

Ministry of Education
Department of School Education and Literacy

Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for the month of March 2021

I. Financial Achievements/Releases :

99.35 % of the Plan allocation of RE 2020-21 under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes of the Department was released by 31st March, 2021.

II. Important policy decisions and activities / initiatives:

S.No.	Subject	Brief
1	Budget Announcements (2021-22)	An Implementation Strategy for each of the Budget Announcements pertaining to the Department of School Education and Literacy, has been finalized through intra-Departmental deliberations and detailed discussion with eminent educationalists through Webinar on 3 rd and 4 th March 2021. Status of implementation of each of the Budget Announcements is being conveyed to DEA on monthly basis. Regular and time bound action is being taken on each of the Budget Announcements.
2	Scheme of Adult Education	A new scheme of Adult Education (AE) "New India Literacy Programme" has been drafted as per NEP-2020. EFC meeting was held on 25.03.2021 under the chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure). After EFC appraisal, the Scheme will be submitted for Cabinet approval.
3	Samagra Shiksha	The final EFC note for Samagra Shiksha as per NEP-2020, after the approval of Hon'ble SM was sent to Department of Expenditure vide O.M. dated 10.03.2021, with a request to convene the EFC Meeting for Samagra Shiksha. The EFC meetings were held on 25.03.2021 and 30.03.2021.

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4	Mid-Day Meal	Approval of Hon'ble Shiksha Mantri has been obtained on the EFC Memo for revised National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools for onward transmission to Department of Expenditure for consideration.
5	National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)	<p>The objective of the scheme is to award scholarship to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue their study at Secondary stage in State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools.</p> <p>The approval for this scheme for financial year 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 has been conveyed by the Department of Expenditure. Total Financial outlay is Rs. 1891.50 crore. Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) meeting was held on 25.03.2021 under the chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure). After EFC appraisal, the Scheme will be submitted for Cabinet approval.</p>
6	Azadi ke Amrut Mahatsav	<p>Celebrations of 75 years of India's Independence – Azadi ke Amrut Mahatsav – commenced on 12.03.2021 on the Anniversary of launch of Dandi March. Schools of KVS/ NVS/ CBSE situated along the route of Dandi Yatra organised events like rallies, competitions and exhibitions on 12.3.2021. Schools of KVS/ NVS/ CBSE across the country organised conference/ seminars/ webinar/ talk on India's Freedom Struggle on that day. Essay competitions/ creative writing competitions were also organised. The Department has finalized also various events during the period 12.03.2021 to 5.04.2022 to be organised as a part of Amrut Mahotsava. The Calendar of events has been shared with the Ministry of Culture.</p>
7	Pariksha pe Charcha	The 4th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha, the unique interactive program of Prime Minister, with students, teachers and parents, on questions related to examination stress and

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		<p>related areas was held for the first time in virtual mode while adhering to the COVID-19 protocols on 7th April 2021.</p> <p>Questions related to dealing with examination stress from school students of class 9 to 12 were invited through MyGov platform from 17th February to 14th March 2021 and selected questions were featured in the programme. An online creative writing competition was conducted at https://innovateindia.mygov.in/ppc-2021/ on various topics during this period for children studying in classes of 9 to 12, teachers and parents. Almost 14 lakh participants have registered themselves in the contest for the 4th edition of PPC. 10.5 lakh students, 2.6 lakh teachers and 92 thousand parents have enthusiastically participated in the creative writing contest. More than 60% of the students who participated are from classes 9th and 10th. For the first time students from 81 foreign countries have participated in the pre PPC creative writing contest.</p>
8	Stars Project	<p>First installment of funds for Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project was released to 5 States in March 2021. The total cost of STARS project is Rs 5718 crore with the financial support of World Bank amounting to US \$ 500 million (approximately Rs. 3700 crore) and rest coming as State share from the participating States, over a period of 5 years. STARS project will be instrumental in the implementation of various recommendations of National Education Policy 2020 i.e. Strengthening Early Childhood Education and Foundational Learning, Improving Learning Assessment System, ICT-enabled approaches in education, Teachers Development and Vocational education etc. STARS will draw on existing structure under Samagra Shiksha with DoSEL as the main implementing agency at the national level. At the State level, the project will be implemented through the</p>

