MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR THE CABINET FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2019:

Important Policy Decisions Taken and Major Achievements During March, 2019

A. Improving access

(i) Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)

Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development to strategically address the felt needs of the State higher educational institutions to achieve the objectives of equity, access, excellence alongwith academic and administrative reforms. It seeks to improve the overall quality of existing State higher educational institutions by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards and adoption of accreditation as a mandatory quality assurance framework; correcting regional imbalances by facilitating access to high quality institutions in rural & semi-urban areas; and providing adequate opportunities of higher education to socially deprived communities; promote inclusion of women, minorities, SC/ST/OBCs and differently abled persons to ensure equity. Transformative reforms such as governance, academic, affiliation and accreditation reforms are pre-requisite in the implementation of the scheme in State higher educational institutions. Overall, RUSA has supported more than 2,500 projects amounting to Rs. 13,000 crores benefitting 50 lakh students.

Inter alia, central support under RUSA has been approved for creation of 130 Model Degree Colleges to meet the issue of access in higher education system in the aspirational, educationally backward, un-served and under-served districts of the country. Support is provided to create colleges with requisite infrastructure with technologically advanced facilities. The component has been instrumental in upscaling the enrolment of tribal and disadvantaged students who now have access to higher education facilities.

Under RUSA central support has also been approved for creation of 37 professional colleges in such areas where the access to Technical education is low.

Prior to the launch of RUSA (2012-13), the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher education in India was 21.5. The GER for male population was 22.7 and for females it was 20.1. For Scheduled Castes, it was 16.0 and for Scheduled Tribes, it was 11.1.

Subsequent to the launch of RUSA, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher education in India increased to 25.8% in 2017-18. The GER for male population increased to 26.3% and for females, it increased to 25.4%. For Scheduled Castes, the GER increased to 21.8% and for Scheduled Tribes, it increased to 15.9%.

An amount of Rs.5061.1 crore including Rs. 1393 crore during the financial year-2018-19 has been released to State Governments since the inception of the Scheme.

(ii) MoU was signed between MHRD and D/o Higher Education, Afghanistan at IIT Madras on 15.03.2019: This will facilitate the students and faculty of Afghanistan to Register and use SWAYAM Courses.

(iii) 12th Meeting of SWAYAM Board was held on 11.03.2019: Monthly Review undertaken by SWAYAM Board.

(iv) Meeting regarding Uploading of SWAYAM Certificate was held on 25.03.2019: In this meeting the pendency of uploading swayam certificate was discussed, some discussion on Swayam 2.0 and discussion on need to having fix schedule of swayam courses of January and july semester.

(iv) Two Days Workshops for finalising the training programme for SWAYAM Course Coordinators was held on 11.03.2019 in Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi and on 12.03.2019 in UGC, New Delhi: Purpose of the workshop was to train the course coordinators so that they can run quality courses.

B. Quality Improvement

(i) A Special Review Meeting of Infrastructure Projects of selectcd IIT's (IITs at Bhubaneswar,Gandhinagar, Patna, Mandi, Dharwad, Jammu, and Bhilai was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary(HE), MHRD on 18.03.2019 at 1230 p.m. in MHRD. Heads/Representatives of the Institutions had attended meeting through VC. Director General, CPWD along with other officers as well as officers from NBCC attended the meeting in person. Minutes of the meeting along with action points for each organisation have been issued for compliance

(ii) AICTE initiatives are at **Annexure I.**

(iii) Meeting of Plagiarism Detection Software (PDS) of INFLIBNET Centre was held on 18.03.2019: Technical evaluation is continue and chairman suggested that some more tests have to be done

C. Increasing Employability

(i) National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) : In order to have authentic and cross verified information (from the industry cross verified by students), in line with the suggestion given in the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) meeting held on 3/08/2018 in respect of National Apprenticeship Training (NATS), the functionality is now available on NATS website to indicate the percentage of apprentices who get jobs either in the same establishment or in other establishment or go for self employment. As of now for the year 2017-18 for sample size of 10% of overall percentage of apprentices, it is inferred that 75% of apprentices engaged during 2017-18 got the job and 85% engaged during 2016-17 got the job.

