

Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education

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

Important Policy Decisions Taken and Major Achievements During May, 2019

A. Improving access

- i. SWAYAM Online Examination was held on 22.05.2019 and 23.05.2019: Examination for 61 Subjects were held in 75 Centres across the Country. A Total of 6,340 have registered for the Exam.
- ii. Meeting of the Committee constituted to work out the Action Plan for SWAYAM Prabha Channel No. 29 was held on 14.05.2019:
- iii. **Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)**
An amount of Rs.5291.12 crore including Rs. 230.02 during the financial year-2019-20 has been released to State Governments since the inception of the Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA). A meeting to review the progress of RUSA in all the States and UTs was held on 14th May, 2019 in Delhi. Subsequently, a review meeting with 10 select State Universities under RUSA was held on 30th May, 2019 with regard to implementation of RUSA.
- iv. **University Grants Commission (UGC)**
The status on progress made in Quality Improvement Framework for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) on its mandate to improve quality and promote excellence in UGC (as on 01.06.2019) is attached as Annexure 1.

B. Quality Improvement

- i. Meeting of National Coordinators (NCs) on Features of SWAYAM 2.0 was held on 01.05.2019: The new features of SWAYAM 2.0 were discussed in detail.
- ii. Meeting of Education Quality Upgradation & Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) Expert Group No. 8 was held on 03.05.2019: The recommendations of the Group 8 were finalized in the meeting.
- iii. ERP Implementation Coordination Meeting held with 8 CUs on 10.05.2019: A detailed Implementation Plan was evolved in the meeting.
- iv. Review Meeting on Wi-Fi Services to CUs through OPEX Model by M/s Railtel was held on 21.05.2019: Review undertaken.
- v. Meeting on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education was held on 30.05.2019: The current initiatives & future action plan was discussed.
- vi. 5th Meeting of SWAYAM Examination Committee was held on 09.05.2019:
- vii. AICTE initiatives are at Annexure II.

C. Promoting Research

- i. AICTE initiatives are at Annexure III.

Annexure I

Status of implementation of Quality Improvement Programme of UGC in Non Technical Education:

Initiative	Present status
Induction programme for students.	Workshop of 3 days Training of Teachers (ToT) for Student Induction Programme is being organised at UGC's Regional offices- Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Pune during the month of May-June, 2019.
Learning outcomes based curriculum framework (LOCF) revision.	32 LoCF reports have been received. Out of these 32 reports, 20 reports have been peer reviewed and the balance 12 reports are under process. Out of the 20 LoCF reports, 10 have been finalized. Learning Outcome Based Curriculum Framework has been finalised by UGC at UG/PG level for English Literature, Defence & Strategic Studies, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology, Botany, Anthropology, Information Science, Human Rights & Criminology.
Use of ICT based learning tools for effective teaching learning process	47 UGC MOOCs Courses offered in the semester July-December, 2018 in which 40311 students enrolled. 1848 certificate & Transcripts have been issued for these courses. For the semester January-June, 2019, 58 UGC MOOCs Courses offered in which 40711 students enrolled. 123 Universities have given consent to adopt MOOCs Course through SWAYAM Platform.
Life skills (Jeevan Kaushal) for students.	The curriculum for Life skills (Jeevan Kaushal) for students comprising 4 modules (a) Communication Skills (b) Professional Skills (c) Leadership and Management including Entrepreneurship and (d) Universal Human Value, has already been developed and approved by the Commission in its 540 th meeting held on 09.04.2019.
Social and Industry connect for every institution: Every institution shall adopt at least 5 villages for exchange of knowledge and for the overall social/economic betterment of the village communities.	UGC has constituted a working group to formulate a concept note and scheme on University- Industry Linkage Programme. First meeting of the Committee held at UGC Office on 13 th May, 2019. Second meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held on 12/6/2019 and the Committee is expected to finalize the concept note and scheme on 'University Industry Linkage Programme' by July 2019.
Evaluation Reforms.	Report of the Committee on "Evaluation Reforms in Higher Education Institutions in India", has been approved by the Commission in its 540 th meeting held on 09.04.2019. UGC will organize workshops

	to sensitize the Higher Education Institutions and its stakeholders for implementation of 'Evaluation Reforms'.
Alumini Association Platform	A task force has been constituted to formulate a policy document on 'Student Career Progression and Alumni Network'. The first meeting of the task force held at UGC Office on 20/5/2019. Second meeting is scheduled to be held on 8/7/2019 and the Committee is expected to finalize the policy document on 'Student Career Progression and Alumni Network' by the end of August 2019.
Induction training for all new teachers, and annual refresher training for all the teachers – role of the NCRs; and mandatory leadership/management training for all educational administrators.	The final module of Faculty Induction Programme has been approved by the Competent Authority.
Promoting quality research by faculty and creation of new knowledge.	The guidelines of Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for Development in Education (STRIDE) have been approved by the Commission. STRIDE Scheme has three components: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Capacity Building and Human Resource Development(All disciplines) 2. Trans -Disciplinary Research and Social Innovation for National Developments(All disciplines) 3. High Impact Trans-disciplinary Research in Humanities and Human Sciences. The task of finalizing Operational Guidelines of all these components is at the final stage.
Mentoring of non-accredited institutions, so that every institution can get accreditation by 2022.	UGC has developed a scheme namely "Mentoring of NAAC Aspirant Institutions to promote Quality Assurance in Higher Education under the name of "PARAMARSH". The detailed guidelines of the scheme are being finalized. UGC has written to eligible institutions to identify their mentee institutions and convey their willingness to be mentors. <p>Nearly 125 institutions have conveyed their willingness to be mentor and they have also submitted their respective mentee institutions. Commission has approved Budget of Rs.2404.04 crore for Quality Improvement Programme.</p>

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 places 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 included.

- 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.

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. 40,02,880 has been released as Fellowship/House Rent Allowance and Contingency grant to scholars admitted under the scheme for the month of April-May 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.
