

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Department of Higher Education

**MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR THE CABINET FOR THE MONTH OF
November 2024:**
**Important Policy Decisions Taken and Major Achievements During
November, 2024**

(i) India has made significant strides in higher education, as evidenced by the QS World University Rankings: Asia 2025, with two institutions—Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) at 44th and IIT Bombay at 48th—among the top 50. Additionally, five more institutions, including IIT Madras (56), IIT Kharagpur (60), Indian Institute of Science (62), IIT Kanpur (67), and University of Delhi (81), are ranked in the top 100, showcasing the nation's academic strength. Further, institutions like IIT Guwahati, IIT Roorkee, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Chandigarh University (120), UPES (148), and VIT (150) reflect the depth and quality of India's higher education.

(ii) A Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Education to provide enhanced funding and technical support to Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), BHU. This collaboration represents a significant step toward redefining the future of healthcare, education, and research in our country.

(iii) The Union Cabinet on 06.11.2024 has approved the PM-Vidyalaxmi, a new initiative under the Central Sector aimed at providing financial support to meritorious students, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder access to higher education. With an outlay of Rs. 3,600 crores, the scheme offers collateral-free education loans and provides additional benefits such as a 3% interest subvention on loans up to Rs. 10 lakh for students from families with an annual income of up to Rs. 8 lakh. Furthermore, loans up to Rs. 7.5 lakh are eligible for a 75% credit guarantee. The scheme is expected to benefit over 22 lakh students annually, facilitating their admission to the top 860 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.

(iv) On 12th November 2024, the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, organized a two-day National Workshop on Higher and Technical Education with Secretaries of States/UTs in New Delhi to disseminate various approaches and methodologies for implementing NEP 2020.

(v) A new Central Sector Scheme namely 'One Nation One Subscription

(ONOS)' was approved by Union Cabinet on 25.11.2024 providing nationwide access to high-impact scholarly research articles and journals for students, faculty, and researchers in government-managed Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Research & Development (R&D) institutions. A total of about Rs.6,000 crore has been allocated for the next three years.

(vi) Government of India in the Budget 2022-23 had announced the establishment of a Digital University to provide access to students across the country for world-class education with personalised learning experience at their doorsteps. The PIB/CEE Note for the establishment of e-Vishwavidyalaya at the financial implication of total Rs. 537.80 Crore, has been approved by the combined Committee on Establishment Expenditure (CEE) - Public Investment Board (PIB) on 24.04.2023 under the Chairmanship of Finance Secretary & Secretary (Expenditure), O/o Expenditure, M/o. Finance. A Bill, namely, the Digital Vishwavidyalaya Bill, 2023 has been prepared in consultation with the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department). Approval of the Cabinet is awaited to introduce the Digital Vishwavidyalaya Bill, 2023 in the Parliament and for creation of eleven 11 posts/positions at level 14 and above as per UGC norms for the University.

(vii) Ministry of Education in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad organised the National Wellbeing Conclave 2024 at IIT Hyderabad on 9th and 10th November. The conclave brought together around 350 stakeholders from centrally funded institutions (CFIs) across the country. These included students, faculty, government officials and policy makers. The event centered on fostering positive mental health, resilience, and overall wellbeing within academic settings, with a particular focus on developing a holistic, integrated approach to student wellbeing on campus. This was an important initiative as the issue of mental health and wellbeing scenario has been engaging attention in public discourse so much so that it has been discussed extensively in the Economic Survey 2024 "Minding the Mind: Taking stock of the mental health scenario" with recommendations that paying attention to mental health issues in society is both a health and economic imperative. Chief Economic Advisor, Govt of Indian had addressed the participants through his video message.
