

Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education

MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR THE CABINET FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2021:

Important Policy Decisions Taken and Major Achievements During February, 2021

1. Prime Minister addressed the 66th Convocation of IIT Kharagpur

Prime Minister addressed the 66th convocation ceremony of the Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Kharagpur via video conferencing. He motivated and inspired students to know their true worth and asked the students to adopt the mantra of Self 3 to overcome their self doubts and obstacles in the future. He said Self 3 is Self-awareness, Self-confidence and Selflessness. He advised the students to recognize their potential and move forward, move ahead with full confidence, move ahead with selflessness.

Education Minister and Minister of State for Education were present on the occasion as Guests of Honour.

2. Prime Minister addressed the Convocation Ceremony of Visva-Bharati University

Prime Minister addressed the convocation ceremony of the Visva Bharati University through video conferencing, where he talked about the establishment and the foundation of the university, and how it follows the ideals of Gurudev Tagore.

He said Visva Bharati for Gurudev Tagore was not just a knowledge imparting institution but an attempt to reach the topmost goal of Indian culture, which is to achieve oneself."

Governor of West Bengal and Rector of Visva-Bharati, Education Minister and MoS for Education were also present on the occasion.

3. First 'India Toy Fair-2021' organized from 27th February to 2nd March

With a view to boost toy manufacturing in the country and improve its global market shares in line with the theme of "Atmanirbhar Bharat, the 1st "India Toy Fair-2021" was organized on a virtual platform from 27th February to 2nd March 2021.

The platform website (www.theindiatoyfair.in) was launched jointly by Education Minister, Minister of Textile and Minister of Commerce and Industry

The India Toy Fair 2021 intends to bring policy makers, toy manufacturers & distributors, investors, industry experts, MSMEs, artisans, start-ups, children, parents and teachers together on a common platform, in a bid to propel the growth of the Indian Toy Industry, giving it a global competitive edge.

For the education sector in particular, the Knowledge Sessions involving various experts will focus on areas emphasized in the NEP 2020 such as play-based and activity-based learning, indoor and outdoor play, use of puzzles and games to promote critical thinking and overall on how to make learning more engaging and enjoyable.

4. NPTEL is offering free online courses for medical students

NPTEL offers over 1800 courses in engineering, technology, arts and humanities courses. This exercise of content creation has now been extended to include basic subjects in medicine. The National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) is offering free online courses for medical students on its official website.

Courses are available in various disciplines such as Pathology, Anatomy, Biochemistry, Physiology, Microbiology and Pharmacology.

The content revolves around the undergraduate medical curriculum. The lectures are useful not only for students in all areas of science but are also helpful to faculty members and practising doctors as refresher learning material.

5. India promotes digital connectivity with ASEAN through mega Hackathon

With an aim to promote youth cooperation and digital connectivity between India and ASEAN, the Ministry of Education in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) organised an ASEAN-India Hackathon from February 1-4.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) implemented this initiative with the support of nodal agencies from all ten ASEAN countries, which included their Education Ministries and prominent universities.

This Hackathon provided a unique opportunity to India and ASEAN countries to solve their common identified challenges under two broad themes of "Blue Economy" and "Education" and thereby provide an opportunity to forward their economic and cultural ties through collaboration in education, science and technology. This Hackathon is enactment of six fundamental virtues of our civilisation: respect, dialogue, cooperation, peace, prosperity and innovation.

6. Joint Entrance Exam: In line with the recommendations of NEP, JEE 2021 was conducted during 23rd Feb to 26th Feb in 13 languages. 652627 students appeared in the B.Tech exam and 63065 students appeared in the B.Arch-B.Planning examination.

7. Important Policy decisions.

Implementation Committee for implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 and Review Committee to review the implementation of NEP 2020 have been constituted.

8. Major Achievements of Scholarship Division during the month:

| Sr. No. | Important Task | Remarks |
|---------|---|---|
| 1 | Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University students (CSSS) | Draft EFC memo for the continuation of the scheme from AY 2021 to AY 2025 have been circulated for seeking comments with the line Ministry on 15 th Feb, 2021. |
| 2. | SAKSHAT Portal | 820 total Applications received on portal for the 2021 Commonwealth Master's Scholarship tenable in the United Kingdom. Applications were assessed and 20 nominations were forwarded to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission |
| 3. | Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme | Draft EFC memo for the continuation of the scheme from AY 2021 to AY 2025 have been circulated for seeking comments with the line Ministry on 15 th Feb, 2021. |