Year End Review 2017 - Ministry of HRD

In pursuance to Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision for 'Transforming India', Ministry of Human Resource Development took a leap forward in transforming education sector with the motto of **"सबको शिक्षा, अच्छी शिक्षा "** (Education for All, Quality Education).

Year 2017 has been a yet another landmark year in the field of education as 'Education For All & Quality Education' guided policy actions and decisions enabling transformation, that emphasized upon making education Available, Accessible, Affordable and Accountable.

Learning Outcomes

A frequent criticism against the RTE Act was that it did not adequately focus on issues promoting quality education in schools. Therefore, in a landmark step, the Rules to the RTE Act were amended in February 2017 to include, for the first time, the class wise, subject wise Learning Outcomes till Class VIII, thereby emphasizing the importance of quality education.

In this regard, Learning Outcomes for each class in Languages (Hindi, English and Urdu), Mathematics, Environmental Studies, Science and Social Science up to the elementary stage have been developed. These are the basic levels of learning that children should arrive at the end of each class.

Subsequently, 21 States and UTs, including Jammu and Kashmir, have incorporated the Learning Outcomes in their State Rules, while the remaining States have initiated the process, it is expected that this will be completed by the end of this year.

All the States and UTs have translated the Learning Outcomes document in their regional languages, and they are circulating these to all the teachers, and also providing them with the requisite training. Posters for display of Learning Outcomes on the schools along with leaflets on Learning Outcomes for reference of parents have been developed and circulated to all States and UTs. An amount of **Rs. 91.20 crore** has been released by the MHRD to all States and UTs for printing the Learning Outcomes documents, the Posters and the leaflets in regional languages, and for their distribution.

National Achievement Survey 2017-18

National Achievement Survey (NAS) which was earlier based on textbook content is now a competency based evaluation. As compared to only 4.43 lakh students who were earlier tested across Classes 3, 5 and 8, this time around 22 lakh students from around 1,10,000 schools across 700 districts of India (including rural and urban) were assessed in the year 2017-18 (November 13, 2017) making it one of the largest sample surveys of student learning achievement.

This survey is an improvement over the previous cycles of NAS as it will be completed in the one full academic year. It will reflect the scores of the students and will be able to suggest academic intervention in the same academic year. District wise Result will be generated within 2 months of test conduction. NAS Reporting will show if the students' learning levels are as per the learning outcomes of a particular grade. It will also look for association of school, teacher and students' background variables with students' achievements while analysing the data.

Through NAS 2017-18, it will be for the first time that the teachers will have a tool to understand what exactly the child should be learning in various classes, how to teach this through activities and how to measure and ensure that children have reached the required level. This will also help agencies at the District, State, and National level to conduct achievement surveys and assess the health of the system to improve upon the policy directives. Adding to this, for the first time there will be detailed district-specific report cards for all the districts in the country.

Teacher Education

Major Reforms:

- **Introduction of four year B.Ed. integrated programme with multiple pathways-** with specialization for pre-primary, elementary, secondary and senior secondary teachers for enabling regulatory framework and orientation of all existing Teacher Education Institutions will be introduced from the academic session 2019-2020.

- **Guideline on Strengthening of District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs):** As per the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986, DIETs were envisaged for In-service as well as pre-service education. However, over the years, the focus had gradually shifted to pre-service education. Moreover, currently, there is no nodal agency with expertise in in-service training and thus to address this challenge, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has recently developed Guidelines on-strengthening of DIETs. Accordingly, States have been encouraged to do a district wise analysis before considering a reconceptualization of DIETs as per the models proposed in the MHRD Guideline on DIETs. This will also allow flexibility of getting more expertise into in-service teacher training.

- **DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing):** DIKSHA was launched on 5th September, 2017 by the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu.

DIKSHA will accelerate and amplify solutions, experiments and innovations that are underway, and is being attempted in the areas of teacher training and professional development. States and TEIs have the autonomy and choice to repurpose and extend DIKSHA to suit their own needs and purposes. DIKSHA is for the benefit of Teachers in Schools, Teacher Educators and Student Teachers in Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs).

- **Amendment of the RTE Act for Training of In-service Untrained Teachers:**

In another landmark achievement, the Amendment to the Section 23(2) of the RTE Act to extend the period for training of untrained in-service elementary teachers to 31st March, 2019 has been passed by both the houses of Parliament on 1st August, 2017. The same was notified in Gazette of India on 10th August, 2017. As per the above amendment all untrained in-service elementary teachers working in Government, Government aided, and Private unaided schools should acquire minimum qualification as *laid down by an academic authority, authorized by the Central Government, by 31st March, 2019.*

This would ensure an improvement in the overall quality of teachers and teaching processes, and consequently learning outcomes of children. Further, it reinforces the Government's emphasis on improvement of quality of elementary education.

The training for untrained teachers is being conducted through Online Mode by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). The online D.El.Ed. Course has already been started from 3rd October, 2017. A unique feature of this initiative is that the study material for the course prepared by NIOS in self-instructional mode, is uploaded on the SWAYAM platform in four quadrants i.e. (1) Audio/Video lecture, (2) specially prepared reading material that can be downloaded/printed (3) self-assessment tests through tests and quizzes and (4) an online discussion forum for clearing the doubts. Three courses i.e., 501, 502 and 503 have already been uploaded on the SWAYAM Portal in 4 quadrants. The D.El.Ed. programme video lectures are also broadcast on SWAYAM PRABHA (DTH Channel no. 32).

