

Report: Two-Day Professional Development Training Program on Best Practices and Green Initiatives

1. Introduction

The Education Department, Government of Gujarat, through the State Quality Assurance Cell (SQAC), organized a **2-Day Professional Development Training Program on Best Practices and Green Initiatives** for IQAC Directors, IQAC Co-Directors, and NAAC Coordinators from universities across Gujarat. The program was conducted under the coordination of **Prof. P. N. Gajjar, IQAC Director, Gujarat University**, at **“Prajya Puram” Campus, Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat (KCG), Ahmedabad, on 16th and 17th January 2026.**

The training program served as an important platform to deliberate upon institutional best practices, automation, quality culture beyond compliance, research and innovation, IT integration, inclusive education, green governance, and implementation of NEP 2020. The deliberations were highly relevant in the context of the upcoming NAAC accreditation cycles and strengthening internal quality assurance mechanisms.

Dr. Sejal Puvar and Dr. Mihir Trivedi were nominated by the IQAC, GSFC University to attend the Two-Day Training program on best practices and Green Initiatives.

2. Objectives of the Program

The major objectives of the training program were:

1. To apply **best practices and green initiatives** for strengthening IQAC-related activities in the next quality assurance cycle.
2. To discuss **green initiatives and best practices** based on the study of SSRs, NIRF reports, and NAAC manuals of state and private universities.
3. To **build a professional network** among IQAC functionaries across universities in Gujarat for sharing experiences and collaborative learning.

3. Day-wise and Session-wise Details

Day 1: Friday, 16 January 2026

Session 1: Automation of Academic and Administrative Management of the University

Time: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Speaker: Prof. Apurva A. Desai, HoD (Computer Science) & IQAC Director, VNSGU

Prof. Desai emphasized the importance of automation in ensuring transparency, efficiency, accuracy, and paperless administration in universities. The session highlighted the transformation of academic and administrative services through stakeholder-centric digital systems.

Key initiatives implemented at VNSGU included the creation of a campus-wide fiber optic network, development of a comprehensive ERP system covering academic and administrative modules, and the introduction of click-level audit trail mechanisms.

Outcomes discussed:

- Ease of doing and improved convenience
- Contactless and error-free systems
- Elimination of third-party involvement
- Automated approvals and streamlined processes

The speaker suggested selecting specific NAAC criteria (such as Criteria II, IV, V, VI, and VIII) to showcase best practices that ensure stakeholder benefit, social impact, and standard improvement, particularly in areas like admissions, examinations, assessment, and HRMS.

Session 2: Building a Culture of Quality Together Beyond Compliance

Time: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Speaker: Ms. Priya Mahadevappa, Senior Manager (IQAC), Mahindra University

This session focused on embedding quality as an institutional culture rather than treating it as a compliance-driven activity. The speaker discussed best practices centered around students, faculty, and staff.

Student-centric practices:

- Structured mentoring and experiential learning
- Early exposure to research and innovation
- Transparent feedback mechanisms with action taken
- Student participation in governance
- Career guidance, finishing school initiatives, and earn-while-you-learn models

Faculty-centric practices:

- Autonomy with accountability
- Structured mentoring and FDPs
- Peer learning and research enablement
- Transparent appraisal systems
- Work-life balance, wellbeing, and recognition

Staff-centric practices:

- Role clarity and process ownership
- Skill development and inclusive work culture
- Effective communication and participation in quality processes
- Staff development funds and improved work environment

Session 3: Building a Quality Ecosystem – Strategic Suggestions for IQAC

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Speaker: Ms. Priya Mahadevappa, Senior Manager (IQAC), Mahindra University

The speaker provided actionable suggestions for strengthening IQAC operations and creating a sustainable quality ecosystem.

Key recommendations included:

- Establishment of a **Data Control Center** for IQAC (One University – One Data)
- Formation of a dedicated IQAC team of 5–6 members
- Inclusion of student interns in IQAC activities on a policy basis
- Single-time data collection, cleaning, verification, and sealing
- Monthly sub-committee presentations before IQAC
- Engagement with university stakeholders beyond routine IQAC agendas
- Enhancing visibility through social media for greater impact
- Studying SSRs of reputed universities such as SRM and Sharda University

Essential requirements for an effective IQAC included visible leadership support, clear authority, a technically sound team, a full-time IQAC Director/Coordinator, and exposure visits to best-performing universities.

