

20 November 2025

VFSTR Represents at National Conclave on Quality Assurance in Online Education

Prof. N. Veeranjanyulu participates in NAAC's high-level academic dialogue on strengthening ODL and Online Learning frameworks



Professor N. Veeranjanyulu, Director, Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), represented VFSTR at the prestigious Vice-Chancellors' Conclave on Quality Assurance in Online Education, held at NAAC, Bengaluru, on 15th November 2025. The event convened academic leaders, policymakers, and experts to deliberate on emerging trends, global standards, and future directions for Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Online Education in India.

The conclave opened with an insightful inaugural address by Prof. Ganeshan Kannabhiran, Director, NAAC, who welcomed the participants and emphasized the urgent need for robust quality assurance frameworks amid the rapid expansion of online learning. He presented national-level enrollment trends over the past four years, highlighting the significant rise in learner participation in ODL and online programmes. Prof. Kannabhiran also shed light on NAAC's evolving collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), aimed at strengthening quality benchmarks across Indian higher education institutions.

One of the key highlights of the event was the announcement of the upcoming COL-NAAC collaborative initiative, titled:

“Transforming Indian Higher Education through Online Learning: Capacity Building in Improving Quality Assurance Systems.”

This transformative project seeks to enhance institutional capabilities and align Indian online education practices with global quality assurance standards.

The conclave featured thought-provoking sessions by eminent

experts, including :

Shri. Mrutyunjay Behra, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Education

- Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU
- Prof. Peter Scott, President & CEO, Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Canada
- Prof. Vignesh Muthuvijayan, Coordinator, NPTEL & SWAYAM, IIT Madras
- Mr. Vithal Madyalkar, Programme Director, IBM Innovation Centre for Education

The speakers addressed contemporary challenges in the digital learning landscape, focusing on learner engagement, technological integration, digital infrastructure, emerging learning technologies, and scalable models for sustaining quality in online education.

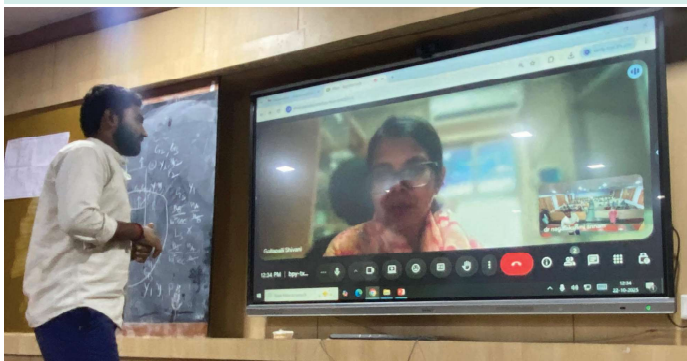


In the afternoon session, the Director of NAAC facilitated an interactive dialogue with all participants, inviting them to share insights, recommendations, and institution-specific concerns. This collaborative discussion helped identify actionable strategies for strengthening India's quality assurance mechanisms and fostering learner-centric, technology-driven education systems.

The conclave served as a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, academic collaboration, and strategic planning. Professor N. Veeranjanyulu represented VFSTR with distinction, actively contributing to the discussions and sharing VFSTR's perspectives on quality assurance in online education. His participation underscores CDOE's commitment to adopting best practices, aligning with national educational priorities, and continuously enhancing the online learning ecosystem at VFSTR.

AI Tools Hold Promise for Breakthroughs in Cancer Immunotherapy

CSIR-IICT scientist Dr. Rajitha Rajeshwar Tatikonda delivers expert lecture at Vignan's Biotechnology Department



The Department of Biotechnology organised a guest lecture on “Artificial Intelligence in Cancer Immunotherapy”. The session featured Dr. Rajitha Rajeshwar Tatikonda, DST-Inspire Faculty, Applied Biology Division, CSIR–Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad.

The programme began with a warm welcome address by Dr. A. N. Lakshmi, Assistant Professor, followed by an introduction of the speaker by Ms. P. Veena Madhuri. She highlighted Dr. Tatikonda's academic journey and her significant research contributions in

computational biology, vaccine design, and AI-driven drug discovery.

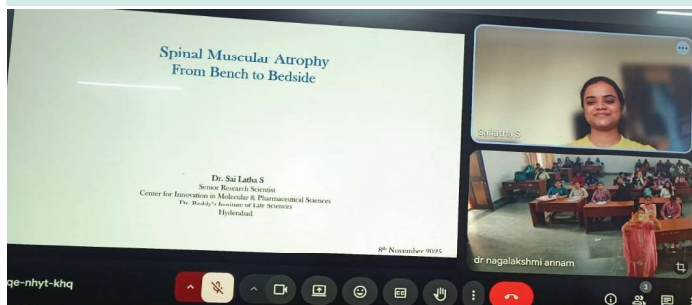
He emphasized that, the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) in modern cancer immunotherapy. She explained how AI-based platforms aid in identifying tumour antigens, predicting immunogenic epitopes, and developing personalised cancer vaccines. She also spoke about emerging advancements in data-driven modelling and precision oncology, illustrating how these approaches can enhance the specificity and effectiveness of immunotherapeutic interventions.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A segment, during which students and faculty members engaged enthusiastically, seeking clarity on current challenges and future directions in computational immunology.

The lecture received an overwhelming response from faculty, research scholars, and final-year Biotechnology students. The event was coordinated by Dr. A. N. Lakshmi, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology.

Guest Lecture on Spinal Muscular Atrophy : From Bench to Bedside

Organized by the Department of Biotechnology on 08 November 2025



The Department of Biotechnology organized a guest lecture on “Spinal Muscular Atrophy: From Bench to Bedside, Understanding Disease Mechanisms for Better Therapeutic Outcomes.”

The session began with a warm welcome address by Dr. A. N. Lakshmi, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, followed by an introduction of the resource person by Ms. M. Praneetha Chowdary (III BT A), who highlighted the speaker's academic achievements and significant contributions to gene therapy research.

The distinguished speaker, Dr. S. Sai Latha, Senior Research Scientist, Center for Innovation in Molecular and Pharmaceutical Sciences (CIMPS), Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences, Hyderabad, delivered an insightful presentation on Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) a genetic neuromuscular disorder characterized by the degeneration of motor neurons leading to progressive muscle weakness.

Dr. Sai Latha explained the molecular and genetic basis of SMA, emphasizing the crucial roles of the SMN1 and SMN2 genes and how variations in their expression influence disease onset and severity. She clearly compared healthy and diseased physiological conditions, demonstrating how reduced SMN protein levels impact cellular and neuronal function.

She also discussed protein-level mechanisms, gene expression patterns, and the use of in vitro, ex vivo, and in vivo models in SMA research. Further, she highlighted recent advancements in therapeutic strategies, including gene therapy approaches, mRNA-based treatments, and other emerging interventions aimed at restoring SMN protein levels and improving clinical outcomes.

The lecture effectively showcased how molecular research is being translated into clinical practice, bridging the gap from bench to bedside. Students gained valuable insights into the scientific and therapeutic landscape of genetic disorders.

An interactive Q&A session followed, with active participation from students, research scholars, and faculty members. The event was a great success, generating intellectual curiosity and inspiring students to further explore molecular approaches to understanding genetic diseases.

This guest lecture was organized and coordinated by Dr. A. N. Lakshmi, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology.

“Saying someone is ugly doesn't make you any prettier.”