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NAAC welcomes the Hon’ble HRD Minister
Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’

Hon’ble Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’, a poet, writer, social worker, former Chief Minister, Parliamentarian and now the Minister for Human Resource Development of the biggest democracy of the World is a distinguished man of letters. He has handled many portfolios and has extensive experience in many areas of polity and governance in the Ministry of Uttarakhand and Uttarakhand...

NAAC welcomes the Hon’ble Minister of State for HRD
Shri Sanjay Sharmrao Dhotre

Hon’ble Shri Sanjay Sharmrao Dhotre, is appointed as the Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Government of India. Shri Dhotre hails from Akola, Maharashtra and is a distinguished alumnus of Government College of Engineering, Amravati, Maharashtra. He is an Agriculturist Engineer and an Industrialist by profession...

Workshop on Draft National Education Policy (NAAC Perspective)

A workshop on Draft NEP (NAAC Perspective) was organized on 20th June, 2019 in the Conference Hall, NAAC office, Bengaluru and was attended by 43 distinguished academicians constituting 31 Vice Chancellors, 2 Pro-Vice-Chancellors, 4 Directors and 06 other members...
From the Editor’s Desk...

NAAC at its best! But miles to go......

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with its inception in the year 1994, has had its tryst with destiny and has strutted very hard in realizing the goals with which the forefathers conceptualized the autonomous body under the UGC. Right from its independence, with millions of young citizens aspiring for higher education, India had to cater to the demands of the people, besides it had to achieve its national goals. It was concurrent that India had to expand its higher education base. In the bargain, quality was on the backseat while accessibility and equity assumed significance. The challenge was to take up quality assurance in higher education in a nation that had myriad hues in terms of institutions, disciplines, stakeholders and geographical limitations. Thus, NAAC was set up as a one stop solution for quality assurance in higher education. NAAC took up the responsibility of not just assessment and accreditation but also took up the onus of creating quality culture, consciousness among the stakeholders, developing strategies for assessment and also develop redressal mechanism.

NAAC is dynamic in its agenda, ethos, aspirations and goals in sync with the aspirations and goals of the nation. In this direction NAAC has launched the Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF), which is a bundle of innovation that encompasses methodology of assessment, tools of assessment, system of assessment and accreditation besides the very approach that is adopted for A&A Process. The RAF is set to assure improved transparency, objectivity and greater vigour. The new RAF launched in the year 2017 is completely system driven, right from the initial IIQA (Institutional Information for Quality Assessment) that is required to set the ball in motion for the assessment of an institution to portal based DVV (Data Validation and Verification); SSS (Student Satisfaction Survey)- interaction with the most important stakeholder to seek the students’ perception of the institution and its quality; online fee payment; Peer Team enrolment (now the Peers can register online for enrolment on the panel of Assessors to be selected for onsite visit on behalf of the NAAC); Peer Team selection (random selection of the Peers to visit institutions by the system); Grade Announcement (System generated score sheet and analysis reports for improvements are provided directly on the HEI portal of the institution) and Grievance Redressal (Appeals Mechanism) are all provided in the end to end solutions system provided by the NAAC. Besides the RAF, it is heartening to note that the NAAC has developed and customized manuals and benchmarks for discipline based institutions instead of ‘one size fits all’ approach. NAAC has launched new manuals in the RAF for Universities, Autonomous Institutions, Affiliated Colleges besides manuals for Health Sciences institutions, Open and Distance Learning (ODL), Sanskrit, Teacher Education institutions and Yoga institutions. This is with a view to provide space for the nuances and intricacies that need to be identified in specific disciplines and institutions that offer such courses for stakeholders at the time of A&A. Now NAAC has put systems in place for taking up the assessment and accreditation of all such varied and various institutions with customized tools and strategies. For this Herculean task, NAAC has made many innovations and out of the box thinking has unleashed many new initiatives, viz;

- Streamlining of ICT: As per the requirements of RAF, all the modules have been developed and deployed on cloud to support end to end process. New Requirements have been dynamically added and suitable testing is being done in the process.
- Restructuring the Website: NAAC Website offers end to end solutions for various types of stakeholders. It adopts holistic approach to various activities of NAAC and networks with different stakeholders. It is a window to the world of quality assurance for various stakeholders, be it institutions for IIQA, SSR, SSS; or the Peers; or the institutions that want to conduct awareness programs for spreading quality culture.
- Documentary: NAAC has hosted its documentary on the website which provides a window to the stakeholders on all the activities of NAAC.
- MHRD Dashboard: NAAC has provided the URL/direct link to MHRD to monitor and review the status of A&A process of HEI’s including awareness programs conducted across the country.
- Online Assessor Module: All the assessor related activities are operational and linked to the specific module to ensure the transparency. Assessors are being registered from the institution of national importance also. Online assessors training program module has been developed enabling to take training anywhere, anytime
- IMS: Inhouse Management system is in place to address various issues of communication between NAAC and its stakeholders.
- Synchronization with KELTRON: NAAC has synchronised all its efforts of A&A with KELTRON and continuously follow it up to cater to the needs of ODL, Sanskrit, Medical, Teachers education institutions in the country.
- Cloud storage: NAAC is providing cloud space solution through the proper tendering process to ensure optimal
storage of information provided by HEI during A&A Process, efficacy and accuracy.

- To improve the quality of decision making process in RAF, it is proposed to use Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning concepts to take it to the next level of efficiency which is based on the learning the existing data of HEIs (A&A) and develop a model. Drafting of requirements for the proposal is in process to carry out analytics.

- Expansion of DVV partner base and Peer Team base: NAAC has strived to empanel more DVV partners to cut down the DVV duration so as provide time bound assessment roadmap to the stakeholders. The number of DVV Coordination Committee experts was increased and Orientation cum Training programs were organized for DVV partners. In the same vein NAAC has identified and trained more number of Assessors to speed up the process of accreditation.

- Coordination with INFLIBNET: NAAC is partnering with many agencies/institutions and counterparts to streamline and speed up the process of DVV and accreditation.

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in DVV: To take the DVV process to the next level, all efforts are afoot at NAAC for deploying the advanced level of technology using AI and ML for its ICT process.

- Digital Library: NAAC is proud of its state of the art Digital Library which years will build bridges between the stakeholders and the world of knowledge.

- Green Initiatives: NAAC campus has embraced green practices on a whole new scale by providing a no-plastic zone, rainwater harvesting structures, bore-well recharge initiative, solar energy initiatives, award winning garden and its maintenance etc. Besides Divyangjan friendly and gender sensitive approaches are also adopted at NAAC campus through its practices and infrastructure support system.

- AOP and Awareness Programmes: A series of Assessors’ Orientation Programs were conducted to provide orientation to the Peer Team members on the RAF and hundreds of Seminars and Workshops were sponsored by NAAC to create awareness among the institutions regarding the RAF.

- Exclusive and customized Manuals for Assessment & Accreditation: Apart from regular manuals for Universities, Autonomous Colleges and Affiliated Institutions, NAAC has developed manuals for institutions viz., Health Sciences, Sanskrit, Open Universities, Dual Mode Universities, Teacher Education Institution and Yoga Institutions.

- ODL Manuals: A National Task Force was constituted to draft ODL manuals and extensive study cum survey was organised for the purpose. One Day National Level Workshop was conducted for all the OU and DDE representatives to create awareness on the prepared templates for IQA, SSR, QLM, QNM, etc. It was mandated to visit Head Office, Regional Centres and Learner Support Services compulsorily for the process of A&A.

- IQACs: IQACs are perceived by NAAC as part of important and critical initiative at the level of an institution to retain the momentum in the post accreditation scenario for not only sustaining but enhancing the quality of an institution. In this direction, NAAC has made it mandatory for all accredited institutions to submit their AQRs online through their portals on a regular basis. The new format for online AQR is already made available for the stakeholders.

- SLQACs: NAAC also has appropriate strategies at the administrative level by setting up SQACs and SLQACs. This is with a view to promote network among HEIs, administrative bodies and policy makers. NAAC not only supports their initiatives but provides academic support wherever necessary.

- International Network: In its efforts to update on a day-to-day basis and connect with the global practices of other counterparts elsewhere, NAAC maintains a regular rapport with the stakeholders and interacts through exchange programs, interaction programs, extension and exchange of service support and academic support. In this direction, NAAC has received many delegates from different parts of the world and hosted many events and partnered in deliberations. NAAC has also organized Global Yoga Accreditation Summit (GYAS) at UN Headquarters, New York.

- Facilitating NEP: In tune with its commitment to quality in Higher Education, NAAC has hosted and facilitated the preparation of National Education Policy (NEP) in its campus. It has hosted many eminent scientists, academicians and domain experts during the exercise.

- Feedback Mechanism: To keep pace with the demands of the stakeholders and cater to their aspirations, NAAC keeps its eyes and ears open to the feedback and perceptions of the stakeholders. NAAC has invited feedback both direct and indirect including on-line from stakeholders to fine tune its efforts for A&A.

- Logistic Support: NAAC has done away with the practice of institutions providing logistics support to the Peer Team Members and has outsourced the entire logistic support base. This has brought in seamless service not only to the peer team but has taken off the burden on the institutions and saved time to invest in academic matters during the visit.

I have immense pleasure in sharing these initiatives of NAAC that have metamorphosed NAAC into an institution par excellence in quality assurance. The ICT adoption, cutting-edge technology initiatives, continuous feedback and reforms have all taken the efforts of NAAC to the next level of its domain operations. I assure the stakeholders on behalf of NAAC that we would change; change continuously and change for the better to make the Indian Higher Education system, the best in the world. NAAC has become futuristic, innovative and stakeholder friendly besides offering unbiased and transparent approach in quality assurance. But there is a strong conviction in my team that there are many miles to go and I assure the nation that we at NAAC, are committed to quality assurance in higher education under the leadership of the Hon’ble HRD Minister Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ and Hon’ble Shri Sanjay Sharma Dhotre, Minister of State for Human Resource Development.

Regards and greetings.

S. C. Sharma

Dr. S.C. Sharma
NAAC welcomes the Hon'ble HRD Minister Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’, a poet, writer, social worker, former Chief Minister, Parliamentarian and now the Minister for Human Resource Development of the biggest democracy of the World is a distinguished man of letters. He has handled many portfolios and has extensive experience in many areas of polity and governance in the Ministry of Uttarakhand and Uttarakhand. From Finance Ministry to Revenue to Health, to Home to Family Welfare to Medical Sciences to the Union HRD, Dr. Pokhriyal has played many key roles. He has published more than 40 books and has many literary accomplishments to his credit. He is a poet, novelist and has many translated works to his credit. He is involved in various research works done on ‘Nishank’ Literature in Indian and Foreign Universities and his writings are included in the curriculum of Indian and Foreign Schools and Universities. He is the recipient of “Bharat Gaurav Samman” the highest literary honour of Mauritius besides many accolades. The NAAC family congratulates and welcomes Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal.