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		<p>integrated State Implementation Society (SIS) for Samagra Shiksha.</p> <p>An Independent Verification Agency, to verify desired project outcomes, has also been formed with the approval of Hon. SM.</p>

Other Important developments	
1	JNV Tirap (Arunachal Pradesh) has been made functional with effect from 19 th March, 2021.
2	In terms of NEP recommendations (Para 15.5) a 4-year Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) conferring an Integrated degree of BA B.Ed./ B.Sc. B.Ed. for nurturing high standards of teacher preparation has been finalized. The programme will be implemented throughout the country in a phase wise manner from academic year 2022-23 till 2030. Entry in the programme will be through a National Common Entrance Test conducted by NTA. Candidates who successfully complete this programme will be eligible to teach at different stages of school education system in the country according to a design of 5+3+3+4 pattern as recommended in NEP 2020.
3	UNICEF India has developed 7 training modules comprising of Facilitator's Guide, Handbook and Power point presentations for different stakeholders of Comprehensive School WASH Training Package i.e. for State level decision makers, elected representatives, master trainers, school teachers, School Management Committees, Sanitation workers and Child Cabinet. The finalized version of the toolkit has been shared with States and UTs.
4	A draft EFC Note on Exemplar Schools, after incorporating inputs from all concerned stakeholders, has been prepared and Inter- ministry consultation on the Note is being initiated.
5	Comprehensive guidelines to states and UTs for preparation of Annual work plan and budget proposals for Samagra Shiksha for 2020-21 and scheduling of meetings of PAB has been circulated.

6	A DO letter dated 10 th March 2021 has been issued to Chief Secretaries of concerned States/UT for urgent action for filling up the gaps and ensure that the toilets and drinking water facilities in all the schools in State are fully functional within 15 days.
7	DoSEL participated in the organising committee and in bringing exhibitors and visitors in the first virtual India Toy Fair held from 27 th February to 2 nd March, 2021.

ACTIVITIES OF AUTONOMOUS BODIES:

Organization	Activity
Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost all KV teachers & Principals have completed the online training programmes on Competency Based Education (CBE) & Experiential Learning on DIKSHA • In order to sensitize the children about the importance of Dandi March in the struggle of Indian Independence, special events rallies, competitions and exhibition have been organized in the Kendriya Vidyalayas. • Online International Essay Competition was organized in Kendriya Vidyalayas on the occasion of 125th Birth year of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Swami Vivekananda.
Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Online Competency Building Workshop on Basic Computer Skills and Digital Tools was conducted from 8th to 10th March, 2021 in collaboration with IBM / AIF (American Indian Foundation) for the Beginner Group of TGTs / PGTs who are not well versed with basic computer skills and digital tools. In the Second Phase, the same training programmes were organized from 22nd to 24th March, 2021 in collaboration with IBM / AIF (American Indian Foundation) for the Intermediate Group of TGTs / PGTs. • World Water Day was observed in all JNVs on 22.03.2021 on the theme of "Valuing Water"; All India School Environment Competition was organized in JNVs on environmental awareness, environmental degradation and its possible solutions by conducting online environment quiz competition for the students from IX to XII.
National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Progress Review meeting of National Population Education Project (NPEP) was conducted from 2 to 4 March 2021. • A capacity building programme for the teacher educators and teachers on Contextualization of Curriculum in Languages, Mathematics, Science and Social Sciences at Upper Primary Stage was conducted from 15 to 19 March 2021. • Under the programme Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Including Development of Framework, Modules for 'Teachers and development of index' etc., a workshop was organised for the finalization of byte—sized videos on assessment framework from 22 to 26 March. 2021.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the programme Development of Readiness Package for Students Entering School and Development of Training Material for Building the Capacity of Teachers and Teachers Educators on ECE, a five-day workshop was organized for the development of activities and worksheets for Balavatika. • Course materials for the six month professional development course in English Language Education were reviewed at a workshop held from 15 to 18 March 2021. • Under the programme ‘Developing and try out a training package with SCERT and DIET faculty in Nagaland on Including Children with Learning Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorders in Regular Schools’, a workshop for the Northern Region was organized for the 120 participates from Chandigarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand on 8-9 March 2021. The workshop for the Western Region was attended through virtual mode by 78 participates from Chhattisgarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra on 15-16 March 2021. • A total of 336 audio programs and 209 video programs were produced during the month; 598 e-Contents were reviewed through online review workshops for telecast in PM e-vidya DTH-TV.
<p style="text-align: center;">National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide publicity was given to 4th edition of “Pariksha Pe Charcha”, for ensuring maximum registration/participation by prospective teachers / teacher educators. NCTE requested the TEIs to undertake various creative activities viz. poster making, essay competition and postcard making etc. during this period. The Staff of NCTE also took part in poster making. • NCTE held 08 Webinars on “Pariksha Pe Charcha” covering 1000 participants approximately. The Webinars covered topics like “How to remain happy as well as stress-free during exam sessions”, “Improvement in current teaching-learning methods”, “Collaborative and E-classroom via eams” etc. • The Rajbhasha Section of NCTE conducted Webinar on the topic “Gair Hindi Pradeshon mein Hindi rajbhasha ke vistar ki chunautiyan, in which 55 participants participated. The 7th Webinar was held on 23rd March, 2021 on the topic “Hindi ko jan bhasha banana ki chunautiyan”. Total 50 participants attended the webinar. With the objective of “Hindi mein karye ko safal banana

