

Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education

MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR THE CABINET FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 2020:

A. Important events:

1. **Address by Hon'ble PM:** In his virtual address on 19 Oct 2020 during the centenary convocation of the University of Mysore, Hon'ble Prime Minister highlighted that during the last few years, a lot of focus has been put into the development of infrastructure and structural reforms in higher education. He also lauded the National Education Policy as a huge initiative to bring a fundamental change in the education setup of the country.
2. **Admission to IITs:** For admission to IITs UG and integrated PG programme, a total of 43,204 candidates have qualified in JEE (Advanced) 2020 . Of the total qualified candidates, 6,707 are females. Admissions through online counselling is going on which will last till 8 Nov.
3. **BodhiTree: An online teaching platform developed by IIT Bombay to provide interactive multimedia books including lab manuals**

An online teaching platform developed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bombay is now available to teachers of all schools and colleges in the country. BodhiTree is a multimedia platform design that can mimic classroom teaching. While most tools such as massive open online courses (MOOC) are designed to help students, BodhiTree is built with the aim of aiding teachers in their instructions.

The platform hosts interactive multimedia books including lab manuals. These books — called BodhiBooks — are curated by the faculty of IIT-Bombay and can be in the form of interactive videos, auto-graded practice sheets and auto or manual graded lab exercises. These books can be accessed by students via a smartphone app as well as a web-browser.

To help teachers adapt to the challenge and integrate technology in their teachings, IIT-Bombay has made it available to all.

By adopting this platform, teachers can manage multiple tasks such as creating their own content, enrol students, impose schedules, monitor students' progress, take tests and share marks with students, and check for plagiarism. Teachers can use the BodhiBooks in conjunction with the rich set of learning management system (LMS) features.

4. FICCI FLO (the women wing of FICCI) Hyderabad, IIIT-Hyderabad partner to set up incubator to support women entrepreneurs

FICCI FLO Hyderabad has partnered with Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship(CIE) IIIT-H to establish the FLO Incubator at CIE IIITH to empower women entrepreneurs and women-led start-ups.

The FLO Incubator@CIE aims at facilitating 20+ women entrepreneurs with each cohort structured to run for one month. The incubator comprises of members from both FICCI FLO Hyderabad and CIE, IIIT Hyderabad.

5. Hon'ble Education Minister addresses the students of the 1st Batch of ASEAN PhD Fellowship Programme

Union Education Minister virtually addressed the students from ASEAN member states who have been selected for the prestigious ASEAN PhD Fellowship Programme (APFP) funded by the Government of India and congratulated them on their selection in the IITs, the country's premier technological institutions.

APFP is the largest capacity development programme undertaken by the Government of India for foreign beneficiaries. Under the APFP, 1000 fellowships will be provided exclusively to ASEAN citizens.

The ASEAN PhD Fellowship Programme was announced on 25th January 2018, the eve of India's Republic Day, by Honourable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi in the presence of leaders of all the ten ASEAN member states.

B. Major decisions:

1. IITs join hands with C-DAC to establish supercomputing facilities under National Supercomputing Mission

IIT Mandi, IIT Guwahati and IIT Gandhinagar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) for the establishment of supercomputing facilities in their respective campuses under the National Supercomputing Mission. The MoU was signed by the directors of all three institutes on October 12, 2020.

The supercomputers will play an important role in the field of scientific and engineering applications such as quantum mechanics, climate research, oil and gas exploration, molecular modelling, weather forecasting, spacecraft aerodynamics, computational systems biology and detonation simulations including the handling of large databases using Artificial intelligence models.

2. JEE Mains to be conducted in more regional languages from next year

In line with the vision of NEP2020, the Joint Admission Board (JAB) of JEE (Main) has decided to conduct the JEE (Main) examination in more regional languages of India

The examination will also be conducted in regional languages where entry to State Engineering Colleges is decided based on an examination (conducted in regional language). State language of States who admit students based on the JEE(Main) will also be included under this.

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To
All Member of Council of Ministers
Copy with enclosures, forwarded to:

1. Secretary to the President (Rashtrapati-ke-Sachiv)
2. Secretary to the Vice-President (Up-Rashtrapati-Ke-Sachiv)
3. Deputy Chairman, NitiAayog, New Delhi
4. All members, NitiAayog, New Delhi (with 8 extra copies)
5. Principal Director General (M&C), M/o Information and Broadcasting, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
6. Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
7. Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
8. Secretary, Legislative Department, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
9. Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
10. Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Paryavaran Bhawan, C.G.O Complex Lodhi Road, New Delhi
11. Secretary, Department of Space, LokNayak Bhawan, New Delhi
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15. Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Parivahan Bhawan, New Delhi
16. Secretary, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Sardar Patel Bhawan, New Delhi
17. Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR Building, Rafi Marg, New Delhi
18. Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
19. Cabinet Secretariat, (Attn: Sh Bhaskar Dasgupta, Director), Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi

19/11/20

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24 NOV 2020

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Secretary
अस./Dy.No.
19 NOV 2020
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