NAAC welcomes the Hon'ble Minister of State for HRD Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre

Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre, is appointed as the Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Government of India. Shri Dhotre hails from Akola, Maharashtra and is a distinguished alumnus of Government College of Engineering, Amravati, Maharashtra. He is an Agriculturist Engineer and an Industrialist by profession. He has multiple interests and has dedicated a long span of his life for areas that are close to the community. Shri Dhotre has special interest in Reading, organic farming, spirituality, personality development, yoga, water conservation, infrastructure development in rural and semi-urban areas. He is erudite and widely travelled. Shri Dhotre is 4th time MP in current 17th Lok Sabha and represents Akola parliamentary constituency. Before becoming Member of Parliament he was a Member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1999 to 2004. Shri Dhotre was conferred Maharashtra Government’s Industry Award for excellent performance in 1987 and Late Shri Vasant Rao Naik Memorial Award for outstanding work in the agricultural sector. NAAC welcomes Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre, Minister of State for HRD and looks forward to path breaking initiatives under his leadership.

National Consultative Meeting on NAAC A&A Process Improvement

A One-Day “National Consultative Meeting on NAAC’s Assessment & Accreditation (A&A) Process Improvement” was held on 10th June 2019 in NAAC, Bengaluru. Around 30 academicians, head of the institutions and IQAC coordinators of the Accredited Universities and Autonomous Colleges that have achieved Grade- A and above grades participated in the programme.

Dr. Sujata P Shanbhag, Deputy Adviser, NAAC welcomed the delegates and briefed about the programme objectives and the expected outcome. In the inaugural address Prof. S.C. Sharma, Director, NAAC threw light as various initiatives of NAAC and improvements in the methodology and software application. He also mentioned about the development of different manuals for Health Sciences, Sanskrit, ODL, Yoga and Teacher Education. In the first session Dr. K. Rama, Adviser, NAAC shared the experiences of online process of Assessment and Accreditation and presented the performance analysis of ‘A’ and above grade Universities and autonomous colleges across metrics highlighting the most opted out metrics and low performing metrics. Followed by this, Dr. Priya N, Assistant Adviser, NAAC shared the NAAC experiences of Data Validation and Verification (DVV) Process, besides dealing with issues and challenges thereof. In the next session, delegates shared their experiences of the online Assessment and Accreditation process. The discussions started with registration and filling IIQA application and extended profile. After the lunch, the discussion continued with criterion-wise, metric wise issues followed by suggestions. The major issues raised on were metrics related were to Divyangjan, Alumni Contribution, Students and Teachers from other states, applicability of some of the metrics to mono faculty/specialised institutions and orientation to peer teams.
Workshop on Draft National Education Policy (NAAC Perspective)

A workshop on Draft NEP (NAAC Perspective) was organized on 20th June 2019 in the Conference Hall, NAAC office and was attended by 43 distinguished academicians constituting 31 Vice Chancellors, 2 Pro-Vice-Chancellors, 4 Directors and 06 other members. The intent of the Workshop was to discuss the intricacies of the policy with NAAC perspective and submit the same to the MHRD. The speakers for the inaugural session included Prof. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC and Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan, Vice-Chairman UGC, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The Keynote was delivered by Prof. M. K. Sridhar, Member, NEP Draft Committee.

Prof. S. C. Sharma appreciated the efforts of the Committee in codifying the draft NEP. He deliberated upon the licenses for Accreditation Institutions (AIs), the aftermath of such a consequence, the metrics and key indicators of NAAC etc. He threw light on Outcome Based Accreditation, issues of governance, role and responsibility of NAAC and expressed certain concerns before thanking the Committee for the extensive work done by them. Prof. M. K. Sridhar in his keynote address presented the overview on the draft NEP. He stated that, as per the NEP, Rashtriya Shiksha Ayog (RSA) will be at the National Level and in turn Rajya Shiksha Ayog will operate at the State Level.

He further informed the members that the National Research Foundation will oversee the research activities in Higher Education Institutions in India. He briefed about the functions of regulatory bodies of Education and Higher Education. He further opined that, to facilitate the diversity in the ethos of the Higher education in India, Autonomy will be a key and critical issue. He also insisted that Regulatory Authorities must oversee the governance of these institutions. He was of the view that Regulation, Control and Accreditation are to be made mandatory for all HEIs. He emphasized on the critical role played by Grants, Standards, Accreditation and Regulations.

Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan in his address, congratulated the Director, NAAC, for facilitating the discussion through the workshop. He also thanked Prof. M. K. Sridhar for his keynote address through which he delineated the roadmap driven by the draft of the policy. He was of the opinion that NEP is innovative, student centric and realistic.

In the second session of the workshop, seven groups were formed comprising 5-6 members in each group and the groups were asked to deliberate on the issues involving NAAC and its role as enunciated in the draft NEP. The team discussions were facilitated by NAAC officers in each group. After threadbare discussions, the groups were asked to make presentations and the details have been recorded, consolidated and submitted to the MHRD.

The next session was conducted by Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar, Adviser, NAAC and was co-chaired by Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan and Prof. Ananth Darshan Shankar.

Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan spoke on certain key aspects of the Draft NEP and emphasized on the vision of new India as envisaged in the NEP. Prof. Ananth Darshan Shankar congratulated all the group presenters for their inputs and drew parallels between the NEP and Kothari Commission Report. He however opined that there are certain challenges in the implementation of the Report.

All academic professionals of NAAC keenly participated in the workshop. The event was coordinated by Dr. Devender Kaday, Deputy Adviser, NAAC.
Vice Chancellor’s Meet at New Delhi by NAAC

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Delhi office, organised a Vice Chancellor’s Meet of Indian Universities, for Northern India region on 28th June, 2019 at New Delhi.

It was a first of its kind organized for the northern part of the country by NAAC. The intent of the Meet was to create awareness on the A&A process of by NAAC and to facilitate the ease of access for institution spread across North India. Prof. D. P. Singh, Chairman, UGC, Prof. S.C. Sharma, Director, NAAC, Dr. K. Rama, Adviser, NAAC, Dr. Prathibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC Delhi Office and Dr. Mohit Tiwari, Assistant Adviser, NAAC were present on the occasion. The interesting feature of the meet was that Vice-Chancellors of Universities that have bigger chunk of affiliated Colleges under them were especially invited to attend. 38 Vice Chancellors attended the meet which facilitated deliberations that would target institutions for accreditation and improved awareness on the process of RAF.

Prof. D. P. Singh, Hon’ble Chairman, UGC and Chief Guest of the programme, congratulated NAAC for conducting the Meet for the Vice Chancellors and highlighted the reforms taking place in Higher Education system in the country. Teachers have a critical role in the holistic development of the students not only by teaching but by mentoring, he opined during his address. He garnered support for student centric proceedings in the classroom and referred to the UGC scheme ‘Paramarsh’. He said that improved interactions between the teacher and the taught would facilitate better concerns for quality. He vouched for continuous feedback from the Vice Chancellors, Academic leaders and the Peer Team members for continuous improvement in the A&A process of adopted by NAAC. Prof. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC, during his address emphasized on the need for improved concerns for quality among HEIs. He briefed the delegates on the process of evolution of the RAF and explained the intricacies and nuances taken care of during the development of RAF and its finalization. The analytic approach adopted by NAAC and the efforts of NAAC to make to system centric, has rendered it objective, ICT enabled, transparent, scalable and robust. He drew parallels between the seven criteria of NAAC and Maharishi Patanjali Ashtang Yogpaddhati (Dharana & Dhyan).

The Programme was planned with the objective to reach the larger population of colleges through Affiliating Universities. Dr. K. Rama, Adviser, NAAC threw light on the new RAF and process flow. Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC briefed the delegates about the strategies for quality assurance, sustenance and enhancement in the backdrop of the new RAF. The main purpose of the workshop was to encourage Universities to prepare a Strategic Plan to submit their affiliated Colleges for Assessment and Accreditation by NAAC.

The delegates not only appreciated the efforts of NAAC in organizing intent specific workshop to cater to the requirements of the Universities and their affiliated Colleges in North India, but also expressed concern over the significance being attached to the accreditation outcomes and grades by funding agencies, statutory bodies and other stakeholders. They vouched for improved transparency and objectivity. The Vice Chancellors further suggested the NAAC that more of such interactions should be facilitated. They also assured the NAAC that positive efforts would be made from their side to strategise increased assessment initiates on behalf of their affiliated colleges.
Global Yoga Accreditation Summit organized by NAAC, PMI-UN & APQN at United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA

In a historical move by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Bengaluru, India, Global Yoga Accreditation Summit titled “Beginning of a Conversation towards a Global Ecosystem in Yoga Higher Education through Accreditation (GYAS)” was organized at the UN Hall, UN Headquarters, New York, USA on 26th April 2019.

The summit was organized in close collaboration with the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations. GYAS was represented by over 40 key stakeholders, comprising international and National inter and intra governmental policy makers, key leaders of accreditation bodies and networks, quality assurance agencies, representatives of prominent yoga higher education providers, yoga experts, fraternity from the medical and psychology fields etc.

The inaugural was marked with the presence of dignitaries on the dais - H. E. K. Nagaraj Naidu, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative at India's Permanent Mission to UN; Padmashri H R Nagendra, Chancellor of S-VYASA; Dr. Geetha Krishnan Gopalakrishna Pillai, World Health Organization, Geneva; Prof. Jianxing Zhang, President, APQN, China and Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser, NAAC & Convener - GYAS. Dr. H. R Nagendra, in his keynote address outlined the context of yoga education and the recognition that it has gained around the world. The lead presentation on “NAAC’s framework on Yoga Higher Education Accreditation and discussions on proposed global initiatives” was made by Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser, NAAC.

The session titled “State - of - Art of Yoga Higher Education: Recognition and Accreditation in India, USA and around the world” was facilitated jointly by Dr. Manjunath N.K, SVYASA, India and John Kepner, IAYT, USA. The distinguished panelists included Swami Atmapriyananda, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational Research Institute, India; Dr. Chinmay Pandya, Dev Sanskriti University, India; Dr. Dinesh Patel, Harvard University, USA; Antonietta Rozzi, Italy Yoga Accreditation, Italy; Dr. Lisa C Kaley-Isley, IAYT, UK; Melissa Schwartz, Meridian University, USA; Dilip Sarkar, IAYT, USA; Dr. Paran Gowda, University of Patanjali, India; Sat Bir Khalsa, Kundalini Research Institute and Kripalu Centre for Yoga and Health, USA; Diane M Finlayson, Maryland University of Integrative Health, USA; Dr. C. Rajan Narayanan, Life in Yoga Institute & Foundation, USA and Dr. Micheal de Maninco, Western Sydney University, Australia.