	<p>ke uddeshye se”, the Rajbhasha Section conducted a two-day training programme on 18-19 March, 2021 wherein 100 employees of NCTE participated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,698 Energized Textbooks (QR coded) have been uploaded by NCERTs and states/UTs on DIKSHA platform. • 1,65,820 pieces of e-content has been uploaded on DIKSHA for students of grades 1 to 12 in 31 Indian languages.
Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBSE released the annual curriculum for the session 2021-22 on March 31st 2021 for classes IX to XII containing academic content, syllabus for examinations with learning outcomes, pedagogical practices and assessment guidelines. It was highlighted in the curriculum that teachers must be well-versed with the pedagogical approaches and strategies. • A second attempt/opportunity or Improvement exams policy has been declared by the CBSE for Board exams.
National Institute Of Open Schooling (NIOS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon'ble Union Minister of Education, Government of India on 2nd of March 2021 released self learning material developed by NIOS on Indian Knowledge Tradition such as Veda, Yoga, Science, Vocational Skills and Sanskrit language in Sanskrit, Hindi and English medium. • National Institute of Open Schooling and National Council for Promotion of Sindhi language (NCP SL) signed a MoU on 23rd March, 2021 for curriculum development, assessment and Certification for Sindhi Language Learning Courses in the country. • NIOS produced various TV and video programmes including live tv and audio PCPs on various subjects for transmission on PM e-Vidya DTH Channel, Community Radio Station - Radio Vahini (FM 91.2 MHz) and web-streaming on the Mukta Vidya Vani (MVV) • Second Phase of the special Handicraft Artisan Training Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Textiles, at Chandauli Dist, UP was conducted in the month of March for 100 learners.

Events	Activities
International Women's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NVS celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March 2021 • CBSE affiliated schools have participated in Online

	Physical Education and Community Coaching Program for all Women Teachers on 08 March 2021, organised by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Ministry of Women and Child Development. International Women's Day was also celebrated by CBSE affiliated schools.
Ganga Quest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students of CBSE affiliated schools are participating in the third edition of Ganga Quest – an Online National Quiz on rejuvenation of Ganga River, water conservation, ecological sustainability etc. Organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. • Total 79736 students from Kendriya Vidyalayas across India registered for the Ganga Quest, an online National Quiz organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, on rejuvenation on Ganga & its tributaries, water conservation, ecological sustainability & other related subjects, till date. The programme will be commencing from 7th April 2021(World Health Day) and concluding on 8th May 2021(World Migratory Day).
Fit India Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Awareness Programme on 'Whole School Approach to Fitness' and 'Khelo India National Fitness Assessment Programme' was organised by CBSE in collaboration with Sports Authority of India under the aegis of 'Fit India Movement' for all PE Teachers. • Physical Education Teachers (Female) have attended an online training programme of all Women Teachers under the aegis of Fit India Movement.

A. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF E-GOVERNANCE

E-Office is fully implemented in this Department. The exchange of information, communication & transactions are delivered through e-office/e-mail. Meetings with State Governments/Other Ministries/autonomous organizations are held through Video Conferencing.