

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Department of Higher Education

MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR THE CABINET FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024:

Important Policy Decisions Taken and Major Achievements During February, 2024

(i) Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated/dedicated and laid foundation of projects worth Rs. 13,300 crore on 20th February, 2024 from Jammu. Out of this, 41 projects across 37 HEIs – IITs, NITs, IIITs, IIMs, IISERs, Central Universities, worth 12,234.00 crore, were of Department of Higher Education. Some of the prominent institutions like IIT, Bhilai, IIT Tirupati, and IIM Jammu were dedicated to Nation. Apart from this, additional infrastructure like – Academic/Administrative building, Hostel, faculty residences, Research Park/lab etc. have been created in existing institutions. In addition projects worth Rs. 3600.00 crore have been sanctioned to 78 State Universities under PM USHA.

Earlier on 03.02.2024 and on 06.02.2024 Permanent campuses of IIM Sambalpur and National Institute of Technology (NIT) Goa, respectively were inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister. The campus of IIM Sambalpur is spread over 200 acres constructed at a cost Rs. 401.94 Crore. Similarly, the campus of NIT, Goa is spread over 113 acres with construction cost of Rs. 390.83 crore.

(ii) National Conference on APAAR: One Nation One Student ID Card was inaugurated on 13.02.2024 by Hon'ble Education Minister. Hon'ble Minister emphasized that APAAR ID is going to be the aspirational and global document for the students of the country. He also underscored the importance of the interconnectivity of APAAR IDs, Academic Bank of Credit, and Digilocker, in creating ease of operations. Two panel discussions were also held on integration of APAAR ID and Credit Systems with Job Profiles and on exploring the evolving role of Digi Locker in education. APAAR ID is an important Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and it has been conceptualized under National Education Policy 2020 in which students can register on Academic Bank of Credits (ABC). Currently around 29.18 crores APAAR Ids of learners have been created which comprises of around 25.17 crore learners are from school, 2.68 crore learners from Higher Education and 1.32 crore learner from Skill Institutions.

From 07.02.2024 onwards, onboarding and registration for APAAR (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry) ID by students have also been facilitated through the Common Services Centre (CSC), in remote villages of the country.

(iii) The 52nd edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair was inaugurated on 10.02.2024 by the Hon'ble Education Minister in the presence of Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to India. The theme of the fair was 'Multilingual India: A Living Tradition' as India is celebrating its linguistic diversity and global literary traditions. During the event several initiatives were launched including the app for 'National Digital Libraries for All', 'e-Jaadui Pitara' which is an innovative e-learning platform comprising puzzles, riddles, & stories, an anthology of 100 episodes of the radio show on "Igniting Collective Goodness Mann ki Baat @100", teaching-learning resources on G20 initiatives, Viksit Bharat & Nari Shakti Vandan and subject-specific modules. Around 18 lakhs visitors visited the book fair which comprised school children, authors, avid book readers, publishers, dignitaries etc.

(iv) A two-day 100 Cube Start-up Conclave was inaugurated by Hon'ble Education Minister on 11.02.2024 at IIT Bhubaneswar, Research and Entrepreneurship Park (REP). During the event several other activities included, five parallel sessions on different themes; inauguration of new auditorium; foundation stone for several projects; and signing of MoUs between 16 start-ups and REP. The event was attended by Officers of MoE, representatives of foreign governments, delegates from the industry, particularly the deep tech sector, academia, start-ups, students, and other eminent business leaders

(v) First G20 Education Working Group (EdWG) meeting under Brazilian Presidency was held on 05.02.2024. Initiatives in the sector of education such as SWAYAM, SWAYAM PRABHA, Academic Bank of Credit, SAMARTH, National Professional Standards for Teachers, 4-year Integrated Teacher Education Programme, DIKSHA, NISHTHA, Malviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, National Mission for Mentoring, industry collaboration for training courses and equipping educators in emerging technologies were highlighted in the meeting by the Indian Delegation

(vi) 'Masterclass for Each Department' as part of 'Capacity Building on Specific Learning Disabilities' under the aegis of Malviya Mission Teacher Training Program (MMTTP) was organized on 28.02.2024. This session was part of the series of sessions planned under 'Capacity Building on Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs)' enhancing the capacities of the faculty and staff to equip with knowledge and skills to effectively deal with the concerns of students with SLDs joining Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

(vii) 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye' campaign was launched from 28.02.2024 which continued till 14.03.2024 in collaboration with all the Universities/ Colleges/ HEIs, with aim to conduct comprehensive voter awareness activities at their campuses. The purpose of the series of events is to ensure universal enlightened participation of youth in elections. Universities/ Colleges/ HEIs were informed to designate a space within the premises to carry out various voter awareness related activities as well as encourage them to take part in online competitions on MyGov platform.

(viii) SWAYAM Plus platform was launched by Hon'ble Education Minister on 27.02.2024. SWAYAM, the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform providing educational opportunities for a vast number of learners, was launched by the Ministry of Education in 2017. In alignment with NEP 2020, the SWAYAM Plus platform will now include courses supporting industry needs that enhance learners' employability. Developed in collaboration with industry giants like L&T, Microsoft, CISCO, and more, SWAYAM Plus features innovative elements such as multilingual content, AI-enabled guidance, credit recognition, and pathways to employment.

(ix) The 2nd meeting of India-US Working Group on Education & Skill Development was held virtually on 27.02.2024 to strengthen collaboration between two nations in the education and skill development sectors. In the meeting, goals with specific objectives were identified to address workforce challenges, foster academic collaboration, and promote mutual learning and development between the two nations.