(ii) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana – Technical Institutions (PMKVY-TI) Scheme: MHRD started an initiative to train the school dropout unemployed youth in employable skills. The Technical Education Institutions/ Polytechnics have to utilize their existing infrastructure for offering these courses in the off-college hours so that the unemployed youth enrolled for these courses shall acquire adequate skills for certification under the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and find placement in suitable private sector jobs.

In 2016-17, 27000 nos. school dropouts were trained, in 2017-18, 62000 school dropouts were trained and in 2018-19, 2 lakh youth have been approved as intake for training by more than 1700 technical education institutions. So far, the placement record is 50 percent of total certified trainees.

Through **HEFA-RISE** 'Revitalising of Infrastructure and Systems of Education (RISE)' by 2022 initiative for meant for expansion in creation in education infrastructure is expected to create additional 30 crore mandays of direct employment which will also create substantial indirect employment.

D. Internationalisation

(i) A delegation led by Dr. N. Saravana Kumar, Joint Secretary (ICC) visited Ottawa, Canada from 25-28th February, 2019 in connection with the second Joint Working Group Meeting between India and Canada.

(ii) For SPARC programme, Rs. 28 Crore have been released in Q4 of FY2018-19 to IIT Kharagpur.

(iii) Total 282 proposals under SPARC have been approved by the Apex Committee till 28.02.2019.

E. Promoting Research:

(i) A meeting to review the financial and physical progress of IMPRINT-I Projects was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary(HE), MHRD on 19.03.2019 at 04:00 p.m in MHRD. Heads of Institutions and PIs of the respective projects attended the meeting through VC.
Minutes of the Meeting along with action points have been issued to all concerned.

(ii) Major Policy decision has been taken on Promoting Research under MHRD-TEQIP Collaborative Research Grants. The details are enclosed as **Annex-II.**

(iii) AICTE initiatives are at **Annex III.**

(iv) e-Shodh Sindhu (eSS) Review by Secretary (HE), MHRD was held on 25.03.2019: This is monthly review meeting.

Quality Initiatives of AICTE

1. Model Curriculum:

AICTE has prepared outcome based model curriculum for Undergraduate and Post Graduate courses in Engineering and PGDM/MBA Courses. Student internship is being made mandatory whether in corporate world or at Institutes of National Importance, National Laboratories or in Developments Sector. Value education has been made an integral part of Course Curriculum. This is a suggestive curriculum and concerned universities/ institutions are allowed flexibility in readjustment of courses/credits in their programs.

Most of the technical universities have adopted the AICTE model curriculum except a few, who have informed that they will implement it from the academic year 2019-20. The important feature of the model curriculum is that the number of credits have been reduced to 160 from 200 to 220 and it is in line with the requirements of industry 4.0.

2. Induction Program:

A three-week mandatory induction program for students has been designed to be offered right at the commencement of the first year and classes will begin after this induction program. The purpose of the program is to make the students feel comfortable in their new environment, set a healthy daily routine, create bonding in the batch as well as between faculty and students. The induction program is now a part of the model AICTE UG curriculum of engineering.

3. Exam Reforms:

AICTE is conducting workshops on Exam Reforms for Controller of Examination, Deans and Senior Faculty members of various universities and institutions.

Number of Workshops conducted till now: 10

.Number of Workshops planned in next 2 months:10

Number of faculty trained till now: 1500

The faculty trained through the workshops are expected to train faculty of their institutions.

Also faculty from NITTTRs will be trained to conduct workshop at various placed and teachers have been invited from the Director, NITTTRs for this purpose.

A question bank, as per exam policy is available on AICTE website and more questions have been added regularly.

4. Perspective Plan:

Greater focus on multi-disciplining courses by reducing the seats in conventional disciplines and converting the existing seats into the following courses.

