NAAC, New Delhi organized a one-day workshop at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar with the aim at providing an insight on NAAC and the process of Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF). The workshop was aimed to spread awareness about the Revised Accreditation Framework. More than 250 participants of different regions of Punjab participated in the workshop. Honorable Minister for Higher Education Ms. Razia Sultana was the Chief Guest of the workshop. Other eminent persons present during workshop were Prof. Virander. S. Chauhan, Chairman NAAC, Dr (Mrs) K. Rama, Adviser, Dr. (Mrs.) Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC and Dr Mohit Tiwari Assistant Adviser NAAC.

Workshop began with lightening the lamp; after which Registrar GNDU welcomed the guest and participants.

The Chief Guest for the workshop, Honorable Minister, Higher Education threw light on NAAC activities relevant to state. The importance of higher education for uplifting the society is hard pressed by Minister. Prof. V.S Chauhan Chairman NAAC delivered the key note address. Prof. Chauhan highlighted the importance of accreditation for higher education institutions in the fast changing globalised era. He appealed all non-accredited institutes to initiate the process of accreditation without delay. Prof. Jaspal Singh Sandhu, Vice Chancellor, highlighted the various activities initiated at Guru Nanak Dev University for getting good ranks and visibility at national and international scenario. The vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Kamaljit Singh, Dean Academic Affairs, Guru Nanak Dev University. A video on NAAC activities was also projected.

Recently, NAAC has developed the Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF) for taking cognizance of the changing trends in higher education and aligning with the reforms and rapidly transforming the general education system. The RAF emphasizes on capture of data for quantitative assessment and process details of Institution captured through qualitative assessment. It is an effort to make assessment and accreditation process more objective, transparent and stakeholder friendly. NAAC attempts to reach all the higher education institutes for accreditation. The event was an attempt to meet the aforesaid objective of reaching the unreached people who wanted to move in this direction.

The sessions started with introduction about the workshop by Dr. K. Rama Adviser, NAAC. In the first Technical Session delivered by Dr. K. Rama deliberations about the dual purpose of accreditation took place. She emphasized the culture to be built for fostering quality improvement, quality
assurance and self-regulation. Dr. Rama cleared that the process of accreditation is not standard based, but rather benchmark based. Thus, the process is composed of the constant analysis and assessment of goals, objectives and aims of the institutes. Highlighting the process of accreditation, Dr. Rama said that it is a process based upon self-assessment and critical peer evaluation based on established criterion. Although, accreditation ensures that the institute meets minimum standard of quality, the purpose of assessment and accreditation is to encourage self-evaluation, accountability, autonomy and innovation. In this process, assessment report serves as an input for development strategies.

The Second Technical session was delivered by Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser and In-charge of NAAC’s New Delhi’s office. Dr. Singh talked about the ICT integration for the Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF). She explained in detail the step-by step process of filling the institutional information in the RAF for accreditation. During the session, Prof. V. S. Chauhan, expressed the concerns for the non-accredited institutes and encourage them to initiate the accreditation process for the quality improvement and standard enhancement of the institutes.

In the Third Technical session, Dr. Mohit Tiwari, Assistant Adviser, NAAC talked about the process flow for the Higher Education Institutes for assessment and accreditation. He discussed various parameters involved in the process mainly Peer Team Visit (PTV), Self-Study Report (SSR) and Institutional Information for Quality Assessment (IIQA. Dr. Tiwari also explained the Peer Team Visit process in detail.

The workshop ended with an open forum where NAAC experts committee interacted with the participants for their doubts and queries related to new accreditation process. The geographical coverage of the programme included the participants from four state Universities nearby and 22 districts.