The first session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. M. S Shyamsundar, Adviser, NAAC, India. The second session hosted in the premises of Gayatri Chetna Kendra in New Jersey started with a round table symposium on “Exploring Shared understanding and common protocol for Yoga Higher Education Accreditation Worldwide & Creating Global Ecosystem for promotion of Yoga Higher Education through Harmonization and Accreditation” was jointly facilitated by Dr. Christopher Key Chapple, Director Yoga Studies, Loyola Marymount University, USA and Dr. Richa Chopra, Chief Counsellor and Member-IQAC, Sri Sri University, India and chaired by Dr. Chinmay Pandya. Deliberations were put forward with the active participation from Dr. Moxraj, Indian Embassy, Washington DC; Dr. Indranil Basu Ray, St. Francis Hospital, USA; Shri Muralidhar Venkatrao, Washinton DC, USA; Prof. Dr Usha. S Nayyar, Adelphi University’s Ruth S. Ammon School of Education, USA; Dr. Swami Satya Prakash, VISHWA, Canada and Dr. Aun K Garg, CINS, Canada.

GYAS through the co-ordination and co-operation amongst various stakeholders led to the general consensus on developing global framework “Bengaluru - New York” Vision Statement on Yoga Accreditation, released worldwide on the 21st of June 2019 that marks the International Day of Yoga, after further worldwide consultations.

This vision statement strives to nurture and groom both artistic and scientific temperaments towards the vast reservoir of yogic knowledge firming itself on Traditional philosophical foundations, Authenticity of curriculum, Research, innovation and extension of yogic ecosystem and Yoga as a key tool for promotion of health and prevention of diseases.

We want the education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet

"you have to grow from the inside out. None can teach you, none can make you spiritual. There is no other teacher but your own soul."

- Swami Vivekananda
Meeting of Commissioners/ Directors / Heads of State Level Quality Assurance Cells (SLQACs) in Bengaluru

The process of Assessment and Accreditation has created tremendous momentum among the academia on issues pertaining to quality. This has largely been due to the successful partnership between the NAAC and the State Governments. The University Grants Commission, (UGC) New Delhi, has made Assessment and Accreditation mandatory for all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and further the outcome of assessment is linked to financial incentives to HEIs under various schemes of the UGC and Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).

The NAAC as part of its agenda to ensure assessment and accreditation of HEIs in the country; interacts with the State Level bodies and garners the support of stakeholders across the spectrum. As part of the mission, a meeting of the Commissioners/Directors/Heads of State Level Quality Assurance Cells was organized by NAAC on 03rd June 2019 in Bengaluru. NAAC had invited representatives from 32 States and Union Territories for the meeting. However, representatives from 23 States and Union Territories attended the event. The list included representatives from Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Odisha, Telangana, Tripura, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

The State Level Quality Assurance Cell (SLQAC) is primarily under the Commissioner/Director of Higher Education of the State. The SLQAC of a state is acting as the nodal agency between the HEIs of the state and the NAAC. The NAAC has conducted awareness programmes as well as preparatory activities in most of the States in collaboration with State Level Quality Assurance Cells and Universities to reach out to the geographically scattered Higher Education Institutions across India. This has helped many HEIs for undergoing the Assessment and Accreditation process.

NAAC will continue to provide financial as well as academic support to SLQACs for organising Awareness Programmes to facilitate the HEIs to undergo the process of Assessment and Accreditation.

The purpose of the meeting was to analyse State-wise status of Higher Education, to share the experiences and Best Practices of SLQACs with other participating states. Each state was requested to draw a State Level action plan for 2019-2020 to facilitate assessment and accreditation and bring in awareness and understanding of the revised NAAC process. Dr. Sujata P Shanbhag, Deputy Adviser, NAAC welcomed the delegates and introduced the purpose of the meet.

Prof. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC made opening remarks and highlighted the activities of NAAC and asked the States to be more proactive for implementing the mandatory accreditation. Prof. A. P. Padhi, former Vice Chancellor, Berhampur University, shared his thoughts with the participants during the occasion and stressed on the recruitment of teachers in Universities and Colleges by State Governments. Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser, NAAC made a presentation on NAAC’s Assessment and Accreditation Process, highlighting required documents for IIQA, Procedure of online submission of SSR and mechanism adopted for SSS including the Peer Team Visit. Representatives from Higher education Departments / SLQACs of various states also made presentations.

Prof. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC, Dr. K. Rama, Adviser, NAAC, Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser, NAAC also participated in the deliberations and clarified the questions asked by the participants. Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser, Coordinator of NAAC appreciated the efforts of the SLQACs and thanked each one of the participants. Dr. A. V. Prasad, Assistant Adviser, NAAC proposed the vote of thanks.
As part of its strategy to customize the tools and methodology of Assessment, NAAC is rolling out different and domain specific manuals for different academic institutions in the country, viz. Health Sciences, Yoga, Teacher Education Institutions etc. In this process, NAAC has also worked to develop exclusive tools on the A&A of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) institutions and has conducted a series of meetings and workshops for this purpose and brought out a Manual for Open Universities.

- Based on the feedback received from Open Universities (OU) on the draft Manual of Open Universities that NAAC had uploaded on its website, a meeting was held during 27th and 28th March, 2019 at NAAC, Bangalore. The meeting considered the inputs from the Pilot Study on 7 OUs, data compilation and metrics to finalize the benchmarks. The core working group rationalized the number of metrics and the relative weightage of qualitative and quantitative metrics.

- Followed by this, the meeting of the National Task Force Working Group for Assessment and Accreditation of Open and Distance Learning Institutions was held at NAAC, Bangalore on 9th April, 2019. The agenda was to finalize the draft on the Institutional Accreditation Manual for Self Study Report for Open Universities. Dr. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC welcomed all the members of the National Task Force Working Group. Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, IGNOU chaired the NTF-WG Meeting. Thirteen members of the National Task Force Working Group were present out of fifteen members comprising the Vice Chancellors and Directors. The event was coordinated by Dr. Mumtaj, Academic Consultant, NAAC and facilitated by Prof. T. V. Suresh Kumar, former Registrar, MSRIT. Dr. Latha Pillai, Adviser, NAAC and Mr. B. S. Ponmurdiraj, Deputy Adviser, NAAC oversaw the proceedings and coordination. The event made space for detailed discussions and deliberations on the Manual and resulted in the necessary changes for the metrics and templates. Prof. Manjulika Srivastava, Director, CIQA, IGNOU finalized the modification efforts. Mr. B. S. Ponmurdiraj, Deputy Adviser, NAAC proposed vote of thanks. On 10th April, 2019, the revised Manual on Open University was uploaded in the NAAC website for the HEIs to access and from 29th April, 2019 onwards, the HEIs were invited to submit their IIQA formally on the online portal.

- In order to reach out to the HEIs, a One Day National Level Workshop on the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) manual of NAAC was held on 10th June, 2019 at NLSIU, Bengaluru. There were representatives from 13 Open Universities and 12 Directorates of Distance Education of the country who attended the workshop comprising 38 participants. Dr. A. Mumtaj, Academic Consultant, NAAC welcomed the Director and the participants for the One Day National Level Workshop. Dr. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC briefed the participants of the dedicated manual by NAAC for Institutional Assessment and Accreditation Process of Open Universities. Prof. Manjulika Srivastava, Director, CIQA, IGNOU gave an overview of the National, Regional and Local level consultations that had taken place in the preparation of the draft manual. She also briefed the participants about the role of the National Consultative Group and the National Task Force in finalizing the OU manual. Dr. A. Mumtaj, Academic Consultant, NAAC gave inputs on the DVV process of OUs and clarified the doubts raised thereon. Elaborate discussion was facilitated on the visit of the Peer Team to the Regional Centres (RCs) and Learner Support Centres (LSCs) and their role during the visit. It was mandated that the Peer Team would invariably visit these locations during their visit. Mr. B. S. Ponmurdiraj, Deputy Adviser, NAAC briefed the participants about the revision that was undertaken, keeping in view the decision of the NAAC that the Directorates of Distance Education will not be assessed separately but will be assessed through Dual Mode Universities Manual. The draft manual for Dual Mode Universities was presented and circulated for feedback. He further threw light on the discussions held regarding the Student Satisfaction Survey and Peer Team Visits. Dr. Mumtaj, proposed the vote of thanks.
NAAC Awareness Programme

**Background:** NAAC has the mandate to assess and accredit institutions of higher learning by the UGC/MHRD. The nation banks on the process developed by NAAC while the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are accredited and the accreditation status of the institutions comes in handy for various institutions and individuals in the decision making process. The grades awarded by NAAC have assumed greater significance in the light of growing awareness on quality in HE. NAAC is dynamic and its processes too are dynamic. In tune with the demands of the domain, NAAC brings in changes from time to time and the recent RAF is an important milestone in the process. It is important that NAAC conducts awareness programs to keep the stakeholders abreast of the new methodology, tools, process so as to create awareness among the stakeholders for seamless implementation and stakeholder satisfaction. In this direction, NAAC regularly conducts NAAC Awareness Programs across the country involving domain experts to make the process more effective. NAAC not only organizes these programs on its own, but also supports the workshops across the country. The objective of the programme is to bring greater clarity on the aims, objectives and various procedures of NAAC accreditation, and also, to stress on the importance of accreditation in order to maintain and enhance quality in institutions of higher education.

**Awareness Programme at Barkatullah University, Bhopal**

A one Day NAAC Awareness Programme for affiliated colleges and UTD's of the university was organized by Internal Quality Assurance Cell, (IQAC) Barkatullah University on 11th January 2019 at the university auditorium Gyan- Vigyan Bhawan. The programme was sponsored by NAAC, Bengaluru. The programme was attended by Prof. Manikrao M. Salunkhe, Vice Chancellor, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune, Prof. Sangeeta Shukla, Vice Chancellor, Jiwaji University, Gwalior, Dr. D. K. Kamble, Assistat Advisor, NAAC Bengaluru and Dr. Mohit Tiwari, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, New Delhi. Prof. R. J. Rao, Vice Chancellor Barkatullah University presided over the function. The Awareness programme was attended by 323 faculty members from U.T.D's, Government and private colleges covering approximately 8 districts in the University's jurisdiction. Prof. R. J. Rao, Vice Chancellor, Jiwaji University in his address appreciated the efforts made by NAAC in quality assurance. A booklet on the NAAC process was released on the occasion. In multiple sessions, issues regarding the New Methodology of NAAC were discussed in detail. There was an Open House towards the concluding part of the awareness program.

