i) Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)

Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development to strategically address the felt needs of the State higher educational institutions to achieve the objectives of equity, access, excellence alongwith academic and administrative reforms. It seeks to improve the overall quality of existing State higher educational institutions by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards and adoption of accreditation as a mandatory quality assurance framework; correcting regional imbalances by facilitating access to high quality institutions in rural & semi-urban areas; and providing adequate opportunities of higher education to socially deprived communities; promote inclusion of women, minorities, SC/ST/OBCs and differently abled persons to ensure equity. Transformative reforms such as governance, academic, affiliation and accreditation reforms are pre-requisite in the implementation of the scheme in State higher educational institutions. Overall, RUSA has supported more than 2,500 projects amounting to Rs. 13,000 crores benefitting 50 lakh students.

Inter alia, central support under RUSA has been approved for creation of 130 Model Degree Colleges to meet the issue of access in higher education system in the aspirational, educationally backward, un-served and under-served districts of the country. Support is provided to create colleges with requisite infrastructure with technologically advanced facilities. The component has been instrumental in upscaling the enrolment of tribal and disadvantaged students who now have access to higher education facilities.

Under RUSA central support has also been approved for creation of 37 professional colleges in such areas where the access to Technical education is low.

Prior to the launch of RUSA (2012-13), the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher education in India was 21.5. The GER for male population was 22.7 and for females it was 20.1. For Scheduled Castes, it was 16.0 and for Scheduled Tribes, it was 11.1.

Subsequent to the launch of RUSA, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher education in India increased 25.8% in 2017-18. The GER for male population increased to 26.3% and for females, it increased to 25.4%. For Scheduled Castes, the GER increased to 21.8% and for Scheduled Tribes, it increased to 15.9%.

(ii) National Academic Depository (NAD)

The National Academic Depository (NAD) has been launched by the Hon'ble President of India on 9th July, 2017. This is a digital storehouse of academic degrees and awards of all Higher Education Institutions and School Examination Boards like the CBSE. As on 22nd February, 2019, around 2.866 crore academic awards including degrees, marks-sheets, certificates etc have been lodged by various academic institutions on NAD

(iii) A total of 150 projects worth Rs. 3,300 crore were digitally launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister from Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir on 3rd February, 2019. The Hon'ble Prime Minister also interacted with students on this occasion.

The projects launched covered 26 States and 1 Union Territory (Puducherry), which is expected to benefit 4.75 lakh students. The projects launched would also address higher education needs of 51 Aspirational Districts.

The digital launch covered laying of foundation stone for establishing 54 New Model Degree Colleges covering States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, 11 New Professional Colleges in Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Rajasthan, Puducherry, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Uttarakhand, and Career and Entrepreneurship Hubs in 27 universities and 39 Autonomous Colleges besides, an exclusive Women's University in Jharkhand. Further, 16 New Model Colleges were inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh. In addition, one new professional college each were launched in Jammu & Kashmir and Mizoram.

An amount of Rs.4858.62 crore including Rs. 1190.52 crore during the current financial year-2018-19 has been released to State Governments since the inception of the Scheme.

(iv) IIM Rules, 2018 which were notified in Gazette of India on the 5th December, 2018 were laid on the Table of Both House of the Parliament on 13th February, 2019.

(v) Review Meeting of Campus Wi-Fi through OPEX Model was held on 08.02.2019: Review undertaken. Data usage by CUs has doubled in the last few months.

(vi) 11th Meeting of SWAYAM Board was held on 11.02.2019: Monthly review undertaken by SWAYAM BOARD.

B. Quality Improvement

(i) University Grants Commission (UGC): UGC, for the first time, has brought in a Quality Improvement Framework for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) on its mandate to improve quality and promote excellence. The status of implementation of Quality Improvement Programme of UGC in Non Technical Education is enclosed as Annexure I

(ii) 5th Meeting of Expert Committee on Operation Digital Board (ODB) was held on 06.02.2019.

(iii) 1st Meeting of Planning & Implementation Committee for Capacity Building of Course Coordinators (CCs) of SWAYAM in UGC, New Delhi, was held on 18.02.2019: to finalise the strategy to train the existing and potential CCs in all aspects of SWAYAM including academic/pedagogy, instructional design production, delivery, engaging and effective discussion forums.

(iv) Press Conference of Hon'ble HRM on SWAYAM, SWAYAM Prabha, Operation Digital Board (ODB) in Press Information Bureau (PIB), Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, was held on 20.02.2019: In press conference Hon'ble HRM brief about these project, mainly about the project Operation Digital Board (ODB).

(v) 3rd Meeting of the Project Approval Board (PAB) for University Enterprise Resource Planning (UERP) was held on 28.02.2019: This is a new project. ERP of CU was approved by the PAB.

(vi) Meeting of Technical and Financial Review regarding NMEICT Project Progress was held on 18.02.2019: Reviewed the progress of the project under NMEICT.

C. Increasing Employability

(i) National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) : In order to have authentic and cross verified information (from the industry cross verified by students), in line with the suggestion given in the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) meeting held on 3/08/2018 in respect of National Apprenticeship Training (NATS), the functionality is now available on NATS website to indicate the percentage of apprentices who get jobs either in the same establishment or in other establishment or go for self employment. As of now for the year 2017-18 for sample size of 10% of overall percentage of apprentices, it

is inferred that 75% of apprentices engaged during 2017-18 got the job and 85% engaged during 2016-17 got the job.

D. Internationalisation

(i) A delegation led by Dr. N. Saravana Kumar, Joint Secretary (ICC) visited Ottawa, Canada from 25-28th February, 2019 in connection with the second Joint Working Group Meeting between India and Canada.

