# Ministry of Human Resource Development
# Department of Higher Education

Important policy decisions taken and major achievements during June, 2016.

1. Under the scheme of Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) in Higher Education in the Month of June, 2016 more than 140 courses have been organized and approval for a total number of 672 courses have been given by the GIAN Implementation Committee by the end of June, 2016.

2. The meeting of the Standing Committee of NITSER Council of all the IISERs, under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble HRM, was held on 17$^{th}$ June, 2016 at Shastri Bhawan.

3. A meeting with consortium of Institutions under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary(TE), MHRD was held on 16.6.2016 to review the progress under Namani Gange Project. Officials from Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation had also attended the Meeting.

4. The Union Cabinet in its Meeting held on 29.6.2016 has approved the Revised Cost Estimates for establishment of eight new IITs at Bhubaneshwar, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Indore, Jodhpur, Mandi, Patna and Ropar. The revised cost estimates is Rs.13,990 crore for establishment of 8 new IITs over a period of 11 years from 2008-09 to 2018-19.

5. M/o HRD's DTH Project named as SWAYAM Prabha ((DTH Project for Educational Excellence) has been approved for launching of 32 DTH Channels on 24X7 basis. Every day, there will be new content of at least (4) hours which would be repeated 6 times a day, allowing the student to choose the time of his convenience.

6. Department of Space have allocated Two Ku-band, GSAT-15 Transponders. 32 DTH Channels have been allocated to 32 National Channel Coordinators for their operationalization in coordination with Electronics Coorporation India Limited (ECIL) and Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG) who would be responsible for setting up the necessary infrastructure and running it.

7. The DTH Channels shall cover the following:-

(a) Curriculum based course contents covering diverse disciplines such as arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences and humanities subjects, engineering, technology, law, medicine, agriculture etc. in higher education domain (all courses would be certification-ready in their detailed offering).

(b) School education (9-12 levels) modules; for teacher training as well as teaching and learning aids to children of India to help them understand the subjects better and also help them in better preparedness for competitive examinations for admissions to professional degree programmes.

(c) Curricula and courses that can meet the needs of life-long learners of Indian citizens in India and abroad.

(ii) IIT-PAL has been approved under NMEICT which will operate through a Portal and Mobile App along with the DTH channels. IIT-PAL will provide critical thinking and conceptual understanding of Physics/ Chemistry/ Mathematics. IIT Delhi has been appointed as National Coordinator for the project. It has been designed for the students in the Classes 11th and 12th by encouraging scientific thinking and conceptual understanding of the Science/ Mathematics subjects, so that good quality students enter the portals of IITs.

(iii) Meeting of High Level Committee on DTH Operations and Monitoring Group was held on 28.06.2016.

(iv) Meeting of the National Coordinators for launching of SWAYAM & SWAYAM Prabha (DTH Project for Educational Excellence) was held on 28.06.2016.

8. Revised UGC Regulations for Deemed Universities, UGC (Institutions Deemed to be University) Regulations , 2016 was passed by UGC on 13th June, 2016.