A total of 14,02,962 in-service untrained teachers from Govt., Govt. Aided and Private Schools have registered on the NIOS portal and 13,58,000 admissions have been confirmed so far.

Distribution of tablets in Kendriya Vidyalayas

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has initiated a pilot project for connecting students and their teachers through tablets preloaded with relevant e content to facilitate easy classroom transaction, creation of genuine interest among students and effective learning of the students.

The students of class VIII in 25 Kendriya Vidyalayas (one KV from each Region) shall be provided with good quality Tablets on pilot basis. Every child shall be given a tablet with pre-loaded content in Maths & Science. About 5000 students and teachers shall be involved in this project. Along with the students, their teachers of Maths and Science also shall be provided with tablets for transacting the subjects.

Introduction of e-material/courses for Principals/HMs, teachers and students -
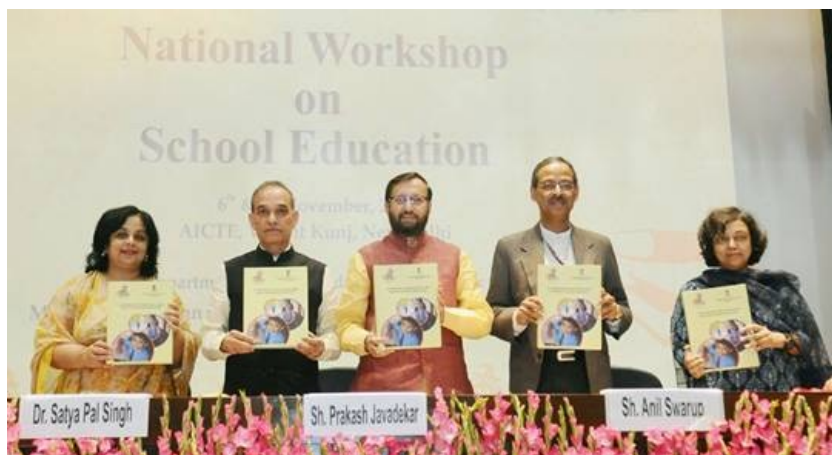
The Department is placing a lot of emphasis on the development and provision of e-content for students and also training of teachers, head masters and Principals.

The CIET-NCERT is developing e-materials and online courses for teachers and students. So far 4524 e-materials (audios, videos, interactives, images, documents, maps etc.) have been developed. They are regularly being validated and uploaded on the NROER portal and e-Pathshala portal.

NUEPA has established the National Centre for School Leadership (NCSL), which is conceptualizing and designing the Online Programme on School Leadership and Management using Moodle platform for School Heads. This e-learning course is envisioned as a Basic course and in the years to come NCSL would be designing Moderate and Advanced courses.

Two Days' National Workshop – Chintan Shivir

This was organized by the Department of School Education and Literacy on 06-07 November, 2017. More than 350 participants from various NGOs, Private organizations, individual experts, State officials etc. participated.

Deliberations were on six themes – Digital Education for Students, Digital Education for Teachers, Value Education, Physical Education, Lifestyle Education and Experiential Education.

Presentations were made on these 6 themes to the Hon'ble Human Resource Development Minister by the participants. The recommendations are being reviewed and a detailed road map has also been prepared.

Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat - National Level Camp

A Social Science Exhibition cum National Integration Camp was organized by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi from 31st October to 2nd November, 2017, to celebrate Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat. A total number of 1250 students of Kendriya Vidyalayas participated in this National level camp from all the 25 regions.

Enhanced allocation of funds under SSA for components promoting quality education

The allocation of SSA funds to States and UTs was revised and in 2016, 10% of the funds were allocated for components related to entitlements and promoting quality education in schools. In 2017 this was enhanced to 30%. It is expected this will further increase to around 40% by April, 2018. This is a huge departure from previous years when the funds were left untied and were utilised by States and UTs primarily for civil works and paying teacher's salaries.

Annual grading of all States and UTs based on their achievements under the SSA and specific decisions taken during reviews by Hon'ble PM

The SHAGUN portal was launched in January 2017 to enable real time monitoring of the SSA components and various decisions on elementary education taken during the reviews by Hon'ble Prime Minister. The Online Grading of States and UTs, which measures their performance, was introduced in September/October 2017, and it will be expanded and refined further so that it is a valuable tool enabling States and UTs to assess and improve their performance.

NCERT to distribute over 6 crore textbooks

NCERT launched a portal in August, 2017 to facilitate individuals, schools, States and UTs to directly purchase textbooks. By 1[1th] December 2017, NCERT has received orders from 3524 schools for 1.56 crore copies through this portal. Apart from this NCERT has received direct orders from NVS and other states/UTs for about 1.55 crore copies. Thus, so far (by 11.12. 2017) NCERT has received orders for about 3.11 crore copies. It is expected that NCERT will be printing and distributing over 6 crore textbooks by June, 2018.

Textbooks will be distributed through four Regional Production-cum-Distribution Centres already established at Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Guwahati and Kolkata apart from Delhi HQ. NCERT has also empanelled 905 vendors across the country for distribution of textbooks.

Awarding cleanest schools under Swachh Vidyalaya

During June 2016, DoSE&L launched the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar to recognize, inspire and celebrate excellence in sanitation & hygiene practice in Government Schools in the areas of water, sanitation, hand washing with soap, operations and maintenance, behavior change and capacity building.

A total of 2, 68,402 schools applied online through web portal/Mobile App for the Puraskar. The schools were selected at the district, state and national level. 643 schools were evaluated at the national level and National awards were given to 172 schools on 1st September 2017 including elementary and secondary schools in both urban and rural areas.