Courses on following emerging technologies must be include.

a. AI
b. IoT
c. Block chain
d. Robotics
e. Quantum Computing
f. Data Sciences
g. Cyber Security
h. 3D Printing & Design
i. AR/VR

Accordingly, AICTE decided that no new conventional discipline will be allowed from the academic year 2020-21 and NITTTR Chandigarh was given responsibility to prepare curriculum of the above 9 (nine) technologies and submitted the same and also uploaded on the AICTE. The Secretary of MHRD has already launched the curriculum of these 9 emerging technologies.

5. Teachers' Training Policy:

AICTE has formulated a comprehensive teacher's training policy at induction level and thereafter.

The objectives of the training policy are as follows: -

- Designing and Developing Faculty and Staff Development Strategy through mandatory training, refresher courses and generic skill training.
- Keeping up to date and enhancing professional knowledge and skills needed for better performance of individuals and organizations.
- Providing better understanding of professional requirements as well sensitization to professional, socio-economic and political environment in which work is done.
- Bringing about right attitudinal changes.
- Updating faculty on latest IT Tools and technologies and processes.
- Integrate Departmental and Individual developmental needs and goals.

Accordingly, the committee propose the following eight modules for incumbent as well as in service teachers.

1. General Orientation towards Technical Education
2. Inculcation of Values and Attitudes
3. Communication Skills
4. Instructional Planning & Classroom Delivery
5. Technology Enabled Learning and Life-long Self-learning

6. Effective Modes of Student Evaluation

7. Creative Problem Solving, Innovation and Meaningful R & D

8. Institutional Management & Administrative Procedures

NITTTRs were asked to prepare MOOCs on the above mentioned eight modules. They have already prepared MOOCs on four modules out of which two are available on SWAYAM platform. Modalities for awarding certificates on successful completion of the eight modules are being worked out. This Teachers Training Policy is now integral part of 7th Pay revision Gazette notification.

Collaborative Research grant programme

Collaborative Research grant programme has been approved by Education Secretary in the 11th monthly Review meeting held on 18th March 2019 at MHRD.

The Scheme has been announced by NPIU/MHRD through TEQIP website. The link for accepting the proposals will be live on 10th April 2019 through AICTE portal.

AICTE will review the proposals received through portal as per the prevailing AICTE procedure by a team of experts. MHRD has earmarked Rs 50 cr. Under TEQIP III for supporting innovation teaching & research collaboration among TEQIP faculty working in TEQIP-III participating institutions. Though maximum limit per project shall be Rs. 25 Lacs, approved funding shall be based on the contents of the project. This limit may also be extended on the recommendation of expert committee.

AICTE will select the proposals and decide the funding pattern as mentioned above. The selected list of approved projects along with the budget will be submitted to NPIU for releasing funds. The activity-wise timeline is given in the table below:

S. No.	Activity	Date
1	Release of scheme (NPIU) on TEQIP & AICTE website	20th March 2019
2	Opening of Proposal Submission through AICTE Web Portal(Expert team finalizes the project)	10th April 2019
3	Closing date of Proposal submission	30th April 2019
4	Scrutiny of Proposal – AICTE (Expert team finalizes the project)	1st Week of May
5	Announcement of approved projects	15th May 2019
6	Release of funds by NPIU	June 2019

AICTE Initiatives for Research Promotion

1. National Doctoral Fellowship (NDF)

AICTE launched a scheme of National Doctoral Fellowship (NDF) from the academic year 2018-19 for admitting full time meritorious students for Ph.D. program in the 28 identified research institutes of AICTE. Objectives of the National Doctoral Fellowship (NDF) are:

• To promote research culture in AICTE approved Institution.

• To nurture talents for technical research.

• To promote collaborative research between Institute and Industries leading to start-ups.

Selected candidates are entitled to receive a fellowship of Rs. 28,000/- month and house rent allowance as per Government norms. In addition to it an amount of Rs.15000/- annum as contingency grant is also available to scholars. The duration of the scheme is for a period of 3 Years. However, extendable by 6 months in 2 spells in special cases. Reservation policy of the Government is followed. An amount of Rs. 3.26 crore has been released as Fellowship/House Rent Allowance and Contingency grant to scholars admitted under the scheme up to February 2019.