**Workshop on Revised Accreditation Framework of NAAC, Jaipur**

The State Project Directorate (RUSA) organized a One Day Workshop for Peer Group Training on NAAC Revised Accreditation Framework on 25th February 2019 at Human Resource Development Centre, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. Shri Pradeep Kumar Borar, State Project Director (RUSA), Commissioner, College Education Department, and Special Secretary, Higher Education, Government of Rajasthan was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Dr Urmil Talwar, Joint Director, State Project Directorate (RUSA) delineated the significance of the workshop. As a sequel to the previous two workshops held during 28th-29th September 2018 on RAF, this workshop was a significant step in the efforts of the nation for quality assurance among HEIs. This workshop was conceived to train NAAC coordinators of the Government Colleges which have received good grades with better CGPA to be capable of hand-holding other institutions that need to submit themselves for the A&A Process. In the sessions that followed, Dr. B. S. Madhukar, former Adviser, NAAC, Bengaluru and Dr Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, Delhi spoke on RAF and the various intricacies involved in the new accreditation to the participants. In the open house sessions, queries regarding RAF were clarified and discussed.

**NAAC sponsored workshop at BLDEA, Vijayapura**

Two Day NAAC sponsored workshop on the theme ‘Emerging Trends in Quality Education in Institutes of Higher Education’, was organized by the IQAC of BLDEA’s Vachana Pitamaha Dr. P. G. Halakatti College of Engineering and Technology, Vijayapura, from 22nd-23rd February 2019 at Vijayapura, Karnataka. The first technical session on 22nd February 2019 was handled by Dr. V. V. Malagi, Professor of Education at Akkamahadevi Mahila University, Vijayapura on the topic "Emerging Trends in Higher Education". Dr. Malagi delineated the present status of higher education in India and current trends while throwing light on the RAF. The various ensuing sessions focused on ensuring quality amongst higher education institutions. The two day workshop evinced keen participation from over 100 participants from Engineering, Pharmacy, Nursing, Arts, Education, Polytechnic and Management Institutes from across the State of Karnataka.
NAAC Awareness Program at GGSIP University, New Delhi.

The NAAC sponsored One Day Awareness program was organized by GGSIP University, New Delhi on 1st February 2019. The programme was attended by more than 125 participants mostly comprising Principals and Directors from Government, and self funded institutions offering UG and PG programs in Medical, Engineering, Management, Mass Communication, Law, Social Sciences, Bio Technology, Environment, Journalism, Computer Applications and other programs. The inaugural session followed by technical session on “Relevance of Assessment and Accreditation and the Overview on Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF)” was conducted by Dr. Madhukar, former Advisor of NAAC.

The second technical session was conducted by Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, New Delhi on the theme “Institutional Preparation and Process of Assessment and Accreditation”. The session made space for step by step delineation of the process of NAAC accreditation including the parameters, their weightages, IIQA, SSR, Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS), methodology of filling the data, eligibility, and peer team visit. The Open House provided an opportunity for the participants to seek clarifications on the technical issues and ICT related issues of the new RAF. Prof. A. K. Saini rendered vote of thanks.

Awareness Programme at Awadhesh Pratap Singh University, Rewa

NAAC sponsored One Day Workshop was organized at Awadhesh Pratap Singh University, Rewa on 15th February 2019 for the affiliated colleges with a view to facilitate the process of assessment in non-accredited institutions and institutions that seek reassessment. The inaugural was presided over by Prof. K. N. S. Yadava, Vice Chancellor of the University. Dr. A. V. Prasad, Assistant Adviser, NAAC Bengaluru, was the Guest of Honour and the resource person. More than 100 delegates took part in the awareness program from affiliated colleges of the university.

Dr. A.V. Prasad, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, Bengaluru gave an overview of the RAF followed by the presidential remarks by Prof. Yadava, Honourable Vice Chancellor, who stressed on the need to submit institutions for assessment by NAAC. He profusely thanked NAAC for its support. In the First Technical Session, Dr. A.V. Prasad made a detailed presentation- step by step delineation of the process adopted by NAAC. He elaborated on the online system of IIQA, SSR preparation, essential metrics, DVV clarification and the peer team visit. Dr. Vinod Srivastava, Retd. Additional Director, Higher Education, Rewa Division spoke on the practical aspects involved in the process of assessment. Prof. Anjali Srivastava, presided over the session. The various sessions focused on intricacies and the nuances of the ICT based RAF of NAAC. The Open House session provided an opportunity to the delegates to seek clarifications from the resource persons for the concerns that bog down institutions while they prepare the institutions for assessment.

Awareness Workshop on NAAC at Kumaun University

With an aim to create awareness among Higher Education Institutions towards accreditation by NAAC and to motivate the institutions for maintaining a Quality culture, One Day Awareness Workshop was organized on 1st May 2019 jointly by Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Kumaun University and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bengaluru, in the UGC-HRDC auditorium of Kumaun University, Nainital. The workshop was attended by around 100 Principals/Directors/Senior faculty of different Colleges/Institutions affiliated to Kumaun University, Nainital.

The Chief Patron of the Workshop Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, Professor D. K. Nauriyal in his Presidential address expressed his happiness on the active participation of all Principals/Directors/Senior Faculty of Government and Private colleges affiliated to Kumaun University in the Workshop and recognized the need and importance of such workshops for quality sustenance. He appreciated the NAACs for strengthening the Higher Education system in the country. Dr. A. V. Prasad, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, Bengaluru, spoke on advantages of NAAC assessment. In the various sessions that followed, issues involving the Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF) like ICT enabled framework, its objectives and benefits were discussed at length. The last session focused on clarifications on the assessment processes of NAAC.

Workshop on RAF at Indore

NAAC sponsored One Day National Workshop on Revised NAAC Accreditation Framework in association with NAAC, Bangalore was organized by Prestige Institute of Management and Research, Indore on 25th April 2019. The resource persons for the workshop included Dr. Fr. G. Vazhan Arasu, Principal, St. Aloysius College, Jabalpur, Dr. Vimal Kumar Shivshankar Joshi, Principal, Shri R. K. Parikh Arts & Science College, Anand, Gujarat and Dr. Narendra Chotaliya, former Jt, Director Education, QA, Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat. Dr. Yogeshwari Phatak, Director, Prestige Institute of Management and Research, Indore delivered the welcome address. Dr. Deepak Jaroliya, Coordinator, Internal Quality Assurance Cell presented detailed action taken report on various initiatives of IQAC and highlighted the significance of the workshop in the quality assessment in the present scenario. Various technical sessions were utilized to enlighten the participants on the RAF processes. More than 120 participants were present as delegates in the National Workshop.
Assessors’ Orientation Framework

**Background:** National Assessment and Accreditation Council is an autonomous institution established by the UGC in 1994. The prime agenda of NAAC is to assess and accredit institutions of higher learning with the objective to work continuously to improve the quality of higher education. NAAC assesses institutions through the Self-Study Reports prepared by the institutions themselves and with the help of the Peers appointed by NAAC, validation of the report is done in a manner that is mandated by NAAC. As the process of NAAC is dynamic, it is imperative that the Peers get orientation on the methodology from time to time. In the process, NAAC organizes Assessors’ Orientation Programmes (AOPs) which makes space for not only orienting the Peers, but conduct simulation exercises, draw strategies to cut down inter team differences in the assessment and collect the feedback from the peers based on their field visits.

**AOP at Kurukshetra University**

Assessors’ Orientation Programme was organized at Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra on 15th February 2019 for the assessors in Haryana State. It was a one day programme and a total number of 59 participants attended the programme, which included Vice Chancellors, Directors, Professors and Principal’s belonging to various disciplines. Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, Delhi welcomed the guests and briefed the delegates on the purpose of the Assessors’ Orientation Programme (AOP).

The guest of honor for the programme was Prof. Kailash Chandra Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Kurukshetra University who also delivered the keynote. Dr. Pratibha Singh rendered vote of thanks for the inaugural session.

Prof. Vishnukant S. Chatpalli, Adviser NAAC spoke on “Revised Accreditation Framework” (RAF) and explained the workflow, challenges, and execution of peer team visit. He described the details of the entire framework including metric, weightages, ICT, evaluation methodology for Qualitative and Quantitative metrics.

Prof. Vishnukant S. Chatpalli, Adviser NAAC spoke on the ICT integration of A&A Process during the technical session-II. He explained the entire framework ICT Integration, features of various portals, process flows of RAF, Data Validation and Verification, Student Satisfaction Survey details etc.

In Session-III, Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, dealt with On site Visit and Logistics. She gave information about assessors’ dashboard, profile etc. She also, spoke on “Demonstration of Assessors’ Module”. She explained the Assessors module and details using ICT integration. Session IV made space for the Group work. The participants were divided in to seven groups. Each group prepared the report and score sheet for the SSR. Each group made the role play simulation for Principal Meeting, Interactions with Principal/ Management, Faculty/ Students etc. Later in the day, the respective chairpersons of groups were asked to present their reports. In the open forum Prof. Vishnukant S. Chatpalli, Adviser and Dr. Pratibha Singh Deputy Adviser, NAAC chaired the session and clarified the doubts regarding new RAF methodology. Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, Delhi rendered the vote of thanks.

**AOP at Noida**

Assessors’ Orientation Programme (AOP) for Northern and North East region was organized on 28th January, 2019 at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida. A total of 61 academicians from 8 States participated in the programme. The purpose of the workshop was to orient them towards the Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF) modalities.

Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, Delhi welcomed the distinguished guests and the esteemed participants to the Assessors’ Orientation Programme (AOP). Prof Bhagwati Prakash Sharma, Vice Chancellor, GBU was the Guest of Honour. In his keynote address, he highlighted the current trends in higher education and the importance of accreditation status. The chief guest of the programme was Prof. Vinod Chauhan, Chairman, Executive Committee, NAAC. He delineated various reforms taking place in NAAC and in Higher Education in his inaugural address.

In Session-I, Prof. Vishnukant S. Chatpalli, Adviser, NAAC, Bangalore presented an overview of RAF. The Assessors’ Orientation Programme (AOP) was also aimed at equipping the Assessors with salient features of the Revised Assessment and Accreditation Framework (RAF) and also to provide an insight into the functioning of NAAC. He described the structure of RAF, weightages, metrics and its types, benchmarks etc. Session II, was handled by Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, New Delhi. The topic of the session was ICT integration of A&A Process. She explained the entire framework ICT Integration, features of various portals, process flows of RAF, Data Validation and Verification, Student Satisfaction Survey details etc.

