



National Conference on **“The Future of Higher Education in India- Online Programs”**
organized by NSOU on 15th Feb 2019

Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU) being the sole State Open University of West Bengal runs nearly 30-U.G. and P.G. Degree Courses through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode wherein nowadays the Information Communication Technology (ICT) is increasingly playing a very significant role. The internet facility emerges as the good source of getting information and solution to problems in an academic environment. The UGC (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations 2018 has been published for offering online degree courses by the eligible HEIs in India.

As we know, the UGC has notified the regulations for Online Programs for Universities in India. This is indeed a landmark development and shall be a historic milestone for Higher Education in India. This one regulation alone, if implemented well, has the potential to pull up the GER from the current levels to the desired level of 30%. However, it is yet to be seen as to how Universities respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by the new regulations. The sole objective of the forum is to participate in building future universities in India that would offer a world-class education. This encompasses the creation of appropriate structure, strategies, processes and technology.

In this backdrop, the School of Professional Studies, Netaji Subhas Open University organized one-day National conference on “The Future of Higher Education in India: Online Programs” on 15th February 2019. The objectives of the National Conference was to create a platform for various universities and Govt. officials of Higher Education Department to exchange ideas about the Opportunity, Challenges and the impact of Online degree programs on higher education in our country.

The program was inaugurated by Dr. R S Shukla, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of WB. The distinguished speakers included Dr B K Badri (Asst. Educational Advisor, Distance Learning, MHRD, GoI), Professor K. Seetharama Rao, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Open University, Professor Dhruvajyoti Chattopadhyay, Vice Chancellor Amity university, Kolkata, Professor Subha Shankar Sarkar, Vice Chancellor, NSOU etc.

There were 30 participants in the program.



The panel members on different discussions included Prof. Bhabaranjan Sarmah, Controller of Exams, KKHSOU, Assam, Ashwini Singh of Microsoft, Ajay Shah, VP, Teamlease, Vikrant Pande, President, Northern arc Foundation, Prof. Sanjit Kr. Setua, University of Calcutta, Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, SoPS & SoVS, NSOU etc.