 For 2018 the Puraskar has been extended to aided and private schools also and till 2nd week of November, 5.33 lakh Government, Aided and Private schools have submitted their applications for the Puraskar.

All schools to rollout the Automated Monitoring System at the school level under MDM

This department has put in place an automated system of data collection for real time monitoring of Mid Day Meal Scheme. Such data is being captured from schools with no cost to school Head Master/ Teacher.

Under the automated monitoring system, States/UTs have set up a suitable system of data collection (i.e. Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS)/SMS/Mobile Application/Web Application) from schools on a daily basis and using it for purpose of monitoring and timely follow up action.

All the States/UTs are pushing data on specific field in a predefined format on a real time basis to the Central Server maintained by NIC. Based on the data collected, various drill down reports are made available for real time monitoring of the scheme at National/State/District/Block level.

Improving universal access, gender parity and quality improvement in secondary education in 3479 Educationally Backward Blocks

An Innovation Fund has been set up under RMSA in order to encourage local innovative interventions for ensuring universal access, gender parity and quality improvement in secondary education in 3479 Educationally Backward Blocks. The fund is likely to be operationalised by December, 2017 and its impact should be visible by December, 2018.

So far, proposals from 23 States have been received under the project and a Video Conference with the concerned States/UTs Governments has been held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (SE&L) on 08.12.2017 in which the proposals have been considered.

Capturing Aadhaar based data of all 25 crore school students and creation of a Students Data Management and Information System (SDMIS) -

The Department is creating a database of all students in the country along with their Aadhaar details, which will help in reducing drop outs, duplicate enrolments, improve planning process and ensure efficient utilisation of resources.

Till date, data of nearly 21 crore students has been captured. By April, 2018, it is likely that the SDMIS will have captured data of all the 25 crore students, which will be updated on an annual basis thereafter.

Providing gender segregated toilets in all schools

The Prime Minister of India on 15th August 2014 announced that all government schools in the country should have toilets with separate toilets for girls within one year. The Department of School Education and Literacy launched "Swachh Bharat: Swachh Vidyalaya" campaign as a collaborative effort of the Central Government which provided funding through Centrally sponsored schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Swachh Bharat Kosh, and the States/Union Territories with Public Sector Undertakings and Private Corporates.

Under this initiative, 4, 17,796 toilets were constructed/made functional in 2, 61,400 schools in a period of one year up to 15th August 2015. With this, India achieved the target of providing 100% access to functional toilets in all government schools across the country.

The provision of toilet facilities in all schools has enhanced sanitation standards in schools leading to better health and hygiene among the children. 'Swachh Vidyalaya' was also recognized as one of the priority programmes for Prime Minister's Excellence Award for 2016.

Scholarship:

- **National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)**
- 3.80 lakh scholarships have been sanctioned for the last three years from 2014-15 to 2016-17.
- 3.59 lakh scholarships have been sanctioned for the current year 2017-18 as on 8.12.2017.

- **National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Scholarship (NSIGSE)**

- 9.71 lakh incentive to girls have been sanctioned for the last three years from 2014-15 to 2016-17.
- 7.12 lakh incentives to girls have been sanctioned for the current year 2017-18 as on 8.12.2017.

Other achievements of the Department of SE&L

- A Bill for amending the no-detention provision under the RTE Act and allowing States to detain a student at Classes 5 and 8 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha.

- Board examinations made mandatory for 10th in all CBSE Schools.

- Mid Day Meal scheme offers food every day to 9.78 crore students in 11.40 lakh schools and 25.38 lakh cooks are employed in preparing it.

- 3 Crore illiterates became literate and passed the literacy test in adult literacy campaign.

- 93 Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) started during last 3 years and 19 KVs are to be started shortly.

- 62 new Navodaya Vidyalas sanctioned.

NEW EDUCATION POLICY (NEP)

In view of the vastly transformed landscape of education in India in terms of coverage, content and delivery systems, a New Education Policy is being formulated after nearly 30 years.

MHRD has embarked on an unprecedented collaborative, multi- stakeholder and multi-pronged consultation process. The consultative process has reached out to individuals across the country through more than 2.75 lakh direct consultations while also taking online inputs. The online consultation process was undertaken on www.MyGov.in portal from 26th January, 2015 to 31st October, 2015 and nearly 29000 suggestions were received on the 33 identified themes.

Over 200 thematic national workshops were held with a youth survey by the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace, Sustainable Development. With regard to **School Education, 1, 10,623 villages, 3250 Blocks, 725 Urban Local Bodies from 340 districts of 19 States** have uploaded their Grassroots Consultation Reports on www.MyGov.in portal.

Similarly, **2741 Blocks, 962 Urban Local Bodies from 406 districts in 20 States** have done the same with regard to Higher Education. A Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy has been constituted to examine the outcome documents, recommendations & suggestions received and formulate a draft National Education Policy as well as a Framework for Action.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

It was launched on 29th September 2015, ranks institutions based on objective and verifiable criteria. It has been made available separately for Engineering, Management, Pharmaceutical, Architecture, Humanities, Law and for Universities.

The first ranks were declared on 4th April 2016. More than 3,500 institutions have participated in the exercise, making it the highest participated ranking exercise in the World. The second India Rankings were released in April 2017.

SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds)

The Ministry of HRD, has embarked on a major and new initiative called 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM), which will provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses, using information and communication technology (ICT) and covering all higher education subjects and skill sector courses to ensure that every student in the country has access to the best quality higher education at affordable cost.

