

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Department of Higher Education

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

Important Policy Decisions Taken and Major Achievements During September, 2024

(i) For realizing the vision of "Make AI in India and Make AI work for India", government had approved establishment of three Centres of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence (AI) with a total financial outlay of Rs. 990.00 Cr over the period of FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28. An Apex Committee consisting of Industry leaders and experts examined all proposals from academic institutions. Based on the recommendation of the Apex Committee, Ministry of Education approved three academic institutions for establishment of three Centres of Excellence (CoE) – CoE of AI in Health at AIIMS Delhi – IIT, Delhi, CoE of AI in Agriculture at IIT Ropar and CoE of AI in Sustainable Cities at IIT Kanpur.

(ii) National Teacher's Award 2024 have been conferred to 82 selected Awardees by Hon'ble President of India on 5th September, 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Each award carries a certificate of merit, a cash award of Rs. 50,000 and a silver medal. 16 teachers from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have been selected. These educators have demonstrated excellence in areas such as Teaching Learning Effectiveness, Outreach activities, Research and Innovation, and Sponsored Research/ Faculty Development Programs/ Consultancy Teaching. Of the above, Learning Effectiveness & Outreach activities have the preponderant weightage.

(iii) One-day workshop on the Institutional Development Plan (IDP) for Higher Education Institutes was organised on 04th September, 2024. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Education Minister. He also released the UGC Compendium of Regulations (1957-2023) as a single, accessible & reliable source of all UGC rules. The workshop on IDP brings together higher education institutions to discuss strategies for institutional growth and development. The compendium will serve as a valuable resource for institutions as they develop and implement their IDP. Over 170 representatives from HEIs across India participated in this workshop. Aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the IDP provides institutions with a clear roadmap to develop their vision, mission and goals for a future-ready education system.

(iv) All Higher Education Institutions and Autonomous Bodies under the Ministry of Education actively participated across the three main pillars of Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2024 Swachhata Ki Bhaagidari; Sampurna Swachhata, including Swachhata Lakshit Ekayi; and Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs. The Department of Higher Education (DoHE) is also actively participated in preparatory phase of Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters (SCDPM) 4.0, organized by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

(v) In order to identify vacant built-up space in State Institutions for setting up of Computer Based Test (CBT) Centers for conducting examinations by the NTA, a meeting was held with Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of Higher Education & Technical Education of States through Video Conference on 20th September, 2024. As a follow up to the meeting, Information on Vacant Space through online form has been collected from States for further action by the National Testing Agency in respect of setting up of CBT Centers. A meeting was

also held with Vice Chancellors of all Central Universities and Directors of IITs/NITs and CFIs on 20th September, 2024 for undertaking same exercise in Central Institutions.

(vi) A meeting with the delegation from Purdue University, USA was held on 11 September 2024. Purdue is associated with Indian Semiconductor Mission (ISM) for capacity building of workforce, research & development and industry collaboration. Purdue University is among the top 50 higher educational institutions in the US, top 10 among the public universities in US, and its patents are considered to be among the top 4 in US. During the discussions both sides explored opportunities to collaborate in areas like offering Dual degree UG courses in partnership with Indian institutions; strengthening ties in emerging tech/AI/semiconductors and possibilities to enhance engagement in deep research in areas of mutual interest; branch campus of Purdue University in India (the delegation also expressed Purdue's keenness to establish the first Indo-Global Challenge Institute focused on AI, semiconductor, and quantum technology in India; developing a Joint Supervision Program, wherein Purdue and Indian universities could collaboratively oversee the thesis of Masters and PhD candidates etc.

(vii) IIM Bangalore launched BBA-DBE Undergraduate Programme in Digital Business and Entrepreneurship on 16.09.2024. The BBA-DBE Undergraduate Programme in Digital Business and Entrepreneurship is a three-year degree offered online that can be completed within a maximum of six academic years from the date of joining. The learners will have multiple exit options and could get a certificate, a diploma, or a degree. Students who choose to exit the programme with a certificate or a diploma may, within constraints, be able to rejoin the programme to complete the degree. The courses will be delivered online asynchronously, while exams will be held offline at different centres across India. This programme may be undertaken as a standalone primary degree or can be pursued along with any other educational programme the student might be pursuing.
