PUBLIC NOTICE

The Government of India, in the Budget Speech 2017, proposed to leverage Information Technology and launch the SWAYAM platform with at least 350 online courses. The SWAYAM platform is an indigenous platform of the GOI which hosts MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) courses to enable students to virtually attend the courses taught by the best faculty; access high quality reading resources; participate in discussion forums; take tests and earn academic grades. It is aimed at benefitting lifelong learners, students, teachers, researchers to use multimedia on anytime, anywhere basis for acquiring knowledge and skills.

UGC is already in the process of developing high quality, curriculum based e-content at PG level under the ePG Pathshala programme of NMEICT. About 13,000 modules are already uploaded on the ePG Pathshala website (www.epgp.inflibnet.ac.in). This e-content is now being repurposed into MOOCS to be delivered as online courses on the SWAYAM platform by various universities with the provision of credit mobility across educational institutions. UGC has also issued UGC (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through SWAYAM) Regulations 2016, to allow credit transfer up to 20% on the basis of MOOCS on SWAYAM.

In addition to the above, it is proposed to prepare fresh **MOOCS in the areas which are widely in demand but for which enough resources in terms of quality faculty are not available in all the universities. These could be the courses in niche areas or the courses which the students are wanting to pursue as electives in their universities but are not able to take due to lack of academic resources in their parent institutions**. UGC proposes to identify such courses and invite "Expression of interest" from higher education institutions and academicians to develop MOOCs for these courses and ensure production of high quality MOOCS in these identified areas comparable to international standards.

UGC invites views/suggestions from all stakeholders including Institutions, academia, students, industry and public at large regarding the PG courses for which MOOCs should be developed on priority. You are requested to kindly send the list of PG courses in the online proforma available at: http://www.ugc.ac.in/moocs/stakeholders.aspx latest by 31st July, 2017.

In addition, the universities are requested to give the list of elective papers offered in their institutions in various PG programs in the online proforma available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/moocs/university.aspx latest by 31st July, 2017.

(Jaspal S. Sandhu)
Secretary