

## **One-Day Symposium on “Viksit Bharat@2047 and Role of Distance and Online Education”**

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), through its Regional Centre in Bhopal, in collaboration with Kasturba Girls College, organized a one-day symposium on the theme “Viksit Bharat@2047 and Role of Distance and Online Education” on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2025. The event focused on the strategic importance of expanding educational access and skill development through distance and online learning to achieve the national vision of a developed India by 2047. This symposium reflected MANUU’s proactive role in shaping inclusive and skill-oriented educational policies aligned with national development goals.

Prof. Mohd. Razaullah Khan, Director of MANUU’s Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), delivered the keynote address, where he announced the forthcoming launch of India’s first MBA program via distance mode in the Urdu medium. This initiative is part of MANUU’s broader commitment to educational inclusivity and linguistic diversity. He also introduced two major upcoming projects: an online diploma in Social Media Journalism and a pioneering "Madarsa Connect Program," which will deliver a six-month English-speaking course to students from 100 madaras across India.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Shameemuddin (IAS), former Senior Director of Global Skill Park, emphasized the critical role of large-scale skill development in realizing the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision. He stressed the need for targeted and accessible skilling programs that can bridge the employment and capability gaps in India’s youth. Maulana Ali Qadr Hussaini, Deputy Qazi of Bhopal, highlighted the untapped potential of madarsa students, praising their discipline, analytical thinking, and dedication. He advocated for integrating these traditional learners into the mainstream through modern, skill-based educational opportunities.

Dr. Mohammad Ahsan, Regional Director of MANUU–Bhopal, described Distance and Online Education (ODL) as a transformative force capable of addressing India’s educational inequalities. He drew parallels with China’s success in expanding mass education and called upon madaras to make full use of MANUU’s innovative academic offerings. Supporting this view, Prof. Noushad Husain, Principal of the College of Teacher Education–Bhopal, asserted that India’s growing educational needs cannot be met through conventional classroom models alone. He reinforced the importance of alternative learning modes like distance and online education. Mufti Mohammad Ahmad Khan, Mufti-e-Azam of Madhya Pradesh, stressed the importance of harmonizing traditional and modern learning systems. He expressed strong support for Urdu-medium online education, particularly in enabling madarsa students to access contemporary knowledge without compromising their cultural roots.

Prof. Mohammad Halim Khan commended MANUU’s continued efforts in bridging the gap between traditional Islamic education and modern academic disciplines. Meanwhile, Prof. Zargham Haider underscored that skilling India’s vast population—estimated at 350 million—is central to achieving national progress, with ODL being among the most scalable and efficient methods.

The symposium was attended by students, teachers, scholars, and intellectuals from across Bhopal, including representatives from 39 educational institutions. Meritorious students from various colleges, senior secondary schools, and madaras were felicitated with Certificates of Appreciation for their academic achievements. The event was smoothly coordinated by Dr.

Neeti Dutta of the College of Teacher Education, Bhopal. The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Mohammad Sadat Khan, Assistant Regional Director, MANUU Regional Centre, Bhopal.