Dr. Sujata P. Shanbhag, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, Bangalore in the Technical Session-III, briefed on the Peer Team visit, logistics and different features of the Assessor modules. Session – IV made space for Group work that was coordinated by Dr. Mohit Tiwari, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, Delhi. The participants were divided in to seven groups and were asked to work in simulation mode on Pre-Visit Meetings, Interactions with Principals, Report Writing etc. The respective chairpersons of the groups were asked to make presentations for understanding the inter team variations and nuances of conducting the visit.

The group work was followed by the open forum that was handled by Prof. Vishnukant S. Chatpalli, Dr. Sujata P. Shanbhag, Dr. Pratibha Singh and Dr. Mohit Tiwari. The vote of thanks was rendered by Dr. Mohit Tiwari.

**Assessors’ Orientation Programme Organized Jointly by NAAC and IIM Trichy under the aegis of MOU**

One Day Assessors’ Orientation programme was organized jointly by NAAC and IIM Trichy on 11th March, 2019 at IIM, Trichy. Dr. Wahidul Hasan, Sr. CPO, NAAC, welcomed the guests and participants. Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser, NAAC, gave the introductory talk, highlighting the significance of signing the MoU with IIM- Trichy. He emphasized on the robustness of NAAC’s A&A Process, noting that it is unique on a global level. He also ascertained that the revised accreditation framework is more scientific and IT based, when compared to the preceding frameworks. After this, Dr. Bhimaryaya Metri, Director, IIM-Trichy gave the inaugural address, highlighting the functions of IIM-Trichy, and stressed that Quality in Higher Educational and National growth are linked. As per the MoU, IIM-Trichy will setup a National Centre for Higher Education Quality which envisages big data business analytics to analyze the data of higher educational Institutions.

During the technical session, Dr. Jagannath Patil gave a detailed presentation on “Revised Accreditation Framework”, a structure followed in the process of Accreditation of higher educational institutions. Followed by this Dr. S. Srikantha Swamy, Academic Consultant, NAAC, spoke on the “Role of Assessors in the process of Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions”. In the next technical session, Dr. Vishnukant S. Chatpalli, Adviser, NAAC, gave a power point presentation on IT Integration procedure in the Assessment and Accreditation Process. In the last session Dr. Wahidul Hasan gave a presentation on “Report Writing and Accreditation Outcome” in the afternoon session, all the participants were grouped into 4 groups. Each group was headed by a Vice
Programme by NAAC

Chancellor and a NAAC official. The open forum chaired by Dr. Jagannath Patil and Dr. Vishnu Kant S. Chatpalli, gave room for clarifications. There was a formal valedictory session towards the end of the day, in which Dr. Bhumaraya Metri, addressed the participants and reinforced the responsibilities of the Assessors for Quality improvement. He distributed the certificates to all the participants. Dr. S. Srikanata Swamy gave a formal vote of thanks and appreciated IIM for their academic & logistic support in organizing the programme effectively. There were 38 participants consisting of Vice Chancellors, Professors, Registrars, Deans and Principals from various universities across the country.

Assessors’ Orientation Programme at Delhi

National Assessment and Accreditation Council regularly conducts Assessors’ Orientation Programme (AOP) in various regions of the country and as part of the series of awareness programmes, the Assessors’ Orientation Programme (AOP) for northern region was organized at Anuvrat Bhawan, Delhi on 19th March 2019. 28 participants from Delhi NCR participated as part of the orientation for the new Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF). Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser, NAAC handled the session-I and introduced the participants to the new Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF) system. Dr. Hegde informed the participants about the reason for new RAF and the importance of it. He further oriented the participants towards the purpose of the RAF.

Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, New Delhi was the resource person for the second session. The topic of the session was ICT integration of A&A Process. She explained the entire framework’s ICT integration, features of various portals, process flows of RAF, Data Validation and Verification, Student SATISFACTION Survey details etc.

A demo on the Online Assessor Portal was made for the participants to provide a better experience of the technology driven process. Dr. Pratibha Singh also threw light on all the features of management of the profile, visit management in portal and report entry in portal. Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser, NAAC and Dr. Mohit Tiwari, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, New Delhi handled session-III as a joint session. Dr. Hegde, dealt with the onsite Visit and Logistic part besides the intricacies involved in Report writing and accreditation outcome. Dr. Mohit Tiwari, spoke on the process of Group activity and threw light on the technical aspects of the grading and report. All the doubts were clarified during the technical session and open forum. In the last session of the program, all the participants were grouped into working teams and the activity included Role Play, Peer Team Visit simulation, Report Writing etc. that would practically help the Peers to conduct the visit.

Prof. Virander S. Chauhan, Chairman, Executive Committee, NAAC interacted with the assessors. He elucidated on the reforms taking place in NAAC and in Higher Education. He expressed his views about the changing demands of Indian Higher Education Scenario. In the concluding part of the programme, the chairpersons of various groups were asked to present their reports to the participants for further learning and sharing. Dr. Mohit Tiwari rendered the vote of thanks.

Assessors’ Orientation Programme (AOP) at Panjab University, Chandigarh

AOP was organized at Panjab University, Chandigarh on 23rd April 2019, over 60 academicians from in and around the areas of Punjab participated in the AOP. The participants included Vice-Chancellors, Directors, Professors and Principals belonging to different disciplines. The purpose of the workshop was to orient them towards the modalities of the Revised Accreditation framework (RAF). Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, New Delhi welcomed the guests and participants. Dr. R.K. Singla, Dean Research, Panjab University presented the keynote. Prof. B.S. Ghuwan, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University was the guest of honor for the programme. In his inaugural address, he stressed on the sublime relationship between quality of higher education and national growth. Dr. B. S. Madhukar, former Adviser, NAAC spoke on the "Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF) - Overview". He threw light on the explicit Paradigm Shift brought in by the ICT driven RAF. He intended to provide an insight into the functioning of NAAC.

Session II was about “ICT integration of A&A Process” by Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, Delhi. She explained the entire framework’s ICT integration, features of various portals, process flows of RAF, Data Validation and Verification, Student SATISFACTION Survey details etc. Session III was about “Introduction to Assessors portal and Assessment Module” by Dr. Pratibha Singh. Dr. Singh demonstrated to the Assessors Module and the features of report writing in the portal. An online assessor module was demonstrated by her. Dr. R. S. Parihar, was in charge of the Group Activity. The group work included the analysis of the SSR, Report Writing, Score sheet preparation, submission of group peer team report and the Open Forum presented more insights to the participants. Dr. B. S. Madhukar, further threw light on the ‘Onsite Visit and Logistics’. Further he spelt out that the team members should adhere to the NAAC’s conflict of interest policy. The session concluded with the vote of thanks.

Assessors’ Orientation Programme (AOP), NAAC at Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad

NAAC organized Assessors’ Orientation Programme (AOP) on 30th April, 2019 at IIIT Allahabad with a view to equip and update the assessors regarding the assessment and accreditation revised framework. The participants were the academicians from U.P. and Uttarakhand. 58 participants attended the programme which included Vice Chancellors, Directors, Professors and Principals belonging to various disciplines. Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC welcomed the distinguished guests for the Assessors’ Orientation Programme (AOP). Prof. P. Nagbhushan, Director, IIIT, Allahabad and Chief Guest of the programme delivered the keynote address. Dr. B. S. Madhukar, former Adviser, NAAC was the resource person for the Session-I of the event. He introduced the participants to the Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF) for a proper perspective from the NAAC’s methodology. He spoke on the category of questions, benchmarks, weightages and the data requirement for the question in the Quality Indicator framework. Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC New Delhi, handled the second technical session and threw light on the ICT integration of A & A Process. She deliberated on ICT enabled automation process by NAAC for submission and evaluation of the Self-Study Report. The features of various portals, the requirement and timelines associated with various processes were deliberated upon.

Dr. Mohit Tiwari was in charge of the Group Activity. The participants were divided into seven groups and each group was asked to prepare the report and score sheet of an institution based on the SSR as part of the simulation exercise. All the groups were asked to give a brief presentation on the report prepared by them during group activity. The scores assigned by the groups were also announced during the presentation for further learning and comparison. After the open forum session, Dr. B. S. Madhukar spoke about Onsite Visit and Logistics. Open forum was chaired by the NAAC Officials. All the doubts and apprehensions raised by the participants were answered in this session.

Dr. Mohinder Kaur Grewal, Academic Consultant, NAAC proposed the vote of thanks.
NAAC Awareness Programme

Two Day NAAC sponsored Awareness Programme was organized by the IQAC of Kavatriti Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon during 17th-18th January 2019. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. P. P. Patil, Vice Chancellor of North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon. Around 200 delegates, mostly comprising the Principals and Directors of IQAC of accredited and non-accredited institutions coming under the jurisdiction of the university attended the program.

In his inaugural address, Dr. D. K. Kamble, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, spoke on the process of Online submission of Institutional Information for Quality Assessment (IIQA) besides delineating other details on the RAF processes of NAAC. The sessions and talks that followed had intense discussions and interactions related to the new methodology of NAAC. Several acclaimed academicians including Dr. Rajan Velukar, former Vice Chancellor, Mumbai University spoke on the occasion.

Awareness Programme at Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Darbhanga

NAAC sponsored one day NAAC Assessment Awareness Programme (NAP) was organized by Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Kameshwaranagar, Darbhanga (Bihar) on 16th March 2019. Participants from 43 Constituent Colleges, 29 Affiliated Colleges and 17 B.Ed. Colleges of L.N.M.U., Darbhanga and 20 Colleges of B. N. Mandal University, Madhepura were present in the programme. Mr. B. S. Ponmudiraj, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, Bengaluru and Dr Prathibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, New Delhi were the resource persons for the programme. Mr. B. S. Ponmudiraj in his presentation highlighted on the key issues.

Prof. Jai Gopal, incharge Vice Chancellor of the University in his presidential remarks opined that the status of colleges can be improved through NAAC Assessment and Accreditation. In the first Technical Session Dr. Prathibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, New Delhi, focused on the Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF). She threw light on the work flow of the RAF followed by the comparative analysis of the old and new processes besides discussing the seven criteria parameters in detail.

In the Open House session, both Dr. Ponmudiraj and Dr. Singh interacted with the delegates in sorting out the queries raised on the RAF.

Awareness Programme by UPSHE and Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith

NAAC Awareness Programme (NAP) was jointly organized by UPSHE and Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi (U.P.) in collaboration with NAAC on 26th March 2019. The Programme was organized for affiliated Institutions of the Universities in the state. The workshop was presided over by Prof. T. N. Singh, Vice Chancellor M.G. Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi. The Chief Guest was Prof. Manoj Dixit, Vice Chancellor, Dr. R. M. L. Avadh University, Ayodhya. The Guests of Honour for this programme were Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser and Dr. Mohit Tiwari, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, New Delhi.