The SWAYAM IT platform is indigenously developed that facilitates hosting of courses, taught in classrooms from 9th class till post-graduation in a number of disciplines that can be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time. The three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality shall be achieved by providing high quality e-content to all learners in the country through SWAYAM.

Courses delivered through SWAYAM are available free of cost to the learners and are delivered by best of the teaching fraternity. Hon'ble President of India had officially launched   SWAYAM, on July 9th, 2017. At present about 750 MOOCs (Massive open online courses) courses are listed on SWAYAM and about 330 MOOCs are running, wherein about 6 Lakhs (5, 92,178) students have registered for these courses.

(On the auspicious occasion of **"Guru Purnima" on 9th July, 2017,** the **Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee** launched the **SWAYAM**)

SWAYAM PRABHA

It is an initiative to provide 32 high quality educational channels through DTH (Direct to Home) across the length and breadth of the country on 24X7 basis. This would enable to deliver e-education in a most cost effective manner.

The Department of Space has allotted two Transponders of GSAT-15 for the same. The subscribers of free DTH service of Doordarshan (Free dish) would be able to view these Educational channels using the same set Top Box and TV. No additional investment would be required.

These educational programmes delivered over DTH shall also be made available at YouTube as archival data. The information related to channel schedules; subject, archival link etc are available on SWAYAM Prabha portal (https://swayamprabha.gov.in/) which is developed by INFLIBNET Gandhinagar.

(Launch Of "Swayam", "Swayam Prabha DTH Channels" & "National Academic Depository" By Hon'ble President Of India During "National Convention On Digital Initiatives" organized By MHRD From 8th July to 10th July 2017 At Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi).

National Academic Depository (NAD)

The Government of India is committed towards bringing administrative and academic reforms using technology for delivery of efficient services to all stakeholders. A step in this direction is the initiative of digital depository of academic awards known as National Academic Depository (NAD).

The NAD has been launched by Hon'ble President of India on 9th July, 2017. NAD is an online store house of academic awards (degrees, diplomas, certificates, mark-sheets etc) lodged by the academic institutions / school boards / eligibility assessment bodies in a digital format.

NAD is on 24X7 online mode for making available academic awards and help in validating their authenticity, their safe storage and easy retrieval. As on 24th November, 2017, 74.81 lakh records have been uploaded on the NAD Portal

National Digital Library (NDL)

Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is establishing the **National Digital Library (NDL)** under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) with the objective to host a national repository of existing e-content available across educational institutions in the country and e-content developed under NMEICT. IIT Kharagpur has been entrusted to host, coordinate and set-up National Digital Library (NDL) of India towards building a national asset.

The objective of the project is to integrate all the existing digitized and digital contents across educational and cultural institutions/bodies to provide a single-window access to different groups of users ranging across the entire population.

NDL Portal (https: //ndl.iitkgp. ac.in) went live in February 2016 with users from selected CFTIs (Centrally Funded Technical Institutes), opened to all in February 2017 (with release of Mobile App), with daily website hits: ~30K. User base - Registered: 17+ Lakhs, Active: 7+ Lakhs, Content items, 72 Lakhs, Sources: 142 and IDR Sources: 85. Mobile App (Android): Launched in January, 2017, 3.5 Lakhs download and daily Android hits: ~20K. Training & awareness development IDR workshops: 19 and user workshops.

Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)

The Cabinet considered and approved the proposal of establishment of HEFA in its meeting dated 12th September 2016. In order to give a big push for building up robust higher educational institutions, the Cabinet has approved creation of the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) with Government equity of Rs. 1,000 Cr.

The creation of HEFA will enable major investments for creation of high quality infrastructure in premier educational institutions. The HEFA would be formed as an SPV within a PSU Bank/Government-owned-NBFC (Promoter). It would leverage the equity to raise up to Rs. 20,000 Cr for funding projects for infrastructure and development of world class Labs in IITs/IIMs/NITs and such other institutions.

The HEFA would finance the academic and research infrastructure projects through a 10-yr loan. The principal portion of the loan will be repaid through the 'internal accruals' of the institutions. The Government would service the interest portion through the regular grant assistance.

All the Centrally Funded Higher Educational Institutions would be eligible for joining as members of the HEFA. For joining as members, the Institution should agree to escrow a specific amount from their internal accruals to HEFA for a period of 10 years. This secured future flows would be securitised by the HEFA for mobilising the funds from the market. Each member institution would be eligible for a credit limit as decided by HEFA based on the amount agreed to be escrowed from the internal accruals.

The HEFA would be jointly promoted by the identified Joint Promoter, Canara Bank and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) with an authorized capital of Rs.2,000 crore. The Government equity would be Rs.1, 000 crore.

The HEFA would also mobilize CSR funds from PSUs/Corporates, which would in turn be released for promoting research and innovation in these institutions on grant basis.

Canara Bank was identified and appointed as Joint Venture partner on 29.12.2016 for establishment of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) to manage the financing agency incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and also registered with RBI as NBFC. An MOU was signed on 9th February, 2017 between MHRD and Canara Bank for the same. Later, Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) was also signed between MHRD and Canara Bank on 16th March, 2017.

The investment in the equity of the JVC by MHRD, GOI and Canara Bank shall be in the following proportion:

S. No.	Party	Contribution (in Rs.)	Shareholding Percentage
1.	GoI	Rs. 1000,00,00,000/-	90.91
2.	Canara Bank	Rs. 100,00,00,000/-	9.09

HEFA has now been incorporated as Section 8 Company under the Companies Act, 2013 on 31.5.2017. The following subscription of equity has so far been made to HEFA by MHRD and Canara Bank:

Name of the Subscriber	Amount (Rs. In Crores)
GoI, MHRD, Department of Higher Education	250
Canara Bank	50
Total	**300**

The first and second meeting of the Board of Directors of HEFA was held on 12-06-2017 and 11-8-2017 respectively. HEFA is now functional and institutes have accordingly been informed along with format of application to take the benefit of HEFA on 16 -8-2017.

