

Report of the Hon'ble Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi addresses to HEIs on a Live Webinar hosted by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

Online Address by Shri Pralhad Joshi

Online address by Shri Pralhad Joshi, Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines on 16th July 2020 at 11:30 am on an online platform was organized by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore and was hosted on all official NAAC Social Media accounts line Youtube, Facebook, and Twitter for all stakeholders benefit.

Prof. Amiya Kumar Rath, Adviser, NAAC moderator of the programme gave a brief insight into the programme, A&A process of NAAC and Invited Prof. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC to welcome the gathering.

Prof. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC in his elegant welcomed address, welcomed Shri Pralhad Joshi, Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines, on behalf of the over 50,000 academicians comprising



Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, Professors, IQAC heads, Principals, faculty and students across the country form about 45 thousand higher education institutions of the country for the programme.

Shri Pralhad Joshi, Hon'ble Minister along with Director, NAAC, Prof. S. C. Sharmaji and other NAAC officials released two publications; First publication on "Pursuit of Quality in Higher Education: An Indian Perspective", dedicated to 25 years of NAAC journey in the Higher Education Sector in the Country, Second Publication on Best Practice Series Publication: "Management Practices: Case Presentations" of the



best practices of HEI accredited by NAAC in the area of management practices for the Quality Assurance in the education offered in the institution and NAAC Newsletter Silver Jubilee Issue it's a biannual newsletter since 1999 with a present day 7000 copies circulation.

After the release of publications and Newsletter Hon'ble Minister address the gathering by congratulating the NAAC for its creativity and bracing the situation with both hands open and setting an example for the HEIs in the country for special initiatives on the online platforms. Addressing the academic on the topic of "Higher Education with Special Emphasis during COVID-19" pressed HEIs should make use of technology and convert this pandemic situation into an advantage of betterment in delivering quality education to main stakeholders i.e., Students. All mentioned how all the sectors like Government and non-Government sectors are taking a lot of initiatives along with the accelerated change in the present COVID-19 situation.

Lauding the Quality Initiatives undertaken by NAAC in the Pandemic situation, the Hon'ble Minister said, "NAAC as a Premier Assessment and Accreditation body has been rendering yeomen's service to the



Nation since its inception. It would only be fair to say that it has evolved over the years quality assurance systems and along with it has also infused the quality of the teaching-learning experiences, research and innovations and e-governance in higher education in our Country”.

While lamenting on the challenges surrounding the HEIs in the country in the contextual times, the Hon'ble Minister noted that there is an urgent need to self-evolve and adapt '**Atmanirbhar**' concept. He said “The '**Atmanirbhar**' concept is the revitalising mantra in this atmosphere of uncertainty and fear; and for achieving the ambitions and dreams of the youthful and emergent Indian population to tide over turbulent times. It is also the mantra which can propel the Indian Higher Education system to achieve Global Standards and thus propel India into a sought after destination for higher education”.

The minister noted that panacea for many ills which dogs the Higher Education arena today lies in Learning from India's Rich Past, '**Let's**

not forget our rich heritage'. The Indian Higher Education system has a haloed past. Nalanda and Takshashila Universities, in the 5th and 6th centuries, were the highest centers of learning in the world. These are our benchmarks and if we have to reach anywhere near them, constant innovation and tireless pushing of our quality standards is imperative. These Universities of the yore attracted students and scholars from all over the world, by virtue of their erudite and eminent scholars and the high quality of education they offered. Ancient India, thanks to these Universities, was a much sought after hub for higher education. NAAC is now helping us reach those standards to make India a destination for higher education” he said.

Finally, after the address by Hon'ble Minister the programme concluded with the vote of thanks from Prof. Amiya Kumar Rath, Adviser NAAC.