In the presidential address Hon’ble Vice Chancellor Prof. T. N. Singh threw light on the practical difficulties that an institution may face during the process of A&A and offered the possible solutions. Dr. Pratibha Singh in her presentation, demonstrated the procedure to be adopted by the institutions in the preparation of the SSR. She threw light on the issues involved in the seven criterion and documentation process for all the claims that an institution can make. Dr. Mohit Tiwari, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, New Delhi, advised the representatives of the academic institutions to make their assessment through Academic and Administrative Audit before applying for NAAC’s A&A Process. The Principals and the College representatives interacted with the NAAC advisers and sought clarifications on the methodology adopted by NAAC. More than 200 delegates including Principals/Managers from affiliated colleges of M. G. Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi along with Heads and Deans of different departments and faculty of the university participated in the Awareness Programme.

A Letter from Mr. Abraham Lincoln to his son’s teacher

He will have to learn, I know, that all men are not just, all men are not true.

But teach him also that for every scoundrel there is, a hero, that for every selfish politician there is a dedicated leader.

Teach him, that for every enemy, there is a friend. It will take time, I know but teach him if you can, that a dollar earned is of far more value than five found.

- Abraham Lincoln
One Day workshop on “Revised Accreditation Framework of NAAC” was organized jointly by Davangere University and NAAC for the benefit of accredited and non-accredited institutions coming under the jurisdiction of the University on 10th January 2019 at Central Auditorium, MBA Building, Davangere University, Shivagangotri, Davangere.

Dr. Basavaraja Banakar, Registrar Evaluation presided over the academic event. He appreciated the efforts of the IQAC in organizing the program and thanked NAAC for its support in the endeavours of academic institutions for quality achievement. Among the 122 affiliated Colleges of the University, 41 Colleges have been assessed by NAAC and many colleges need to submit themselves for assessment. A total of 200 participants attended the workshop. During the first technical session Dr. Vinita Sahu, Assistant Advisor, NAAC office, Bengaluru, delineated the process of assessment through RAF, data management, and benchmarks involved in the new methodology adopted by the NAAC. During the second technical session, Prof. Syed Ashfaq Ahamed, IQAC Director, Kuvempu University gave detailed insights on the seven criteria, through systematic examples. Dr. Ahmed explained about SWAYAM platforms to take up different programs. He also dealt with issues of research, publications, incubation and eco system for innovation.

One Day workshop on Revised Accreditation Framework was organized on January 11th 2019 as an initiative of IQAC by Surana College, Bangalore. The Workshop was sponsored and supported by NAAC. The workshop comprised 4 sessions beginning with key note address on awareness on RAF by Dr. K. R. Vishnu Mahesh, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, Bengaluru. He dealt with the intricacies of methodology adopted by the NAAC through its RAF. He elaborated on IIQA, QIM and QnM metrics and the process of grading system adopted by the RAF. The various other sessions threw light on the online process of assessment. The presentation also dealt with competency mapping, SSR preparation and list of documents to be submitted for DVV that deal with Qualitative and Quantitative Metrics. The workshop witnessed the participation of 170 delegates from 52 Colleges (16 non-accredited and 36 accredited colleges) from south India (Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, and Kerala).

A One Day workshop was organized at Dr. Rammanohar Lohia Avadh University, Ayodhya (UP) in collaboration with NAAC on March 14th 2019. With more than 600 affiliated institutions under its fold, it was deemed most appropriate both by the University and the NAAC that the awareness programme would serve the purpose of a huge base of stakeholders in the Higher Education domain. It was highly beneficial to the institutions to directly interact with the domain experts from NAAC.

Vic Chancellor, Professor Manoj Dixit welcomed the guests and apprised of the prevailing situation among the affiliated HEIs. He requested the resource persons from NAAC to create a platform for motivation and support system for institutions to opt for NAAC assessment. Prof. Vishnukant S Chatpalli, former Adviser, NAAC and Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, New Delhi spoken on various nuances involved in the process of RAF. The deliberation of these experts culminated in an open discussion where queries were clarified.

“All registered users of NAAC are requested to use only Support/Help desk (which is in portal) for reporting any kind of queries/difficulties/doubts related to Technical Issues or Assessment & Accreditation process. We understand that it is difficult to reach respective officers/ technical team on call, but through IMS’ the issue will be directly posted to the respective officers and they will respond to the same at the earliest”.

NAAC for Quality and Excellence in Higher Education
In addition to the already existing rich repository of books in the Library, the NAAC campus sought an addition in the form of the Digital Library. The NAAC Digital library was inaugurated on 14th May, 2019 by Dr. A. P. Padhi, former Vice Chancellor of Berhampur University and EC member, of NAAC. It was attended by all the Staff of NAAC.

It was a landmark day for NAAC, with the sophisticated digital library of the organisation formally being inaugurated with full gaiety and festivity. The Digital library aims to do away with the difficulty involved in looking for resources and information, from an avalanche of information available in the form of SSRs, PTrs and others, which is useful for the stakeholders from both inside and outside. It has been structured with quick search facilities and various multimedia streaming techniques. With a single click, the users will be able to access information that is stored in various formats such as e-Books, e-journals, e-reports, Videos, Audios, Images etc., Prof. Padhi, in his inaugural address expressed his appreciation for the pioneering initiative under the guidance of Prof. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC. Prof. A. P. Padhi spoke on the importance of digital library in the contemporary knowledge society and brought out the distinction between knowledge and wisdom. While referring to the digital information as an instrument to transform knowledge into wisdom, he congratulated the NAAC for providing a scientific platform for the users. He also emphasized on the need to develop content, categorization and its accessibility to Staff, and Peer Team Members to meet their changing demands.

The digital library has integrated library software and maintains a computerized catalogue of its entire collection. It also provides free and easy access to Database, e-books e-journals, CD-ROMs and a Repository of SSRs. The facility will be open for Staff, PTM and stakeholders of NAAC.

The NAAC library has digitized 12,000 Self Study reports, all NAAC Publications, Manuals, Annual Reports, and Newsletters, faculty publications, AOP videos and Peer Team Visit videos which are the special collections of NAAC library and they all can be found at the click of a button. The digital library is very useful in terms of access and also to enrich the updated Knowledge. The Library’s digitisation programme is ongoing, and many more items are being added to the digital library every day. The library staff is grateful to the Director, NAAC and also the members of the committee on “Modernisation of NAAC Library”.

Revision of Guidelines on Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR)

A meeting for the revision of guidelines on AQAR was held on 12th and 13th Feb 2018 in NAAC office. Dr. (Mrs.) K. Sudha Rao, former Vice Chancellor, KSOU, Mysore; Prof. P Ramaiah, former Professor and Rector (PVC) Emeritus Professor UGC, Hyderabad; Prof. Niranjan Roy, former Registrar and Director, DIQA, Professor and Dean, Dept. of Economics & Assam University, Silchar; Prof. Alok Kumar Rai, Professor, Department of Management Studies, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi; Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser and Dr. Wahidul Hasan, Communication cum Publication Officer, NAAC attended the meeting.

Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser, convener of the meeting made a presentation on the AQAR guidelines for Universities; Affiliated/Constituent and Autonomous Colleges, with specific request to suggest the potential changes to plug the gaps in the existing Manuals/Instruments. He opined that the changes have to sync with the ICT formats and the new RAF. The Committee meticulously went through each criterion and sub items under each criterion and after many rounds of discussion, the committee suggested changes for Institutions as well as to NAAC. Suggested to include Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS) to be conducted every year as part of AQAR by the institution either by the questionnaire designed by them or as per NAAC format. The Committee went through the details as per the seven criterion framework and the items under each criterion that needs the computer assistance for making Quantitative and Qualitative analysis of the data provided by the institution in the respective AQAR.

Corrections, deletions and additions were made in all the following three AQAR manuals: (a) Affiliated/Constituent Colleges (b) Autonomous Colleges and Universities. It was resolved that NAAC would provide an opportunity to the institutions that have already submitted the AQAR, to rectify and make changes (additions/deletions), if any and submit the revised version to NAAC within a period of three months. NAAC may send alert messages to the institutions as and when necessary- keeping in view the main interest of AQAR, viz, quality improvement of the institution. The committee opined that while analyzing the data, a definite pattern may be followed in such a way that from the first year to the fourth year, a cumulative analysis of the institution must be made for the performance mapping on a regular basis. Analysis of the AQAR may be given to the Peer Team as an input during the visit, it was observed.
Context: Increased popularity of Yoga, privatization and widespread expansion along with increased autonomy and introduction of programmes across various Institutions/Universities has led to widespread concern on the quality and relevance of Yoga in Higher Education. Hence, the conference was organized with a focus on the presentation of a framework for accreditation of Higher Education of Yoga at both national and international arena. NAAC, the largest accreditation body in the country has taken the lead along with S-VYASA to raise the bar of the curriculum of Yoga education. The prime objective of the conference and the accreditation programme was to project the leadership of India in the field of Yoga research and education at an international level.

Pre-Conference Workshop: Prior to the National Conference on Yoga Accreditation, NAAC had organised the “Pre-conference Workshop” to deliberate on the International Accreditation Framework on Yoga Higher Education on 5th March, 2019 at SVYASA, Bengaluru. Over 30 delegates including representatives from Universities with Yoga Department, NAAC-Working Group Committee and Core Working Group participated in the workshop chaired by Dr. H. R. Nagendra, Chairman of IUC-YS, Bengaluru, Hon’ble Chancellor, S-VYASA, Bengaluru. The main objective of the workshop was to develop the procedure/manuals for programme accreditation of Yoga higher education at international level. Dr. H. R. Nagendra made opening remarks on Yoga Education & Accreditation. During his address he appreciated the initiative of NAAC Team for developing mechanism to offer accreditation to such Yoga programmes and institutions of higher education in Yoga in India and also all over the world.

Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser, NAAC, Bengaluru and Convenor of the Workshop, made the presentation on “Overview of Yoga Higher Education & Accreditation” and highlighted various key aspects of Yoga accreditation framework being developed by NAAC. Dr. Manjunath N. K, Director, International Affairs, Professor & Head, Anveshana Research, S-VYASA, deliberated on the importance of accreditation for Yoga higher education programmes at international framework. The workshop ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Vinita Sahu, Assistant Adviser, NAAC.

National Conference on Yoga Accreditation: Consequently, the national conference on yoga accreditation brought together NAAC personnel, scholars and academicians from the education sector aimed at providing better understanding of the key indicators of quality assessments of Yoga based curriculum. An enhanced understanding of these metrics of the accreditation was developed through this conference. Vice Chancellors, Professors, Yoga Experts, Senior Academicians & Key Persons from Head of the Yoga Department in Indian Higher Education Quality Assurance, NAAC & S-VYASA officials attended the “National Conference on Yoga Accreditation for Higher Education Programmes” jointly organised on 6th March, 2019 by NAAC & S-VYASA at Bengaluru. Over 60 delegates participated in the programme besides representation from both the organizing bodies.

