

Report of the One-Day National Symposium on “NEP 2020 and Digital Interventions” held on 26th September 2026, organised by the IQAC, MDS University, Ajmer

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati University (MDSU), Ajmer, successfully organized a One-Day National Symposium on “NEP 2020 and Digital Interventions” on September 26, 2026. The symposium brought together academicians, administrators, faculty members, guest faculty, and research scholars to deliberate on the transformative role of digital technologies in higher education and the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The programme was graced by Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Chairman, NAAC Executive Committee, Bengaluru, as the Chief Guest and keynote speaker. During the symposium, Prof. Rao delivered two insightful sessions on –

1. Guidelines to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for NAAC Accreditation and NIRF Ranking.
2. NEP 2020 and Digital Interventions.

In his presentations, he provided valuable guidance on quality assurance mechanisms, accreditation processes, institutional performance indicators, and strategies for enhancing the academic standing of universities through NAAC and NIRF frameworks.

In his keynote address, Prof. Rao emphasized that digital interventions have become indispensable for ensuring quality, accessibility, equity, and inclusivity in higher education. He highlighted the significance of national digital learning initiatives such as SWAYAM, Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), Digi Locker, and other technology-enabled platforms that provide students with flexible, affordable, and learner-centric educational opportunities. Referring to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, he stressed that Universities must align their academic, research, and innovation activities with national developmental priorities. He further remarked that while infrastructure and resources are important, the true measure of a University lies in its academic output, research contributions, innovation ecosystem, societal impact, and the success of its students.

Speaking on NEP 2020, Prof. Rao highlighted that the policy represents a transformative roadmap for India's higher education system. He explained that NEP 2020 promotes multidisciplinary education, flexibility in learning pathways, holistic student development, research and innovation, and greater integration between teaching and skill development. The policy aims to improve the quality, accessibility, affordability, and accountability of education while preparing students to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving global society. He noted that the successful implementation of NEP 2020 requires active participation from institutions, faculty members, and students alike.

The symposium was presided over by Prof. Suresh Kumar Agrawal, Vice-Chancellor, Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati University. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Agrawal highlighted the transformative potential of NEP 2020 in reshaping India's higher education landscape. He stated that digital technologies have opened new avenues for teaching, learning, research, and governance, enabling institutions to become more efficient, transparent, and

student-centric. He encouraged faculty members and scholars to embrace emerging digital tools, artificial intelligence, online learning platforms, and interdisciplinary approaches to strengthen academic excellence and contribute meaningfully to nation-building.

Elaborating on the theme of digital interventions, speakers discussed how technology is revolutionizing higher education through virtual classrooms, learning management systems, digital libraries, online assessments, data-driven decision-making, and blended learning models. These interventions not only expand access to quality education but also enhance student engagement, promote personalized learning experiences, and facilitate collaboration across disciplines and institutions. The discussions underscored the importance of integrating digital innovations with pedagogical practices to build a resilient and future-ready education system.

Welcoming the participants, Prof. Ritu Mathur, Director, IQAC, underscored the importance of quality enhancement initiatives and the integration of digital innovations in higher education institutions. She emphasized the role of IQAC in promoting academic excellence, institutional accountability, and a culture of continuous improvement in alignment with the objectives of NEP 2020.

Among the distinguished participants present on the occasion were Ms. Neha Sharma, Finance Officer, MDS University; Prof. Subroto Dutta; Prof. Arvind Pareek; Prof. Monika Bhatnagar; Dr. Ashish Pareek; Dr. Deepika Upadhyay; Prof. Bharti Jain; Dr. Jayanti; Dr. Lara Sharma; and Dr. Ashvini. A large number of faculty members, guest faculty, and research scholars from various departments of the university also attended the symposium.

The symposium provided a vibrant platform for meaningful discussions on the integration of digital technologies in higher education, implementation strategies for NEP 2020, quality assurance practices, accreditation and ranking frameworks, online learning ecosystems, and the future roadmap for Indian universities in the digital era. The event concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, where participants engaged with the keynote speaker on issues related to accreditation, digital transformation, and educational reforms.

The programme ended with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Neha Sharma, Comptroller and Finance Officer, MDS University, who expressed gratitude to the chief guest, dignitaries, faculty members, scholars, and participants for their valuable contributions. The symposium was efficiently compered by Dr. Sakshi Pathak. The event reaffirmed the university's commitment to academic excellence, innovation, quality assurance, and the effective implementation of NEP 2020 through technology-enabled educational practices.