The third meeting of the Board of Directors of HEFA was held on 29-11-2017 in which following loan applications to HEFA were considered:

S. No.	Name of the Institution	Proposed Loan amount (Rs. in Crore)
1	IIT – Kanpur	391
2	IIT – Delhi	200
3	IIT - Kharagpur	500
4	IIT- Madras	300
5	IIT- Bombay	521
6	NIT - Surathkal	80
	Total	1992

INDIA SURVEY ON HIGHER EDUCATION

All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) was initiated in 2011 in which data for the year 2010-11 were collected. The survey was utmost necessary as none of the sources of data on Higher education gave a complete picture of higher education in the country. Also, there were many important parameters on which data were required for policy making but either no data was available or incomplete data was available.

For the first time all the major Stakeholders in Higher Education such as Medical Council of India, University Grants Commissions, All India Council for Technical Education as well as State Governments have participated in for the data collection exercise. The entire survey was conducted through electronic mode and a dedicated portal www.aishe.gov.in was developed for this purpose, thus making the exercise completely paperless.

The survey covers all the Institutions in the country engaged in imparting higher education. Data are being collected on several parameters such as teachers, student enrolment, programmes, examination results, education finance, infrastructure etc. Indicators of education development such as Institution Density, Gross Enrolment Ratio, Pupil-teacher ratio, Gender Parity Index etc. are calculated from the data collected through AISHE. These are useful in making informed policy decisions and research for development of education sector.

During AISHE 2016-17, 96.6% University, 92.1% Colleges and 72.4% Stand-Alone Institutions uploaded the data on the portal. Final report for the AISHE 2010-11 to 2015-16 are available on MHRD website. Survey for the year 2016-17 has been completed & Survey for the year 2017-18 will soon be launched.

SWACHHTA PAKHWADA

An exercise called 'Swachhta Rankings" of Higher Educational Institutions were held on 14th September 2017. More than 3000 institutions participated in the online submission of their levels of campus cleanliness based on some key parameters like toilet adequacy, water purity & supply, hostel kitchen facilities & cleanliness, campus greenery, method of waste disposal, garbage cleaning systems etc. The best institutions in 5 categories were awarded.

To coincide with the Swachhta Pakhwada of the Department, under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan programme, District Collectors were asked to complete Open defecation free (ODF) with facility for solid and liquid waste management in at least 1 village adopted by the educational institution in their district. 5 Collectors of Ajmer, Warangal, Telangana, Jhabua & Indore were the top 5 Collectors who completed the task in time and were awarded at the function on 14th September 2017. More than 1400 families in the villages benefited from this campaign.

RESEARCH PARKS

Five new Research Parks at IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kanpur, IIT Hyderabad, and IISc Bangalore at a total cost of Rs.75.00 crore each have been approved by the Government. Approval has also been accorded for continuation of two already approved Research Parks at IIT Bombay and IIT Kharagpur at a cost of Rs.100 crore each.

The Research Park at IIT Gandhinagar at a total cost of Rs.90 crore is being funded by the Department of Science & Technology

IMPRINT INDIA

IMPRINT India is an effort to direct research in the premier institutions into areas of social relevance. Under this, 10 domains have been identified which could substantially impact the living standards of the rural areas: (1) health care technology, (2) energy security, (3) rural urban housing design, (4) Nano technology, (5) water/river system, (6) advanced materials, (7) computer science and ICT, (8) manufacturing technology, (9) advanced security and (10) environment/climate change. Each of these domains is coordinated by one IIT.

More than 2,600 research proposals have been submitted by scientists in the priority areas of these domains. These have been examined by eminent scientists and 259 proposals for Rs. 595.89 crore have been approved for implementation. 142 research projects costing Rs. 323.17 crore with joint funding by MHRD and various participating Ministries / departments are currently under execution under IMPRINT – I. IMPRINT-II is under process for approval.

UCHCHTAR AAVISHKAR ABHIYAAN

The scheme was launched to promote industry-specific need-based research so as to keep up the competitiveness of the Indian industry in the global market. All the IITs have been encouraged to work with the industry to identify areas where innovation is required and come up with solutions that could be brought up to the commercialization level.

Under the UAY, it is proposed to invest Rs. 250 crores every year on identified projects proposed by IITs, provided the Industry contributes 25% of the project cost. For the year 2016-17, (92) projects for Rs. 285.15 crore have been approved for implementation.

IIT Madras is the National Coordinator of the scheme. (160) proposals have been received of which industry has agreed to contribute Rs. 156 Cr, making this one of the biggest ever industry-academia partnership. These research projects are expected to result in registration of patents.

Other Initiatives

- **Improving Gender Balance in IITs:** For improving Gender Balance in IITs, the IIT Council in its 51st meeting held on 28.04.2017, on the basis of the recommendations of a JAB Sub Committee, and decided to increase female enrolment in B.Tech. programmes of IITs from the current 8% to 14% in 2018-19, 17% in 2019-20 and 20% in 2020-21 by creating supernumerary seats.

- **Premier Testing Facility:** The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 10.11.2017 approved creation of the **National Testing Agency (NTA)** as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct all entrance examinations for higher education institutions in the country.

