

Statement of India at the G20 Extraordinary Virtual Education Ministers' Meeting

Hon'ble Chairperson,

Distinguished Delegates,

Excellencies;

The global emergency caused by the COVID 19 pandemic has pushed us into a phase of uncertainty that has affected our daily lives, our functioning and our economic activities. On behalf of the Government and people of India I express my heartfelt condolences to the families of all those who lost their lives on account of the COVID-19 Pandemic. I wish speedy recovery to all those who are infected.

I am very grateful to Hon'ble Chairperson for his initiative to organise this historic and relevant meeting of the G20 nations to collaboratively address the widespread disruptions caused by the pandemic in the education sector.

Atmanirbhar Bharat'

Excellencies,

I am happy to share that In order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on all sectors including education, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, has recently launched a clarion call for an '**Atmanirbhar Bharat'** or Self Reliant India. Government of India has also announced an unprecedented economic package worth around 10% of India's GDP with substantial financial allocations to reinvigorate the education and health sectors of our country

Mitigation Efforts

In India we took very early action to close down all educational institutions. All examinations were also postponed. I, along with my team, have been in constant contact with all educational institutions, students, teachers and parents through webinars and online meetings to sort out their problems and provide guidance to them.

Digital Education

Excellencies !

The Human Resources Development Ministry in India has developed excellent digital educational content over the years. These are available on various platforms like **DIKSHA, SWAYAM , Virtual labs, e-PG Pathshala and National Digital Library** to name a few.

We recognize that there are many students who do not have adequate access to digital means of education. To address the digital divide we making extensive use of TV channels- **SWAYAM PRABHA, a group of 34 DTH channels, and Radio**

including **Community Radio**. With the help of these we have succeeded in providing education 24x7 to students in the remotest areas.

PM eVIDYA

In order to bring all e resources on a common platform, we are soon going to launch Prime Minister eVIDYA programme. This will include:

ONE NATION ONE DIGITAL PLATFORM'

All educational e-resources will be brought on one platform under the concept of One Nation One Digital Program, with easy navigation through single integrated search.

ONE CLASS ONE CHANNEL

There will be one dedicated TV channel per grade for classes 1 to 12 ,to provide quality educational material .

The PMeVidya programme is expected to benefit nearly 250 million school children.

ONLINE PROGRAMMES IN UNIVERSITIES

100 top ranked universities in the country are soon going to start full-fledged Online programmes. 'Permissible online component' in Conventional, Open and Distance modes of education being enhanced from 20 % to 40%

SWAYAM MOOCS COURSES

SWAYAM MOOCS courses are being mapped with university curriculum and Higher Education Institutions are being encouraged to make it part of curriculum.

REGIONAL LANGUAGES

e-learning resources are being prepared in **eight** regional languages.

DAISY

Study material for the differently abled is being developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language .

MANODARPAN

Manodarpan is an initiative by the Education Ministry for psychosocial support of students, teachers and families for their mental health and emotional wellbeing. A National Helpline has been set up to provide counselling.

Excellencies,

As you are aware, India has one of the largest education systems in the world with 1028 Universities, 45000 degree colleges, 1,300,000 schools, 10 million teachers and 330 million students. India has always promoted educational collaboration in the

world. India also acknowledges the ongoing initiatives and educational solidarity put forward by educators, institutional leaders, families, and communities involved in supporting continued learning during this crisis. We also recognize the critical role of our higher education institutions in leading research that can deliver life-saving preventive measures and treatments for COVID-19.

In this context, India takes this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to the efforts being taken by G-20 Group of Nations to continue with its focus on the development and advancement of flexible learning strategies, including a variety of distance and e-learning solutions within different country contexts. India recognizes the benefits of both in-person (face-to-face) and distance learning, and the importance of strengthening blended learning approaches, including supporting components, such as infrastructure, accessibility and availability among students of appropriate devices that are required to participate in technology-enabled learning, digital skills, teacher training, data security and privacy, funding, and assessment tools.

Hon'ble Chairperson,

The world has resolutely and effectively fought this pandemic at several levels. Despite severe difficulties, global communities have tried their best to ensure that the morale of the public remain high as they face this challenge.

Indian spiritual leader Swami Vivekanand has said that the tougher the struggle, the more spectacular is the victory. Today we can move ahead collaboratively in the field of education and research, under the leadership of G-20. Our collective efforts in these difficult time will also make G 20 stronger, more effective and more relevant.

Thank You