

Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education

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

Important Policy Decisions Taken and Major Achievements During January, 2019

A. Improving access

- **Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)**

Rashtriya Uchcharat 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.

The scheme, *inter alia*, provides central assistance to States for creation of New Model Degree Colleges, upgradation of existing degree colleges to Model Degree Colleges, Infrastructure grants to college and universities, New colleges (Professional) etc.

A meeting was held on 15th January, 2019 under the Chairpersonship of Joint Secretary (HE) with 10 select State Universities and delegates from the leading US universities regarding international collaboration.

A meeting via video-conference mode was held under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (HE) on 23th January, 2019 with various States/UTs to assess the preparedness for the upcoming digital launch of various projects under RUSA by the Prime Minister.

The 15th meeting of the Project Approval Board (PAB) of RUSA was held under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (Higher Education) on 24th January, 2019.

Approvals were given under various components of the scheme such as creation of universities by conversion of colleges in a cluster, infrastructure grants to universities and colleges, upgradation of existing degree colleges to Model Degree Colleges etc.

An amount of Rs. 4773 crore including Rs. 1104.90 crore during the current financial year-2018-19 has been released to State Governments since the inception of the Scheme.

- **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 25th January, 2019, around 2.44 crore academic awards including degrees, marks-sheets, certificates etc have been lodged by various academic institutions on NAD. A meeting via video-conference was held on 04.01.2019 with 26 select State Universities to review the progress of implementation of NAD.

B. Quality Improvement

- The pay of teachers and other academic staff in degree level Engineering Colleges and other degree level Institutions including Architecture, Town Planning, Pharmacy, Applied Arts and Craft institutions etc. under the purview of AICTE have been revised on the recommendation of 7th CPC.
- Shri K K Aggarwal has been appointed as Chairman, National Board of Accreditation.

C. Increasing Employability

We are implementing Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana – Technical Institutions (PMKVY- TI) Scheme, MHRD started an initiative to train the school dropout unemployed youth in employable skills. The Technical Education Institutions/ Polytechnics have to utilize their existing infrastructure for offering these courses in the off-college hours so that the unemployed youth enrolled for these courses shall acquire adequate skills for certification under the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and find placement in suitable private sector jobs.

In 2016-17, 27000 nos. school dropouts were trained, in 2017-18, 62000 school dropouts were trained and in 2018-19, 2 lakh youth have been approved as intake for training by more than 1700 technical education institutions. So far, the placement record is 50 percent of total certified trainees.

Through **HEFA-RISE** 'Revitalising of Infrastructure and Systems of Education (RISE)' by 2022 initiative for meant for expansion in creation in education infrastructure is expected to create additional 30 crore mandays of direct employment which will also create substantial indirect employment.

D. Internationalisation

- EFC on Champion services Sector Scheme for 2019-20 to 2021-22 has approved funding("Funds Recommended: Rs.657.23 Crores, Additional Funds Earmarked- Rs.121.62 Crores") for Internationalisation of Higher Education under Study in India Programme.
- SPARC Apex Committee Meeting held on 30.01.2019 and it approved total 199 proposals with a total budget allocated Rs.12599.62 Lakhs.
- **MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco to Facilitate Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications:**

In order to facilitate the mobility of students between India and Morocco, and an MoU on Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualification has been signed on 22.01.2019 during the visit H.E. Khalid Samadi, Secretary of State for Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Government to the Kingdom of Morocco. This would not only help in improving the mobility of students between the two countries but also ease the process of granting equivalence to the foreign degrees and consequently the students from both sides will have a hassle free mobility and a valid degree.