- Several **welfare measures** viz. Anti-Ragging Cell, Anti-discrimination Cell, Gender Sensitization Cell, Internal Complaints Committee for prevention of Sexual Harassment & Barrier Free access for specially abled students in all places have been introduced.

- Six new IITs at Jammu, Bhilai, Goa, Dharwad, Tirupati and Palakkad were established and operationalized at a total cost of Rs.1411 crore.

- The proposal for construction of permanent campuses of these IITs was approved by the Union Cabinet in November, 2017 at a total cost of Rs.7002.42 crore for Phase-A.

- **Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN):** The GIAN programme brings together foreign and Indian faculties to teach an academic course that provides the credit to participating students selected from the world's leading academic institutions. Under this Scheme, foreign schemes are coming and conducting courses, out of which 802 courses have been completed. In 2017-18, a total of 156 courses have been conducted till now.

- **Smart India Hackathon 2017:** First time India organized Smart India Hackathon 2017 with participation of more than 42,000 engineering students working on 600 problem statement to all digital solutions from 30 ministries. Second Smart India Hackathon 2018 has been announced and about one

lakh engineering students are expected to participate.

- Wi-Fi under implementation in 38 Central Universities.

- **University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017** have been recently notified in the month of June, 2017 keeping in view the urgent need of appropriate regulations for monitoring of higher education through the open and distance mode. The open and distance learning system in India has emerged as an important mode for providing education to diverse sections of society. These regulations provide clear directions and instructions for HEIs proposing to offer UG and PG courses through the ODL mode, along with the mechanism of approvals, assessment and monitoring.

- **UGC (Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2017** have been notified to create a distinct category of Deemed to be Universities, called Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities, which would be regulated differently from other Deemed to be Universities so as to evolve into Institutions of world class in reasonable time period. Also, in order to assist Indian Higher Education Institutions to get a rank within the top 100 in globally renowned rankings, UGC has invited applications under the **Institutions of eminence scheme**wherein 10 institutions from the government and 10 institutions from the private sector are to be selected. Government Institutions will get financial assistance of 1000 crores over a period of five years in addition to the grant already being received. The institutions selected from the private sector will have complete autonomy to promote innovation and creativity expected to result in producing competent graduates for the development of the country.
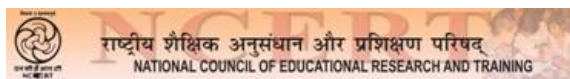

Major Legislative Reforms

- **IIT Public Private Partnership Bill** - Lok Sabha passed the Indian Institute of Information Technology Public Private Partnership Bill 2017, on 26th July 2017, that seeks to allow 15 IIITs established on a PPP model to grant degrees

- The **IIIT Bill 2014** was notified in the Gazette on 05.01.2015. The Bill which was approved by the Cabinet in August, 2012 and introduced during the Budget Session had lapsed with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. The Bill, provides independent statutory status to the four existing IIITs in Allahabad, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Kancheepuram, which are funded by the Central Government, as also to declare them to be institutions of National Importance.

- **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)** which was launched on 29th September 2015, ranks institutions based on objective and verifiable criteria. It has been made available separately for Engineering, Management, Pharmaceutical, Architecture, Humanities, Law and for Universities as a whole. The first ranks were declared on 4th April 2016. More than 3,500 institutions have participated in the exercise, making it the highest participated ranking exercise in the World. **The second India Rankings were released in April 2017.**

- **Passing of IIM Bill, 2017 by Lok Sabha** Indian Institutes of Management are the country's premier institutions imparting best quality education in management on globally benchmarked processes of education and training in management. IIMs are recognized as world-class management Institutions and Centers of Excellence and have brought laurels to the country. All IIMs are separate autonomous bodies registered under the Societies Act.

Being societies, IIMs are not authorized to award degrees and, hence, they have been awarding Post Graduate Diploma and Fellow Programme in Management. While these awards are treated as equivalent to MBAs and Ph.D, respectively, the equivalence is not universally acceptable, especially for the Fellow Programme. Therefore, after approval of the Cabinet, IIM Bill, 2017 was introduced in the Lok Sabha, under which the IIMs would be declared as Institutions of National Importance and which will enable them to grant degrees to their students. Bill has been passed in both the Houses of Parliament.

Salient Features of IIM Bill

Apart from authority to grant degrees, the Bill provides for complete autonomy to the Institutions, combined with adequate accountability. Management of these Institutions would be Board driven, with the Chairperson and Director of an Institution to be selected by the Board. A greater participation of experts and alumni in the Board is another of the important features in the Bill. Provision has also been made for presence of women and members from Scheduled Castes/Tribes in the Board. The Bill also provides for periodic review of the performance of Institutions by independent agencies, and placing the results of the same on public domain. The Annual Report of the Institutions will be placed in the Parliament and CAG will be auditing their accounts. There is also a provision of a Coordination Forum of IIMs, chaired by an eminent person, as an advisory body.

Important Achievements of NCERT

- **Inclusive Education:** The Council has developed the Tactile Map Book in Geography for students with visual impairments, *Barkha* **Reading Series for All** consisting of 40 booklets with additional features to aid early reading in inclusive settings has been developed in **print and digital forms.**

- **Performance Indicators:** NCERT has developed a Framework for Performance Indicators (PINDICS) for elementary school teachers and shared with States/UTs. NCERT has made PINDICs on-line.

- **Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA):** NCERT has developed Guidelines for the creation of State Resource Group for RAA. This has been shared with the states/UTs.