(ii) For SPARC programme, Rs. 28 Crore have been released in Q4 of FY2018-19 to IIT Kharagpur.

(iii) Total 282 proposals under SPARC have been approved by the Apex Committee till 28.02.2019.

E. Promoting Research:

(i) 4th Meeting of Students Committee for AERO INDIA 2019 was held on 07.02.2019:

(ii) In Joint Collaboration with Ministry of Defence (Mod), First time a "Student Pavilion" for showcasing Students Projects related to aerospace activities was organized in AERO Show 2019 held from 20.02.2019 to 24.02.2019 at Bangalore.

(iii) 5th Meeting of NMEICT Phase-II & e-Shodh Sindhu (eSS) Review by Secretary (HE), MHRD was held on 04.02.2019: A review of the project undertaken.

S.No.	Initiative	Present status
1.	Induction programme for students.	<p>The Guidelines are being formulated and will be placed before the Commission to organize awareness programmes for sensitizing the heads of institutions about the student Induction Programme along with intense TOT (Training of Trainees) workshops for conducting Student Induction Programme. A draft scheme will be prepared by UGC for implementing the Student Induction Programme in Higher Education in a time bound manner.</p> <p>UGC has sent a letter to all the Vice-Chancellors to nominate 3 best teachers who could be given extensive one week training at the UGC identified centres in the month of May-June, 2019. These teachers would then be training other teachers and conducts Students Induction Programme in various universities and colleges.</p>
2.	Learning outcomes based curriculum framework (LOCF) revision.	17 LOCF reports received. Out of these 17 reports, 10 reports have been peer reviewed and other 07 are under process. 06 LOCF reports along with comments of Peer Review Experts have been sent to chairperson of the respected committees for reviewing. From 10 LOCF reports 04 have been finalized. Rest of 21 LOCF reports expected by March, 2019.
3.	Use of ICT based learning tools for effective teaching learning process	UGC successfully runs 47 PG non-technology MOOCs courses on the SWAYAM portal and total 40,311 learners have enrolled in the same. Letter will be sent to all universities requesting them to provide the status on the approval of credit transfer for SWAYAM Courses.
4.	Soft skills for students.	<p>The task force has been constituted for developing curriculum for Soft Skills in Non Technical education.</p> <p>A new group has been constituted, comprising</p>

		<p>of experts from Universities, NASCOM and ICT academy to evolve curriculum for soft skills for implementation at UG level.</p> <p>A task force meeting for developing Soft Skills Curriculum in Non-Technical education was held on 21.01.2019 at UGC.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soft Skills MOOCs Courses on Communication skills, Professional skills, Leadership and Management including Entrepreneurship and Universal Human Values shall be developed. The duration of the Soft Skills Curriculum shall be 120 hours comprising of 06 credits. Work allocated to 2 members for each course. Proposal for developing MOOCs be obtained against rolling advertisement on UGC website. 2. The work of drafting Curriculum is going on through e-discussions. A meeting to finalize the Curriculum will be convened soon. 3. It has been decided that self paced MOOCs courses on the SWAYAM platform for Soft Skills Curriculum will be developed.
5.	<p>Social and Industry connect for every institution: Every institution shall adopt at least 5 villages for exchange of knowledge and for the overall social/economic betterment of the village communities.</p>	<p>UGC guidelines for establishing University - Industry Inter-Linkage Centres in Universities are being revisited. The UGC as a Subject Expert Group (SEG) is developing curriculum for a course on community engagement & Institution Social Responsibility. A report on University Industry Interaction has been submitted by Prof. Rupinder Tewari, Punjab University, Chandigarh. He has been requested to revise it.</p> <p>Credit course curriculum has been developed and placed before the Commission Meeting held on 26.02.2019.</p>
6.	<p>Examination Reform.</p>	<p>A new system of examination, assessment, credit transfers will be tested as a pilot project for 5 to 10 LOCF courses from the academic year 2019. Final report from the committee has been received after peer review from Prof Vasudha Kamat and Prof Anchal Chomal. The Evaluation Reform report was placed before</p>

		<p>the Commission on 29.01.2019.</p> <p>A public Notice has been uploaded on the UGC website on 23.02.2019 to invite suggestions from the stakeholders including teachers, students, controller of examination, eminent academicians and public at large on the report.</p>
7.	Tracking of the students' progress after completion of course.	A task force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhay Karandikar (Director, IIT Kanpur) to frame policy in this regard. Letters have been sent to experts.
8.	Induction training for all new teachers, and annual refresher training for all the teachers – role of the NCRs; and mandatory leadership/management training for all educational administrators.	<p>The modules have been prepared and sent to IISER, Pune & NIEPA for review. IISER, Pune has been contacted for TOT programme. A meeting of the committee on "Training of Teacher Education Programme" was held on 11th January, 2019 at UGC.</p> <p>The work of the Committee is under process.</p> <p>A letter giving equivalence for ARPIT courses with refresher courses has been sent to all the universities on 01-01-19.</p>
9.	Promoting quality research by faculty and creation of new knowledge.	The Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for Development in Education (STRIDE) is being developed. A cell for Journal Analysis has been established in Pune University with four regional universities as CARE universities. A public notice detailing the programme for approval of journals has been uploaded on UGC website on 14.01.2019.
10.	Mentoring of non-accredited institutions, so that every institution can get accreditation by 2022.	<p>The list of institutions eligible NAAC Accredited/ NIRF ranking has been identified. All these institutions have been conveyed that UGC has identified them as MENTOR so that they may identify their mentee institutions. The suggestions to the scheme are also being sought from proposed Mentor institutions.</p> <p>Nearly 125 institutions have conveyed their willingness to be mentor and they have also submitted their respective mentee institutions.</p>