The conference was aimed at presenting the framework for accreditation of Yoga higher education programme developed by NAAC after series of expert committee meetings, nationwide consultations and pilot study involving Universities/Institutions offering Yoga Higher Education Programmes. The event addressed the First-Time accreditation of an educational programme by NAAC within the broad ambit of Revised Accreditation Framework launched recently by NAAC which combines Qualitative Metrics (QIM) & Quantitative Metrics (QnM) in ICT enabled database A&A Process. Discussions were focussed on the need, purpose and benefits of implementation of the Yoga higher education programme accreditation at international and national levels. The Conference was inaugurated by lighting a lamp at Samskruthi Bhavanam by dignitaries including Dr. H. R. Nagendra, Chairman of IUC-YS, Bengaluru, Hon’ble Chancellor of S-VYASA; Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser, NAAC; Dr. Prahlada Ramaraoo, Pro-Chancellor, SVYASA; Dr. B. R. Ramakrishna, Vice-Chancellor, S-VYASA; Dr. Srinidhi K Parthasarathi, Registrar, S-VYASA; Dr. K. Subramaniam, former Pro-Chancellor, S-VYASA and other invited dignitaries. The introductory remarks were made by the convener of the programme Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser, NAAC. Referring to the event, Dr. Patil opined that the event was historical in which the formal accreditation framework for Yoga was being implemented.

Dr. B. R. Ramakrishna, Vice Chancellor of S-VYASA, in his opening remarks stated that the developed framework for Yoga accreditation is a milestone in the history of yogic sciences. Dr. H. R. Nagendra, Chairman of IUC-YS, Bengaluru, Hon’ble Chancellor of S-VYASA delivered the keynote address on Yoga Higher Education Scenario in India and around the World. Dr. Nagendra stated that there has been a large acceleration in the growth of Yoga education followed by Hon’ble Prime Minister’s move towards celebrating 21st June as an International Yoga Day.

Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser, NAAC made a detailed presentation on the “Developing National and International Framework for Accreditation of Yoga Higher Education”. He informed that the presented framework is based on the global norms of accreditation and that the rigor, the newly added or revised indicators and the peer review process endow credibility to the programme. A panel discussion was organised on “Status of Yoga Higher Education and need for Harmonization of curriculum and training” with Dr. C. G. Jhala, Vice Chancellor, Lakulish University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat as the Chair. Prof. Ganesh Shankar, Professor and Head, Yoga Studies, Dean School of education Studies, Dr. Hari Singh Gour, Central University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh and Dr. Srinidhi K Parthasarathi, Registrar, S-VYASA, Bengaluru, Karnataka were the panelists. The discussion was facilitated by Dr. Sanjib Kumar Prata, Professor, Anvesana, SVYASA.

The second and third panel discussions focussed on “Specific Indicators for Quality Evaluation and Improvement of Yoga Higher Education Programme at National Level” and Yoga Programme Accreditation around the World: Preserving and Promoting Indian Legacy”. The sessions evinced keen participation from acclaimed academicians. The discussions were facilitated by Dr. Jagannath Patil. Several key suggestions and recommendations provided by the experts and participants to improve the quality of Yoga Higher Education were taken up during valedictory session. It was agreed to consider the suggestions in consultation with Core Working Group & appropriate authorities of NAAC. The conference concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Vinita Sahu, Assistant Adviser, NAAC.
NAAC is continuously fine tuning the process of Assessment and Accreditation that it has launched through its Revised Accreditation Framework since July 2017. DVV is a crucial element in the RAF and NAAC is making all positive efforts to make it seamless and stakeholder friendly. It is heartening to note that NAAC has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for both HEIs and DVV Partners to handle the A&A Process while dealing with the Manuals on Universities, Autonomous as well as Affiliated Institutions. Gaining from its experience of handling DVV of more than 1300 institutions, NAAC further has made efforts to revise the SOPs. Feedback has been thoroughly analysed from both the internal as well as external domain experts, end users and technical team and the revised SOPs were developed and the same has been uploaded on the website for stakeholder’s benefit.

So far, the DVV Internal Team of NAAC has successfully organised 50 DVV Coordination Committee Meetings at regular intervals and cleared HEIs systematically by coordinating with the DVV Coordination Committee of external experts under the guidance of Dr. Latha Pillai, Process Owner, DVV, NAAC. During the month of April, May and June, 2019, DVV Coordination Committee Meetings were held twice a week preferably during Tuesdays and Fridays and cleared all the HEIs which were completed by its DVV partners. Dr. Ruchi Tripathi, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, Dr. Vinita Sahu, Assistant Adviser and Dr. A. Mumtaj, Academic Consultant, NAAC, coordinated the DVV Coordination Committee Meetings. The contribution by the DVV external experts are recorded in place for increased transparency, objectivity and rigour in the Assessment and Accreditation Process. As NAAC has revised the SOPs for DVV Partners, a Two Day Orientation cum Training Programme for DVV Partners of NAAC was held on 17-18th June, 2019 at NAAC, Bengaluru. Dr. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC, Dr. Latha Pillai, Adviser, NAAC & DVV Process Owner, Dr. Shyamasundar, Adviser, NAAC & DVV Nodal Officer, representatives from four DVV Partners (Representatives of Makers and Checkers from each DVV Partner), five DVV Coordination Committee Experts, Internal DVV Team, NAAC, ICT –Team, NAAC were the members who attended the workshop along with other NAAC Coordinators. In all, there were 23 participants. The agenda for the Two Day Orientation cum Training Programme for DVV Partners was (i) to orient and explain the DVV partners about the process of Data Validation and Verification (DVV); (ii) to have an interaction between DVV experts and DVV partners in order to bridge the gap in DVV processing; (iii) to clarify the queries put forth by DVV partners; (iv) to deliberate in detail about the Revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for DVV partners on Universities/Autonomous/Affiliated Colleges etc.,

Dr. Mumtaj, Academic Consultant, NAAC welcomed the Director, NAAC, DVV Process Owner, Nodal Officer, DVV Coordination Committee Experts, DVV Partners and other members for the two day Orientation cum Training Programme for DVV Partners. The Director, NAAC briefed the members present about the necessity of the two days Training Programme at this juncture, as the Data Validation and Verification (DVV) process consists totally 70% of Assessment and Accreditation at NAAC. DVV partners were instructed to stick on to the timeline, verify and validate the documents submitted by HEIs promptly. The Nodal Officer, NAAC oriented the DVV partners on how SOPs have to be followed strictly by the DVV Partners also, DVV partners were explained to take precautionary measures in following the process and rectify the same. DVV partners interacted and noted the suggestions mentioned by the Internal DVV Team. The DVV Coordination Committee Members interacted with the DVV partners and had a fruitful discussion on how to verify, give remarks and to accept the documents submitted by HEIs. Dr. Vinita Sahu explained in detail about the DVV processing procedures to the DVV partners. Metric-wise Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) explanation and briefing was given for DVV Partners on all three Manuals – University/Autonomous/Affiliated Colleges on both the days. Prof. H. K. Ananth Subba Rao, Academic Consultant, NAAC gave a briefing about the Health Sciences Manual - both University and Colleges to the DVV partners as the Health Sciences Institutes will shortly be submitting their SSRs. The vote of thanks was rendered by Dr. Mumtaj.
Manual for Health Sciences

NAAC has prepared Manuals for the A&A of Health Sciences for Colleges and Universities (Medical, Dental, Pharmacy, Nursing, Physiotherapy and Allied Health Sciences, Ayurveda, Yoga/Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy) in the new RAF. Based on the continuous feedback from stakeholders, these Manuals [Universities/Colleges] were revised partially from 19th March on several occasions; in terms of metrics/Data templates as per the requirements of ICT and DVV unit of NAAC. The necessary inputs have been provided to the ICT and DVV units of NAAC for necessary corrections. Further, the NAAC has developed Standard Operating Procedure for DVV process and displayed it on the website. In the Assessors’ Portal, the assessors are being accepted by the screening committee as per the new guidelines dated 01/05/2019 given by Prof. V. S. Chauhan, Chairman Executive Committee, NAAC. Preparation is under way to conduct Assessors’ Orientation Program (AOP) and plans are afoot to conduct AOP in July 2019 at NAAC, Bangalore and New Delhi.

Research and Analysis Wing at NAAC

Organisational Learning and Learning organizations are two sides of the same coin. NAAC intends to learn from its own experiences and a body of knowledge can be created by learning from its own process. In this direction, NAAC has created its own Research and Analysis Wing at NAAC and has undertaken several projects and activities. One of the first projects that the Wing took up was the State-wise Analysis of Accreditation Reports of Uttar Pradesh. This report has been completed and the final draft copy has been approved by the Director and it is to be rolled out soon. The Wing has also prepared a Trend Analysis Report of those universities and colleges which have been accredited (through the window system) after the introduction of the Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF). The printed copies will be released shortly.

Every year, NAAC receives the Annual Quality Assurance Reports (AQAR) of higher educational institutions from across the country and these reports offer ample insight into the quality measures that institutions take up every year. In order to understand this, the Research Wing undertook a qualitative analysis of the AQAR reports submitted by the institutions in Nagaland. The documents will be made available to the stakeholders soon. Similarly the AQARs of Sikkim and Tripura have been analyzed and the reports will be made available to the stakeholders.

In addition to these, the Wing has also taken up the initiative to organize a one day Assessors’ Orientation Programme (AOP) with IIM Trichy (as per the MoU). This programme was held at IIM Trichy on 11th March 2019. Dr. Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIMT inaugurated the programme. Dr. Jagannath Patil, Dr. Vishnukanth S. Chatpalli, Dr. Wahidul Hasan and Dr. S. Srikanta Swamy were the resource persons for the same. Around 40 professors from all over India participated in the programme.

As per the suggestions given by the experts, it was decided that a book be compiled and published under the title “Pursuit of Quality in Higher Education”, consisting of articles from reputed Educationists and Professors across the country covering various themes and topics related to higher educational institutions. This publication is on the anvil. Two new projects, namely the state-wise analysis reports of Odisha and Jammu & Kashmir have been proposed and have been approved by the Director. The necessary correspondence has been made to conduct a preliminary discussion to meet and work out the modalities and proceed with the project.

