

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**Department of Higher Education**

**MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR THE CABINET FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2024:**

**Important Policy Decisions Taken and Major Achievements During April, 2024**

(i) A roundtable Meeting was organised by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) with the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) who have secured ranks in the QS World University rankings 2024 by subject. The primary aim of this meeting was to facilitate the exchange of best practices among institutions, fostering opportunities for others to enhance their international standings through adoption and implementation. Top National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranked institutions also participated in the meeting. The QS World University ranking 2024 by subject was released on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024. This latest edition shows India's significant progress, with 69 universities securing 454 entries, marking an impressive 19.4% increase from last year's 355 entries.

(ii) Deliberations were held with the Foreign Universities on opening of campuses in India, avenues for institutional collaboration and co-operation in research etc. in Consonance with the regulations on Foreign HEIs setting up campuses in India and regulations on Joint Degree, Dual Degree and Twinning Program. The foreign Universities included Monash University, Australia; Australian Innovative Research Universities (IRU) viz Flinders University, Griffith University, James Cook University, La Trobe University, University of Canberra, and Western Sydney University etc. Similarly, Meeting was held with Vice Provost for International Initiatives, Georgia Institute of Technology to discuss issue encompassing several areas of collaboration like Health, Sustainable Cities, Agriculture, Sustainable Energy, Fintech, Transnational Research etc.

(iii) Eight Members of the University Grants Commission were appointed under the provisions of sections 5(3)(b) and 5(3)(c) of The UGC Act, 1956 vide Gazette notification no 7-2/2023-U1A dated 10.04.2024. Similarly, orders were issued for appointment of Directors/VCs of 24 Centrally Funded HEIs namely IITs, NITs, IIITs, IIM, IISERs, IEST, CU etc.

(iv) A stakeholder Consultation was organized on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in Mumbai to understand the market learning of PPP Projects in Education Sector, particularly the development of Student Hostel. Department of Higher Education is exploring the possibility of development of Student Hostel in PPP Mode under the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme of Department of Economic Affairs. IIT Madras, IIIT Nagpur, and IIM Udaipur presented their PPP initiatives for development of student housing. The meeting witnessed participation from 18 leading companies, encompassing leading lenders, developers, operators of student accommodation, as well as infrastructure and real estate investors.

(v) A review meeting on implementation of 'National Initiative for Design Innovation (NIDI)' and its synergy with 'Capacity Building for Design & Entrepreneurship' was held with objective to cater to new and emerging frontiers of studies; alignment with the 8 areas of future of work that ministry has taken up; incorporation of design into the curricula instead of being treated as

standalone stream; three-fold increase in the proportion of students taking entrepreneurship as career etc.

(vi) A session on Quality-cum-Cost based Selection method with IITs & IISCs was successfully organized on 10.04.2024. The session deliberated inter-alia how to leverage QCBS for quality and quick execution of infrastructure projects. The session was anchored by IIT-Madras. Another online session was also organized same day for capacity building of faculty of centrally funded HEIs on maintenance of reservation roster.

(vii) Meeting of Sectoral Group of Secretaries was held to finalize 5-year and 100 days Action Plan.

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