Keeping in view of the good response from the aspirants and size of the Country, the intake under the scheme has been increased from 150 to 300 from the academic year 2019-20 onwards.

2. Quality Improvement Programme (QIP)

The main objective of the programme is to upgrade the expertise and capabilities of the faculty members of the degree level institutions in the country. The aim is to enable the teachers to acquire Master's/ Doctoral degrees and imbibe in them a culture of research and better teaching educational capabilities by exposing them to the environment of the institutes of study. During the last three years, the progress on this field are as under: -

Year	Scholars	Total grant released
2016-17	Ph.D. – 649 M.Tech – 206	Rs.19.87 Crore
2017-18	Ph.D. – 529 M.Tech – 133	Rs.23.30 Crore
2018-19	Ph.D. – 691 M.Tech – 106	Rs.21.71 Crore

3.   Solving the accommodation problem of SC/ST Students

The scheme aims to support Government / Government-aided engineering colleges for construction of girls / boys hostels for providing residential accommodation for students / researchers belonging to SC/ST category. Government/Government-aided engineering colleges/ University Departments existing for last five years and have more than 150 SC/ST students on roll for the last three years are eligible for the grant. The maximum limit of Rs.3.00 crores to be disbursed in 03 instalments.

The scheme was launched in 2012-13 and till date, grants were released for construction of Hostels amounting to Rs.144.09 crores to 94 Institutes. 32 Hostels have already been completed.

4.   E-Journals through ESS for Technical Education and Research

Free access to e-journals to 94 AICTE supported Technical Institutes were provided by paying the subscription by AICTE to e-shodh sindhu.

During the year 2018-19, the subscription for e-journals to Technical Institute has been increased to 126 with the following additional benefits: -

➢   IEEE (IEL-Online from July, 2018), which is at par with the facilities availed by IITs.
➢   ASCE, ASME &
➢   Pharma (from July, 2018)
➢ Subscription amount released for 2018 is Rs. 8.47 Crore.

5.   Share and Mentor "Margadarshan" to upgrade the standard of Technical Education

The scheme was launched during the year 2016-17 and till date 14 reputed Technical Institutions were selected as Hub to guide and disperse knowledge to at least Ten Technical Institutes as spokes. The Hub 'n Spoke system will allow for inter-hamlet information sharing, such as technical education, research and sharing of resources to the entire system.

6. Scheme for helping institutes to get themselves Accredited

A new scheme named at "**Margadarshak**" with the goal to help the Institutes to improve their quality leading to accreditation has been launched in the year 2018-19. The main impression of the scheme is that the maximum programmes of technical institutes are accredited in the next few years.

7. Research and Industrial development

Though Clauses 10 (c) and 10 (d) of the AICTE Act, the Council promotes innovations and research and development in established and new technologies, generation, adoption and adaptation of new technologies, to meet development requirements of the country and for the overall improvement of educational process. Towards these ends, the Council operates three schemes, namely, Modernization and Removal of Obsolescence (MODROB), Research Promotion Scheme (RPS) and Nationally Coordinated Projects (NCP).

During 2018-19, a sum of **Rs.7.99 Crore** for **61** Projects under RPS Scheme and a sum of **Rs.26.95 Crore** for 213 Projects under MODROB Scheme has been sanctioned respectively.

8. Research Promotion Scheme for North-East and NDF Centers

Two new schemes under Research Promotion Scheme has been extended for North-East Region and for NDF Centers during the current Financial Year. For each of the scheme, a total of 50 projects with a grant-in-aid of Rs.1250.00 lakh @Rs.25.00 lakh per project have been sanctioned. Since the target groups were limited, off line applications were invited from the faculties/PIs in AICTE approved Institutes. A total of 130 and 80 applications under RPS-NER and RPS-NDF were received on or before closing date. The applications were received in the disciplines of Computer Engineering, ECE, EEE, Mechanical and Automotive, Civil Engineering, Pharmacy, Food, Biotechnology, Chemical Engineering and Management. The respective faculties were invited to AICTE Head Office for making their presentation of project before the Evaluation Committees on 27th & 28th February, 2019