- **Textual Material on Yoga:** The Textual Materials on Yoga for students of Upper Primary and Secondary stages in English, Hindi and Urdu have been developed by NCERT.

- **Veer Gatha:** NCERT has developed "Veer Gatha" highlighting the sacrifices and patriotism of the war heroes of the country.

- NCERT has brought out publications on Sanitation, Cleanliness, Hygiene and Environmental Protection for students and teachers**.**

- **North East India-People, History and Culture-** a publication has been brought out by the NCERT.

- **Publication and Dissemination Textbooks-** More than 4.25 million copies of various NCERT publications in English, Hindi and Urdu have been brought out.

- **Vocational Education:** Under NSQF, the NCERT has developed students' workbooks and modules for various job roles in different sectors such as Construction, Organic farming, Floriculturist, Micro Irrigation, Junior Software Developer, Marketing and Sales Management, etc. The NCERT is also in the process of developing curricula and student' workbooks for another 100 job roles.

- **Contribution in Pre-service Teacher Education:** NCERT's innovative and integrated pre-service teacher education courses i.e., B.Sc. B.Ed. (four year), B.A. B.Ed.(four year) and B.Ed. (two year) have now been replicated across the country since 2015.

- NCERT has conducted Yoga Olympiad and also National Role Play, Folk Dance Competition and Youth Festival for promoting health, yoga and life skills. In these programmes students and teachers from most of the states/UTs took part.

- The Council organized 44th Jawaharlal Nehru National Science, Mathematics and Environment Exhibition (JNNSMEE) at Bhopal from 10 to 16 November 2017.

- Kala Utsav: It is being organized in January, 2018 at Bhopal

Specific Targets to be achieved period up to March 2018

- Implementation of learning outcomes across the States/UTs.
- Development of e-content and digital books in all the subject areas for all the classes.
- Conducting school achievement survey for class X.
- Conducting researches related to school education and teacher education.
- Offering pre-service teacher education programmes in all regions.
- Organising need based in-service teacher professional development programmes in different subject areas across the country.
- Organization of Audio-video Festival and ICT Mela.
- Establishment of a Centre for Popularisation of Science.
- Enhancing International Educational Cooperation.
- Organising activities for promoting innovative practices.
- Organising National Outreach Programme Workshop on Practices of Inclusion.

Initiatives taken by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

- **Union HRD Minister launches Swasth Bachche-Swasth Bharat Programme of KVS -** Union Minister for HRD, Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the "Swasth Bachche Swasth Bharat" programme of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan at KV NAD, Aluva (Kochi) on 21st August 2017. The Minister unveiled the Physical Health and Fitness Profile card for more than 12 lakh students of KVS. The KVS had already done a pilot in Patna and Chandigarh Region during the academic year 2016-17. Looking at the positive results on health and fitness of School going children, the KVS decided to implement it in all the KVs of the country. Activities under this ambitious programme are selected to measure various components of physical fitness of all the students in the age group of 5 to 8 years and 9 to 19 Years. Balanced emphasis is laid down on- Diet, Personal Hygiene and Clean Environment, Suggested Daily Routine and Yoga for Peace & Harmony.

- **Sh. Prakash Javadekar laid foundation stone of K.V. Shahdara -** Hon'ble HRD Minister Sh. Prakash Javadekar laid the foundation stone of Kendriya Vidyalaya, GT Road Shahdara in North East Delhi on 23rd February 2017. This is the first K.V. in this area. Hon'ble Minister formally laid the foundation of the school and unveiled the plaque before the huge gathering. Hon'ble M.P. of North East Delhi Sh. Manoj Tiwari, Commissioner, K.V.S. Sh. Santosh Kumar Mall were the guests of honour on this occasion. KVS Additional Commissioner (Admin) Sh. G.K. Srivastava and Additional Commissioner (Acad) Sh. U.N. Khaware were present as the special guests on the dais.

- **KVS-CSIR inks Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) JIGYASA -** Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research joined hands by signing a Memorandum of Understanding on 6th July 2017. The new venture named as 'Jigyasa' is an initiative to inculcate scientific temper among young students the MoU 'Jigyasa'. It was signed by Commissioner, KVS Sh. Santosh Kumar Mall and Director General, CSIR, Dr. Girish Sahni in the august presence of Union HRD Minister Sh. Prakash Javadekar and Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan during a signing ceremony in New Delhi. Additional Secretary (School Education & Literacy) of HRD Ministry Ms. Rina Ray also blessed the occasion with her presence.

- **Major Initiatives in school building construction**

   During the year 2017-18 total 43 new Kendriya Vidyalayas under Civil/ Defence/ Project/ IHL Sector have been opened and made functional.

   No. of KVs for which construction of permanent school buildings completed: 11

   Green Building Initiative: An initiative for maximising the conservation and optimum utilisation of resources and enhancing the efficiency of the systems and operations. Design of under construction KV buildings includes minimum disruption of natural ecosystem, reduced hard pavement, enhanced natural sunlight in classrooms etc. and provision of rainwater harvesting system. Adoption of energy efficient fittings and fixtures (LED & BEE 5 star marked appliances) in KVs and adoption of low flow water fixtures for water conservation. We are providing barrier free environment in all new Kendriya Vidyalaya buildings which are under construction and to be constructed in future.

   Initiation of roof top solar PV system in Kendriya Vidyalayas.

   Development of web based project monitoring system for review of construction works, status of land transfer, repair works, inventory of infrastructure and sports facilities in Kendriya Vidyalayas.

   Uploading of land details of Kendriya Vidyalayas on http://ncog.gov.in under Ministry of Urban Development.