Cautionary Note to the HEIs not to upload the data in Google Drive and other sources

The available upload space for Supporting Data/Documents towards clarification to Data Validation and Verification is 5 Mb per metric. The institutions may please use this space as much as possible. In case, if the documents need more than 5 Mb space, the institutions may please host the concerned data in the HEI’s website only and share the link of the same in response to DVV clarifications and/or in the templates during submission of SSR. The HEI also needs to ensure that the links provided by them are working/operational, failing which DVVs’ decision would be considered as final. Sharing of data through Google Drive or any other sources (except for the HEI’s website) is prohibited for security reasons and will not be considered for validation.

“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expressions and knowledge.”
- Albert Einstein
Delegation from Brazilian Universities visits NAAC

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has successfully organized a Special Delegate Meeting between delegation from Brazilian Universities, Brazil and NAAC on 6th May 2019, at 10.30 a.m in the NAAC Conference Hall. Mr. Rodrizo Capilato, CEO, Semesp was the guest of honour on the occasion. He was accompanied by 46 other delegates from various provinces of Brazil. Dr. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC, Chaired the function and facilitated the meeting.

Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser, NAAC and the Convener of the Delegate Meeting welcomed the august gathering and briefed the delegation on the NAAC's perspective of Assessment and Accreditation. He opined that accreditation is a process of self-study and external quality review used in higher education institutions for quality assurance and quality improvement.

Dr. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC in his opening remarks welcomed all the delegates from Brazil, and added that NAAC has revised the Assessment and Accreditation mechanism to make it more Technology Based, Digital, Scalable, Transparent, Robust and Objective. Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser, NAAC and Dr. Vinita Sahu, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, made a brief presentation on NAAC Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF)-Overview and highlighted on various aspects of Indian higher education and accreditation system.

During the meeting, the delegates from both NAAC and Brazil interacted to share various concerns and sought clarification from each other regarding Assessment & Accreditation Process and procedures and issues pertaining to Higher Education of India and Brazil. Dr. Shyam Singh Inda, Assistant Adviser, NAAC proposed the vote of thanks. The delegation level meeting made space for lot of learning to facilitate mutual sharing and caring. It was opined on both sides that this meet would turn pave the way for further network and development of international level collaborations. It was also resolved to take the discussion further to result in an MoU for possible cooperation and collaboration in the areas of mutual interest and conviction. Dr. Ruchi Tripathi, Assistant Adviser, NAAC was the master of ceremony for the entire program. The visit of Brazilian delegates was co-ordinated by Dr. K. R. Vishnu Mahesh and Dr. D. K. Kamble, Assistant Advisers, NAAC.

Delegation from Royal Civil Service Commission, Bhutan visits NAAC

In order to know the Assessment and Accreditation Process undertaken by NAAC, a delegation from Royal Civil Service Commission, Bhutan visited NAAC campus, Bengaluru on 12th June 2019, Mr. Jigme Norbu, Chief, Civil Service Examination Division, RCS, Bhutan was guest of honour on the occasion. He was accompanied by 4 other delegates from Civil Service Examination Division, RCS, Bhutan. Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar, Adviser, NAAC interacted with the visiting delegates on behalf of NAAC and briefed the overall processes involved in the Revised Accreditation Framework of NAAC and the steps initiated by NAAC to make the process more robust and technology friendly. Dr. B. S. Pommudraj, Deputy Adviser, NAAC made the brief presentation on the duties, responsibilities and functioning of NAAC. He also briefed on NAAC-Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF) and highlighted on various aspects of Indian Higher Education and Accreditation System. During the meeting, NAAC & Bhutan delegates interacted and shared various issues and clarifications regarding Assessment & Accreditation Process and procedures and issues pertaining to Higher Education of India and Bhutan. Overall it was good learning exercise between the NAAC and Royal Civil Service Commission, Bhutan for further collaborative actions and development of International collaboration. As outcome of this meeting, the possibility of MoU between Bhutan & NAAC would be explored. The visit of Bhutan delegates was co-ordinated by Dr. D. K. Kamble, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, Dr. Ruchi Tripathi, Assistant Adviser, NAAC and Dr. A. V. Prasad, Assistant Adviser NAAC, Bengaluru.

Cautionary Note to the HEIs not to upload / provide additional information after submission of SSR/DVV clarification by email or through IMS

It is to inform all HEIs that the necessary documentation has to be provided during submission of SSR or during submission of DVV clarifications only. If any additional information provided after the submission of SSR/DVV Clarifications by email or through IMS will not be accepted strictly.
Special Outstanding Prize for NAAC Garden

NAAC garden is consistently winning prizes and honor in the garden competitions organized by the Mysore Horticultural Society, Lalbagh, Bangalore. Prof. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC and Mr. Ravikumar K, Garden in-charge received a “Special Prize” awarded to NAAC Garden for its best maintenance. The event was conducted on 24th January 2019 at Dr. M. H. Marigowda Memorial Hall, Lalbagh, Bangalore in view of the Republic Day celebrations. Prof. S. C. Sharma was also felicitated by the President, Mysore Horticultural Society on this occasion.

Rainwater Harvesting and Recharging of Ground Water level-Eco concerns of NAAC

Water is the most important and essential natural resource without which life cannot be sustained on the earth. It is the responsibility of each one of us to carefully preserve and sustain this natural resource not only for the present but also for future generations. It is alarming to know that the global warming, mindless abuse of the natural resources and the impact of carbon footprint have taken a toll on this critical resource and the dwindling ground water level is a major cause of concern for humanity.

Under the able guidance and concern of Dr. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC many strategies are being put in place to make NAAC office at Bengaluru, eco-friendly campus. The garden team of NAAC is working not only to create all round awareness among the stakeholders but is joining hands with stakeholders-both inside and outside, to create a clean and green environment. The team has taken many initiatives for rain water harvesting and recharging of ground water to a great extent. It is important to note that the green practices adopted at the campus and the garden maintenance have won many accolades and hearts for NAAC.

Environment Day Celebrations at NAAC

As part of its green initiatives, NAAC had organized the World Environment Day at its headquarters in Bangalore on 6th June 2019. Envisaging the importance of Green Environments, the staff members and gardeners enthusiastically participated and planted the saplings and enjoyed the event. At NAAC garden, the planting of saplings is done not only during Environment Day, but it has become a regular habit of collecting various species of plants and making greenery the campus more and more throughout the year. Needless to say, the awareness of protecting the nature for a healthy environment is the need of the hour.
Report on the International Day of Yoga at NAAC.

Yoga has its lineage in the ancient India and Yoga is being practised by many people for a long time not only in India but also across the world. However, the idea to mark the Day in honour of Yoga and observation all across the world was floated by the Honble Prime Minister of India, Sri Narendra Modi in his speech in the UN General Assembly in September 2014. He had sought the decision of the UN to declare 21st June as the International Yoga Day and in pursuance of such an appeal, the UN had declared 21st June as the International Yoga Day in 2015. Since then the whole world is observing the Yoga Day with lot of enthusiasm and passion. Yoga believes in the training of the body and mind and facilitates inner view of an individual through the cultivation of discernment, awareness, self-regulation and higher consciousness in the individual and thus it has caught the attention of the world. NAAC is proud to announce the establishment of its Yoga Center in its campus. NAAC has appointed a skilled trainer who conducts classes every day in the evening. With the help of NAAC Yoga Centre, NAAC is organizing programs to mark the day and also observe the International Day of Yoga. For the 3rd consecutive year, the day was observed at the NAAC campus this year too. The program was inaugurated by Prof. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC along with the dignitaries Dr. Latha Pillai, Adviser, NAAC and Shri. Veeresh Kumar, Instructor, NAAC Yoga Centre. Welcoming the members of NAAC family, Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser, NAAC emphasised on the essence of Yoga in day to day life.

Prof. S. C. Sharma in his inaugural remarks briefly explained the concept of Yoga and how it is related with Science (Molecular Physics). He emphasised on Ashtanga Yoga (8-limbed Yoga – Yama, Niyama, Asana, Pranayama, Pratyahara, Dharana, Dhyana and Samadhi), which is Practice, Theory and Philosophy. He appreciated the efforts of the NAAC officials in organizing the event. Yoga Guru Shri Veeresh Kumarji, spoke on the importance of Yoga in day to day life and appealed to the members of NAAC family to practice yoga every day. Later, he conducted a session with emphasis on Distressing, Relaxation Techniques, Pranayama, etc., to create awareness among the beneficiaries to overcome work related stress. Skills in Yoga were exhibited by a few employees of NAAC who were proficient in Asanas. The program concluded with special thanks to staff of Garden, Housekeeping and others for their cooperation and support for successful conduct of Yoga Day.

NAAC bids adieu to Dr. Vishnukant S. Chattapalli

Dr. Vishnukant S. Chattapalli was appointed as the Adviser at NAAC on 30th December 2016 on deputation basis. An academician of distinction, Dr. Vishnukant S. Chattapalli has rendered service at NAAC for two and half years. He was in charge of ICT during his regime. At the end of his term of deputation, Dr. Vishnukant S. Chattapalli was relieved on 11th April 2019 from NAAC. A farewell program was organized at NAAC on the occasion. All the staff of NAAC attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC appreciated the service rendered by Dr. Vishnukant. He was felicitated by the Director, NAAC and given a touching farewell. Senior Officers and staff of NAAC fondly recalled their association with him during his tenure and bid him a heartfelt send off.

“Teachers must..... regard every imperfection in the pupils not as a defect....but as a deficit in his or her own instruction, and endeavour to develop... the ability to discover a new method of teaching.”  

- Leo Tolstoy
Glimpses of Peer Team Visits

Saheed Nurul Islam Mahavidyalaya College. 29-30th March 2019. Dr. Amiya Kumar Pattanayak (Chairperson), Dr. Praveen Singh Bisht (Member Co-ordinator) and Dr. Manish Pandya (Member).

St. Edmund’s College. 4-5th March 2019. Dr. Gopal Kumar Nairoual Chhetry (Chairperson), Dr. Niranjan Roy (Member Co-ordinator) and Dr. Pushpa Kuttanna (Member).

Sri Manakula Vinayagar Engineering College. 25-26th March 2019. Dr. Kaivita Daryani Rao (Chairperson), Dr. Prof Karmeshu (Member Co-ordinator) and Dr. Debadutta Mishra (Member).

Suraj Singh Memorial College. 3-4th April 2019. Dr. Jitendra Kumar H Pancholi (Chairperson), Dr. Subodh Kumar Bhatnagar (Member Co-ordinator) and Radha Madhab Dash (Member).

Government Degree College Samba. 26-27th April 2019. Prof. (Dr.) Namadeo Jagannath Pawar (Chairperson), Prof. B.R. Kaushal (Member Co-ordinator) and Dr. Manjit Kaur (Member).

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