National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Delhi office organised a Vice-Chancellors meet of Indian Universities especially for Northern India on 28th June, 2019 at Hotel Royal Plaza, New Delhi.

Such a Vice-Chancellors meet was held for the first time for the northern part of the country by NAAC. The meet was focussed on creating awareness and increase the access of assessment and accreditation especially in Northern India. The Hon'ble Chairman UGC, Prof. D.P. Singh, Director NAAC, Prof. S.C. Sharma, Adviser NAAC, Dr. K. Rama and other officials of NAAC were present in the meet. Vice-Chancellors of bigger State Universities (More number of affiliated colleges) were invited for the participation in the VC meet. Around 38 Vice-chancellors and their representatives attended the meet.

The Programme was inaugurated with lightning of the Lamp by Prof. D.P. Singh, Prof. S.C. Sharma and other NAAC officials.

Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser NAAC and convenor of the programme delivered the welcome address. She welcomed Hon'ble Chairman UGC, Prof. D.P. Singh, Hon’ble Director NAAC, Prof. S.C. Sharma, all Vice Chancellors, officers of NAAC and all other guests. Dr. Singh informed the audience about the works being carried out from Delhi office. She briefly highlighted the main activities in the schedule of the one day programme.

Director, NAAC Prof. S.C. Sharma gave the opening remarks for the programme. He emphasized the need for each and every educational institution to become a quality institution. He explained the evolution of Revised Accreditation Framework, and highlighted how NAAC followed analytical approach for this evolution. The RAF is ICT enabled, objective, transparent, scalable and robust. He gave the analogy for NAAC’s seven criteria
Prof. D.P. Singh, Hon'ble Chairman, UGC and Chief Guest of the programme, congratulated NAAC for conducting this type of meet for the Vice Chancellors. In his address he highlighted the reforms taking place in higher education system of the country. He said that our youth should be developed as responsible citizen of India under the able guidance of teachers. The Vice-Chancellors can play a significant role in this process. He also said that the Higher education system should be student centric. Prof. Singh mentioned about the UGC scheme “PARAMARSH” for ensuring the quality through mentor-mentee system. He advised that NAAC should interact more with the Vice Chancellors, other Academic Leaders and Chairpersons of Peer Teams for the improvement of quality of higher education in India.

Dr. Mohit Tiwari, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, on behalf of NAAC gave a formal vote of thanks to Hon’ble Chairman UGC Prof. D.P. Singh, for sparing his valuable time despite his busy schedule. He also thanked Director, NAAC and officers from Bangalore for participating as resource person, worthy Vice-Chancellors of various universities who came from different parts of the country.
Inaugural function was followed by setting up for group photograph and tea break.

Thematic session core to the workshop began after Tea break. Session 1 was Presentation by Dr. K Rama on topic “Taking Forward National Initiatives of Quality- The Role of Universities”. She spoke about the recent initiatives of NAAC and also presented analysis of Institution in some metrics of quality in RAF. She explained the excellence model of educational Institutions.
The first session was followed by the second session during which Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, New Delhi delivered a very relevant talk on “Revised Accreditation Framework: Highlights and Accreditation Status”. She made the learned audience aware about the revision in accreditation framework. This session was followed by Lunch break.

In post lunch session i.e. the 3rd Session of the programme, Vice-Chancellor’s of various universities gave the presentations about their activities in the field of quality education especially about the accreditation status of the University and their affiliated colleges. The session was followed by a tea break.
Session third was followed by a group activity by dividing all the participants in ten groups state-wise. The groups were asked to prepare the report on challenges and possible plan of action to be followed for improving the accreditation status of state and the Universities.

Session fifth comprised of presentations of Chairpersons of State wise groups. They gave the feedback on policy issues of their states relevant to Assessment and Accreditation Process. The universities and affiliated colleges are facing the challenges of state government policies including financial crises.
The Valedictory session of VC Meet was concluded by open discussion between NAAC team and Vice-Chancellors which was followed by vote of thanks and National anthem. This event was the first of its kind where specific sector representation of Vice-Chancellors participated in the programme. They observed the seriousness of the Govt. and NAAC since many of the policies of Govt. in context to Higher Education are being linked to NAAC grade which is creating more responsibility on NAAC to be objective and transparent. These efforts of discussing and deliberating the policies will continue in future. NAAC will be instrumental by providing support to Universities to implement their own plan for bringing more and more colleges in the ambit of Assessment and Accreditation.