

## **Distinguished Guest**

**Dr. V.S. Prasad**

**Former Director - NAAC**



Prof. Prasad is a well-known educationist and an institution builder.

Prof. Prasad, born on 6th February, 1943 in a small village in a rural family in Andhra Pradesh, India, obtained his Post-Graduate Degree (M.A.) and Doctoral Degree (Ph.D) from Osmania University. He is a Social Scientist by training. Starting his academic career as a Lecturer in Public Administration in 1966, he has taught for more than 35 years in various Indian Universities, both in formal and distance education systems and has to his credit more than 40 publications in Public Administration including books and research articles. Dr. Prasad was a recipient of Best Teacher Award (1991) from Government of Andhra Pradesh, India.

Dr. Prasad is closely associated with open and distance education in India since 1982. He actively participated in the development of first Open University in India i.e., Dr. B.R. Ambethkar Open University (formerly known as APOU) and held many important academic and administrative positions in that university, including Professor of Public Administration; Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences; Director, Academic; Director, Staff Development and Rector, a position equivalent to that of Pro-Vice-Chancellor. He was the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. B.R. Ambethkar Open University (BRAOU), Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India from 26th October 2001 to 7th August 2003 before assuming the charge as Director, NAAC.

Dr. Prasad, as Acting Vice-Chancellor, headed nation's premier educational institution, i.e. Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for a period of nine months in 2000-2001. As Pro-Vice-Chancellor (1999-2000), Director, Distance Education Council (DEC) (1995-97) and also as Director, Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education

(STRIDE) (1996-97) at IGNOU, he has initiated and actualized a number of programmes for promotion, co-ordination and quality assurance in distance education in India. The Human Resource Development and Quality Assurance Systems are his main areas of interest in distance education. He has several publications to his credit in distance education, which includes research articles, manuals and chapters in books.

Dr. Prasad participated as resource person in many international and national Seminars/Workshops. He is closely associated with the activities of the Commonwealth of Learning as a resource person. The Commonwealth of Learning conferred the award Honorary Fellow of the Commonwealth of Learning (2004) for his contribution to the progress of Open and Distance Education. Prof. Prasad as Vice-President of Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and as member, Board of Directors of International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) is actively engaged in the activities of international networks of quality assurance agencies. He has travelled widely to several countries including Thailand, UK, Canada, USA, China, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, France and South Africa to participate in academic activities relating to Distance Learning.