

Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education

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

Important Policy Decisions Taken and Major Achievements During March, 2021

1. Prime Minister addressed the Inaugural session of Webinar on 'Harnessing Education, Research and Skill Development for an Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

The Prime Minister addressed the Inaugural session of Webinar on 'Harnessing Education, Research and Skill Development for an Atmanirbhar Bharat' organised by Department of Higher Education on 3rd March, 2021.

The webinar was attended jointly by stakeholders of the Ministries/ Departments of Education, Science & Technology, Biotechnology, Earth Sciences, Skill Development, Space, Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals & Petrochemicals.

The objective was to brainstorm and discuss ways for effective implementation of Budget provisions regarding education sector, with experts and industry representatives, with an aim to link Education with Employability and Entrepreneurial Capabilities over the years.

2. Education Minister held a meeting with Director General, UNESCO

Education Minister held a virtual meeting with Director General UNESCO, Ms Audrey Azoulay on 25th March, 2021. They discussed key issues of mutual importance including National Education Policy, India's response to COVID Pandemic especially in the education sector, among others concerning India UNESCO cooperation. Secretary, Higher Education, delegation from UNESCO and senior officials of the Ministry attended the meeting.

Education Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister, Ministry of Education has ensured that education reaches even the last child in the remotest part of the country. In this context he mentioned about initiatives undertaken to ensure continuity of education for children across the country.

Ms. Audrey Azoulay appreciated the response of the Indian Government in mitigating the challenges of Covid and ensuring continuity of education during the pandemic by providing education to the students through different mediums of TV, Radio, online etc. to the last student of the country, said the release.

3. Unveiling of QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021

The unveiling of QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings by Subject 2021, was held in the presence of Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' on 4th March, 2021. This year, it features 51 subjects across five abroad subject areas.

12 Indian institutions have made it to the subject wise top 100 of the world - IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IISC Bangalore, IIT Guwahati,, IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad, JNU, Anna University, University of Delhi, and O.P Jindal University .

Amongst these top 100 ranked institutions, IIT Madras has been ranked 30th in the world for Petroleum Engineering, IIT Bombay has been ranked 41st and IIT Kharagpur has been ranked 44th in the world for Minerals and Mining Engineering, and University of Delhi has been ranked 50th in the world for Development Studies.

Addressing on the occasion, Education Minister said that over the last few years the Government's continuous focus on improvement and reform in Indian higher education has resulted in significant improvement in the representation of Indian institutions in globally acclaimed and reputed rankings like QS. These rankings and ratings have fostered healthy competition amongst Indian Institutions motivating them towards global excellence, he added.

4. First-ever virtual book fair New Delhi World Book Fair organised from 6th March – 9th March, 2021.

Education Minister inaugurated the virtual edition of World Book Fair 2021 organised by National Book Trust. This year's theme is National Education Policy 2020.

Minister also launched 17 bilingual titles published by NBT under the implementation policy of the NEP-2020. These titles have been published in Bilingual format under the Bilingual Editions series for Children as per the guidelines of the NEP 2020 with the objective to create supplementary reading materials for children to help them adapt suitably to the multilingual fabric of the country.

5. Education Minister Inaugurated *Ānandam: The Center For Happiness* in IIM Jammu

Education Minister virtually inaugurated "Ānandam: The Center for Happiness" and congratulated IIM Jammu for the new venture and defined the need for Ānandam: The Center for Happiness.

The prime activities envisaged under the concept of 'Ānandam: The Center for Happiness' will be divided into five broad categories, namely, Counselling, Holistic wellness, Elective courses on Happiness Development, Research and Leadership & Faculty Development. The Advisory Board of Experts for the Center constitutes of numerous experts from academics, research and industry.

6. Implementation of NEP:

(i) After inter ministerial consultation, the final cabinet note for National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) has been sent to the office of Cabinet Secretariate for its perusal and seeking cabinet approval.

(ii) The EFC for Rashtriya Uchhtar Shiksha Abhiyaan incorporating provisions for MERU (Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities) as envisaged in NEP.

(iii) The second semester of mentorship programme for technical teachers have started online via SWAYAM and in the March- June semester about 11000 newly inducted teachers have registered for the same.