   Upgradation of sports facilities in Kendriya Vidyalayas.

- **Training**

   For the first time, the induction Training and one month Certificate Course in School Leadership and Administration of 82 newly appointed Principals was conducted by KVS in collaboration with National Centre for School Leadership (NCSL), National University of Education Planning & Administration (NUEPA), New Delhi.

   In the present session from April to September, 2017, over 7500 teachers have attended training in short duration courses/workshops across 25 Regional Offices. This is in addition to the regular in-service training courses conducted by the ZIETs and KVs across the country. `

- **Gifting Old Books to juniors -** Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan urged its students to donate old books to their juniors after the completion of the academic session as an initiative to save paper. Surprisingly, KVS received a huge response from students. A large number of books have been donated saving as many as 878 trees in just a month. Now KVS intends to make this exercise more systematic in the coming years.

   Book Donation Data for 2017

   Total No. of Books Donated: 2, 58,385

   Average Weight of one book: 200 gms

   Total Weight of Paper Saved: 51,677 Kg

   One ton paper = 17 Trees (approx.)

   Total No. of Trees Saved: 878 (Approximately)

   Achievements of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

- **KV Pitampura's Dance bags first prize in Republic Day Parade -** The dance presented by Kendriya Vidyalaya Pitampura on the occasion of Republic Day Parade 2017 on the song **Tiranga Sakshi Hai** was awarded first prize in its category. Hon'ble Minister of Defence Sh. Subhash Ram Rao Bhamre awarded the prize to winners of various categories at Rashtriya Rang Shalaa Shivir in Delhi Cantt on Saturday. A strong contingent of 162 Students presented a Dance at Rajpath during Republic Day Parade 2017.

- **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan bags Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar -** Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan was awarded 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar-2017' in a special ceremony organized at Rashtrapati Bhawan. Commissioner KVS, Shri Santosh Kumar Mall received the Award and the Citation from the President of India, Hon'ble Shri Ram Nath Kovind on 29[th]August 2017. KVS has been selected by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports under the category 'Identification and Nurturing of Budding /Young Talent' in the field of sports.

   KVS has taken several initiatives to promote sports and physical activities among the students of all KVs spread throughout the country and abroad. It has also made considerable growth in National School Games organized by SGFI by securing a total number of 81 Medals in various categories during 62nd National School Games this year as compared to 38 Medals two year back.

- **Avani Lekhara wins Silver for Country -** Ms. Avani Lekhara Student of class X, Kendriya Vidyalaya No.3, Jaipur made impressive international debut, claiming silver medal at the World Shooting Para Sport World Cup in the UAE on 24/02/2017. Avani shot a junior world record 244.4 in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event (R2) to secure India's second silver of the competition. The 15-year-old finished behind Slovakia's Veronica Vadovicova, who created a world record of 247.5.

- Winner of Silver Medal "WORLD **SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP - COMBAT GAMES TAEKWONDO**" 2017 by **Ms. Shivani Mehra** Class XII of KV Rohini, Gurgaon held at Agra.

- Record broken in **"SGFI- SWIMMING 200 M BACK STROKE"** by **Mst. Aaryan Babasaheb Bhosale ,** class IX of KV Gole Market, Delhi during SGFI 2017-18.

- **Best Child Artist Award to a KVian by Kerala State Film Awards -** Abeni Aadhi of Class III, KV Pattom (Shift –I) got the best child artist award(female) by Kerala State Film Awards-2016,for her debut performance in Siddharth Siva's Kochavva Paulo Ayyappa Coelho. Her character named Ambili in the film was the best ever child level performance, among all the Malayalam Films released in 2016. Kochavva Paulo Ayyappa Coelho was produced under the prestigious banner Udaya Pictures,in which KunjackoBoban and Anusree played the lead roles. More than an actress, Abeni is a talented painter as well. She loves dancing and playing guitar.

- **KVS in 70 Icons of Modern India selected by India Today Group** - Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has been selected by the India Today Group amongst 70 Icons of Modern India in its special issue published on the occasion of 70th Independence Day of India. The story vividly explains various aspects and success of KVS from its inception till date.

- **KV Pattom Top Govt Day School -** Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram has been adjudged the best government day school in the country in the 'Education World India School Rankings' for the third consecutive year. Ranks seven to nine have also gone to Kendriya Vidyalayas— KV West Palakkad, is seventh, KV Puranattukkara, Thrissur, eighth, and KV, Keltron Nagar, Kannur, is in ninth position.

- **Digital Initiatives**

  Online admission process:

  From the session **2017-18**, admission in all the classes done online.

  648941 registrations done for **1,05,040** seats of class I

  Admission list prepared by a cloud based software and parents informed through **e-mail** and school website.

  Ensures transparency and convenience to parents and school administration.

  Tons of paper and lakhs of man hours saved.

  E-Office: Introduction of e-office at KVS Hqrs in first phase for ensuring speedy disposal and accountability in the system and create paperless environment.

  E-Prajna: 5000 Students in 25 KVs in 25 states will get pre-loaded tablets. Teachers of these KVs will use tablets in classroom transaction. It will promote flip-learning, reduce school bag load, learning at own pace, and effective assessment.The Pilot Project will cover approximately 200 teachers (8 teachers from each Vidyalaya).

  Establishing Language Labs/e-Classrooms: 9711 e-classrooms have been established so far in KVs throughout the country equipped with Interactive Boards, and projectors for facilitating e-learning. In order to strengthen spoken skills in Languages, 276 language labs are under commission.

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