

**Ministry of Human Resource Development**  
**Department of Higher Education**

**MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR THE CABINET FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 2020:**

**1. Important Events**

**A.National Education Policy 2020**

National Education Policy 2020 has been finalized and approved by the Union Cabinet on 29.07.2020. This policy has come after a gap of 34 years. It contains about 140 recommendations for higher education. Two recommendations - National Education Technology Forum (NETF) and Higher Education Commission (HEC) Bill - are being targeted for early implementation.

**B. MANODARPAN**

Hon'ble Minister of HRD launched MANODARPAN, an initiative of Ministry of HRD, covering a wide range of activities to provide Psychosocial Support to students for their Mental Health & Well-being during the COVID outbreak and beyond.

The following components are included in the MANODARPAN initiative:

- Advisory Guidelines for students, teachers and faculty of School systems and Universities along with families.
- National Toll-free Helpline (8448440632) by the MHRD for a country wide outreach to students from school, universities and colleges. This unique helpline shall be manned by a pool of experienced counselors/ Psychologists and other mental health professionals and will continue beyond the COVID-19 situation.

**C. Online education in languages other than English:**

Steps have been initiated to subtitle courses of SWAYAM in 8 languages other than English (Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam). About 200 courses have been subtitled.

**D. Status of academic sessions in various institutions**

194 universities have conducted their final year examination. Other universities have been directed by UGC to complete their final year examination by Sept 2020. In the field of technical education, IITs/IIMs/IISERs and NITs have completed their end semester examination and the next semester is going to start (or started) in online mode. Admission to 1<sup>st</sup> year of IIT and NIT is however not done as the JEE and JEE (advance) examinations have yet not taken place. In IIMs, admission to 1<sup>st</sup> year have taken places and on line classes are going on. The final year students of IITs/NITs/IISERs/IIMs have passed out.

## **E. Measures taken to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on the education system/academic calendar in the country**

- In continuation of the UGC's guidelines dated 29.04.2020 and based on the report of the Expert Committee, on 6.7.20, UGC issued revised guidelines on examination and academic calendar for the Universities in view of COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission approved the recommendations of the Expert Committee regarding completion of terminal semester(s)/ final year(s) examinations by the universities/ institutions by the end of September, 2020 in offline (pen & paper)/online/ blended (online+ offline) mode. However, the decision to hold final year examination has been challenged in Supreme Court.
- For new admissions at UG level in IITs, JEE (advance) is tentatively scheduled in September 2020. In so far as new admission to PG programmes in IITs are concerned, the examination through JAM was already conducted before lockdown. Thus, provisional admissions have been given subject to clearing of final year UG programme. The provisionally admitted students will be undergoing classes through online programme.

## **F. Measures to avoid further postponement of the important all India examinations**

Ministry is presently planning entrance examination to professional courses during September 2020, as per schedule given below:

- JEE (Main) on 01 & 08 Sep 2020
- JEE (Adv) on 27 Sep 2020 (for admission to IITs)

## **G. Improving access to Higher Education: Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)**

An amount of Rs.48.958 crore including Rs. 20.571 crore during the month of July, 2020 has been released to State Government during the current financial year- 2020-21 under the scheme of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).

## **H. National Academic Depository (NAD)**

During the month of July, review meetings were convened with UGC and Digilocker to review the implementation of NAD.

## **I. Policy Decisions taken and Major Achievements of Scholarship Division for during the month:**

To finalise the preparation for opening of National Scholarship Portal for the current academic year, it has been decided to open the portal from 15 August 2020.

To finalise the preparation for opening of Special Scholarship Scheme for J&K, in July, 2020 two webinars have been conducted by AICTE on 06.07.2020 and 17.7.2020 with the Administration of UTs of J&K and Ladakh respectively. For inviting application under the Scheme, for the current AY 2020-21, AICTE has

opened the online portal on 6.7.2020, last date to apply has been extended till 31.8.2020. As on 31.7.2020 status of applications received is as follows:

Registered	-	21200
Application submitted	-	17343
Documents verification	-	10502

#### **J. Achievements/Important Initiative undertaken by Research Councils during the month:**

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Delhi [an autonomous body under Ministry of Human Resource Development] has undertaken the following salient activities in the month of July, 2020:

- i. ICSSR received 18 final reports and 150 progress reports of the research projects awarded under the scheme: Impact Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS), and the disbursement/utilization of grant for projects/scheme of IMPRESS was Rs. 145 Lakh.
- ii. ICSSR has updated its Collegium of eminent social scientists.

#### **K. Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)**

As on 31st July, 2020, cumulatively, projects worth Rs. 41,318.34 crore have been approved under HEFA; for which a loan amount of Rs. 30,349.93 crore have been sanctioned and Rs. 8788.84 crore have actually been disbursed. The number of educational institutions that have availed funding through HEFA stands at 90. In the month of July, 2020 alone, an amount of Rs 178.31 crores have been disbursed by HEFA across institutions of MHRD and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.