

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Department of Higher Education

MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR THE CABINET FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2024:

Important Policy Decisions Taken and Major Achievements During July, 2024

(i) The Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2024 (ABSS 2024) coinciding with 4th anniversary of the implementation of the NEP 2020 was celebrated on 29.07.2024 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The samagam was inaugurated by Hon'ble Ministers of State of Education. During event Hon'ble Minister launched several initiatives which inter alia included Graduation Attributes and Professional Competencies; four books and lecture notes aimed at promoting the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) among students and teachers etc.

Six Thematic Sessions for School and Higher Education were held. The thematic session of Higher Education included importance of Sustainability in Education Curriculum, Job Prospects, Industry Academia Collaboration, Role of HEIs in promoting STEM & enhancing GER through; Role of Ranking and Accreditation in Enhancing Quality; The Thematic Sessions were organized with the purpose of discussing critical topics and emerging trends in the field of education. It covered school and higher education sector wherein different stakeholders from States/UTs, VCs/Directors/Heads of Universities/Higher Education Institutes, School Heads, participated. Best practices of States/Universities/Organisations were shared with all the participants for better implementation in their respective areas.

(ii) National Apprenticeship and Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 portal was launched by Hon'ble Minister of Education and disbursed stipends of ₹100 crore to young graduates and diploma holders for on-the-job training through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode on 30.07.2024. NATS Portal 2.0 is a significant effort to democratise apprenticeship, bridge skills gap, fulfil youth aspirations and make them future-ready. NATS 2.0 has been designed as a one-stop solution to manage the apprenticeship lifecycle activities like student registration, advertisement of vacancies, student applications, contract creation, certification, reporting as well as stipend disbursement through DBT. Payment of stipends through Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) was also initiated with aim to extend the use of this system to provide Government's share of stipend to all beneficiaries of the scheme. The event was followed by two panel discussions on Future of Apprenticeships– Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Program, Credits for all apprenticeship, Industry; and Higher Education collaboration and Leveraging Technology for DBT and Strengthening e-Governance.

(iii) A one-day workshop for the Vice Chancellors on Writing of Textbooks in Bharatiya Bhasha for Higher Education was inaugurated on 16.07.2024 in New Delhi which was jointly organised by UGC and Bhartiya Bhasha Samiti (BBS). Three significant projects were launched including ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian languages through Translation and Academic writing); Bahubhasha ShabdKosh; and Real-time Translation Architecture; for which NETF and BBS will play a major role in shaping them. Bahubhasha ShabdKosh will be an extensive initiative to create a grand repository of multilingual dictionaries. Real-time Translation Architecture will facilitate in creation of a technological framework to enhance real-time translation capabilities in Bharatiya Bhasha.

(iv) Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed between Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) – a United Nations agency in the presence of Hon'ble Minister of Education to drive innovation, entrepreneurship and Intellectual Property programs for the benefit of all, particularly the Global South. With the signing of LoI, Both WIPO and AIM expressed the intent to jointly work on structuring programs to take India's Innovation Model to other countries. The collaboration will focus on designing and implementation of various IP training and capacity-building program(s), taking into consideration the specific requirements of the ecosystem and doing preliminary needs assessments of the target beneficiaries. AIM and WIPO will jointly focus on enhancing the understanding of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) among various stakeholders, its importance in development and economic growth, establishing a network of trainers of innovation, creativity, and Intellectual Property (IP), and familiarizing the target beneficiaries and learners with the theories of innovation and creativity.

(v) Sessions under 'Integrated Approach to Promoting Positive Mental Health, Resilience and Wellbeing in HEIs' were organized on 10.07.2024 and 26.07.2024 for capacity building of the faculties of 34 Centrally Funded Institutions (CFIs).

(vi) A meeting was held with Chairman, UGC, Chairman, AICTE, Vice Chancellors, Directors and other representatives of CUs, IITs, IIMs, NITs, IIITs, CFTIs, IISERs, IISc, SPA and officials of the Department of Higher Education to discuss the matter related to the pan-India celebration on the occasion of maiden National Space Day on 23rd August, 2024 with objective to engage and inspire the youth of the nation towards space technology & its application. HEIs were requested to encourage students to participate in Bharatiya Antariksh Hackathon, ISRO Robotics Challenge and various events at Zonal-level. More than 200 participants attended the meeting held virtually.

(vii) The National Testing Agency (NTA) conducted following three major exams during the month of July, 2024.

a) All India Ayush Post Graduation Entrance Test (AIAPGET-2024) in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode for 40,123 candidates on 6th July, 2024, The examination was conducted at 211 Centres in 100 Cities across the country.

b) The National Common Entrance Test (NCET) 2024 for admission to 4-Year integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) in selected Central/State universities/Institutions including IITs, NITs, RIEs and Government Colleges for Academic Session 2024-25 on 10th July 2024. The examination was conducted for 40,223 candidates at 292 centres in 170 cities.

c) Joint Central Scientific & Industrial Research- University Grants Commission National Eligibility Test (JOINT CSIR-UGC NET JULY 2024) on 25th, 26th & 27th July, 2024 in 348 examination Centres located in 187 Cities across the Country for 2,25,335 candidates in the Computer Based Test (CBT) mode.

(viii) Dr. K. Radhakrishna committee constituted to review the structure & functioning of NTA held six Meetings in New Delhi with different stakeholders during the month of July, 2024. This included officials, academician, students' representatives, representatives of technology companies etc. The Committee has to submit its report to the Ministry by 30th September, 2024.