Session 4: Green Initiatives

Time: 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Speaker: Mr. Mukesh Patel, Professor, M. N. Patel College, Visnagar

This session showcased various green initiatives adopted at the institutional level. The speaker emphasized sustainable practices and environmental consciousness.

Major initiatives included:

- Water recharge and rainwater harvesting systems
- Solar energy utilization
- Plastic-free campus initiatives
- Promotion of cycling and eco-friendly transportation
- Use of eco-friendly products
- Kitchen garden movement and natural farming
- Campus cleanliness drives
- Botanical garden and biodiversity park development
- Reforestation and rewilding initiatives

Day 2: Saturday, 17 January 2026

Session 1: Best Practices in Research and Innovation

Time: 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Speaker: Prof. Mukesh Kumar Mehlawat, University of Delhi

The session emphasized strengthening research culture by focusing on innovation, funding, global standing, and societal relevance. The role of IQAC in policy-driven research development was highlighted.

Key initiatives discussed:

- Strengthening research infrastructure at all levels
- Promotion of research ethics and integrity
- Seed money and research funding support
- Research awards for students and staff
- Modernization of research laboratories
- Support for collaborative research through travel grants

Session 2: Role of IQAC in Safeguarding Research Integrity

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Speaker: Prof. Mukesh Kumar Mehlawat, University of Delhi

This session focused on ensuring ethical research practices and academic integrity. The speaker stressed the importance of continuous capacity building.

Key measures included:

- Workshops on research methodology
- Training on ethics and IPR
- Formation of ethics committees
- Awareness regarding journal selection
- Identification and avoidance of cloned and predatory journals

Session 3: Best Practices in IT Integration, Inclusive Education and Green Governance

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Speaker: Prof. Nilesh Modi, Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University

The speaker presented best practices adopted by BAOU in IT integration, inclusive education, and green governance.

IT Integration:

- AWS-based infrastructure
- Online admission and examination systems
- ERP modules covering admission to convocation
- Online assignment submission and student support portals
- Media production studios for e-content development

Inclusive Education:

- Multilingual examination options

- Exam-on-demand and flexible assessment
- Web TV, Web Radio, and e-resources
- Free education initiatives for army martyrs' families and transgender learners

Green Governance:

- Water treatment plant
- Plastic-free campus
- Rainwater harvesting
- Paperless governance

Session 4: Focus on Implementation of NEP 2020

Time: 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Speaker: Prof. Nilesh Modi, Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University

This session highlighted NEP 2020 implementation through innovative academic programs and value-based education.

Key initiatives included:

- Degree programs under Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)
- Diploma programs in Sanskrit, Yoga Science, Food & Nutrition
- Establishment of Bal Sanskar Kendra
- Centre for Holistic Development of Women (GARGI) for education and employment

4. Key Learnings and Outcomes

- Importance of automation and digital governance for transparency and efficiency
- Shift from compliance-driven to culture-driven quality practices
- Centralized and validated data management for IQAC
- Strengthening research culture with integrity and innovation
- Adoption of sustainable and green campus initiatives
- Inclusive education through technology and flexible learning models
- Alignment of institutional practices with NEP 2020

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The 2-Day Professional Development Training Program was highly informative and practical. It provided valuable insights into best practices, green initiatives, research integrity, and quality assurance mechanisms. The learnings from the program can be effectively implemented to strengthen IQAC operations, enhance institutional quality culture, and prepare for future accreditation cycles.

It is recommended that the institution:

- Adopt centralized data governance for IQAC
- Strengthen automation and paperless systems
- Strengthen policies and criterias to promote research ethics and innovation
- Implement green initiatives systematically
- Align academic and administrative practices with NEP 2020

The program significantly contributed towards capacity building of IQAC functionaries and fostering a collaborative quality ecosystem across universities in Gujarat.

Images:

