

## MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR THE CABINET FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2018

### I. Important policy decisions and activities / initiatives:

- The Department of School Education and Literacy and all the States and UTs celebrated the 'Rangotsav' festival from 7<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2018. The purpose of this was to highlight and encourage experiential and joyful learning not just amongst students but also teachers. It incorporated features which were recommended during the Hon'ble PM's Pariksha Par Charcha interaction in February, 2018 and also the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Programme. Activities were conducted in all schools, culminating in National level events and competitions. The following activities were organized:
  - 'Bhasha Sangam' which ran for 22 days till 21<sup>st</sup> December. A different language (out of the 22 languages in Schedule VIII of the Constitution) was celebrated every day in lakhs of schools across the country. Over 1,36,000 videos on activities were uploaded by schools on YouTube.
  - 'National Role Play Competition' during 4-7<sup>th</sup> December and 'National Folk Dance Competition' during 5-8<sup>th</sup> December for adolescent students on inter-personal relationships and skills, and managing peer pressure.
  - 'Kala Utsav' from 12-15<sup>th</sup> December which featured the best in school talent in singing, dancing, painting, and theatre. Noted experts judged the students and they were of the opinion that this event had the potential to become the largest programme to identify talent in the country.
  - 'Inter School Band Competition on 21<sup>st</sup> December gave an opportunity to bands of both girls and boys to perform. It was choreographed by experts from the Ministry of Defence along the lines of the Beating the Retreat programme. The winning band, which was from Jorethang Government Senior Secondary School, South Sikkim, was also invited thereafter to meet the Hon'ble PM.
  - 'The National Competition of Art and Music' for teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas gave them an opportunity not only to showcase their very impressive talent but also reinforced the need for teachers to adopt stress reducing activities such as singing and gave importance to a category of teachers who usually feel neglected vis-à-vis subject teachers.
- A National workshop on Early Childhood Development was conducted in collaboration with the World Bank. In a landmark step, this component was included under the Samagra Shiksha from 2018-19 and pre-primary classes will be gradually introduced in all government schools.

- A meeting of the Committee under the National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education was held and all the 479,305 eligible applications for the academic year 2017-18 were approved and sanctioned.
- In order to cross verify data being received from all schools under the UDISE+ and the Performance Grading Index (PGI) of States and UTS on school education it has been decided to conduct an audit of all schools in the country during August-September 2019. This will focus largely on infrastructure and facilities and will be based on the Gunotsav initiative in Gujarat.
- The next National Achievement Survey (NAS) is scheduled to be held in 2020. As the major pre NAS activity, it has been decided to conduct a School Based Assessment (SBA) in all schools during November-December 2019. Based on the learnings from NAS 2017, a module to improve the learning outcomes was prepared and successfully field tested during 2018. Now this will be taken to scale during 2019 and evaluated and assessed in the SBA.\
- Newly constructed Kendriya Vidyalaya school buildings were inaugurated at Godda in Godda district, and Madhupur in Deogarh district of Jharkhand. The foundation stone of the school building at district Shrawasthi in UP was also laid.
- Two Navodaya Vidyalayas at Ramban and Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir, were operationalised.
- Kendriya Vidyalaya students won 16 Gold, 24 Silver and 20 Bronze medals in sports competition conducted by School Games Federation of India (SGFI) during December 2018.