<u>**RGNUL/PRO/241**</u>
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### Confederation of Indian Private Universities Hosts COE Summit on "Ensuring Academic Integrity: Digital Proctoring and Examination Reforms" at Chitkara University

Panelists call for digital reforms, ethical AI use, and student-friendly exams

*Chandigarh, September 24, 2025:*

The **Confederation of Indian Private Universities (CIPU)**, a non-profit body that advocates for the promotion and interests of higher education and works towards positioning India as the knowledge capital of the world and re-establishing its credentials as a *Vishwa Guru* in the 21st century, successfully hosted the **COE Summit 2025** at Chitkara University, Chandigarh.

The summit, held on the theme *"Ensuring Academic Integrity: Digital Proctoring and Examination Reforms,"* brought together eminent Controllers of Examinations from across the country to deliberate on reforms that would uphold fairness, transparency, inclusivity, and innovation in academic assessment.

The distinguished panel of speakers included **Prof. B.P. Garg**, Registrar (In-charge) and Controller of Examinations, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda; **Dr. Shruti Goyal**, Controller of Examinations, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab; **Dr. Sanjiv Singh**, Controller of Examinations, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohilkhand University, Bareilly; and **Dr. Rajeev Kamal Sharma**, Controller of Examinations, Chitkara University, Punjab.

The discussions opened with the central question: *"In today's higher education ecosystem, what does academic integrity mean to you, and how do you see it shaping examination reforms in the digital era?"*

**Prof. B.P. Garg** emphasized the need for **complete digitalization of examination systems** to achieve greater transparency and accountability. He underlined the role of **DigiLocker** and the **Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)** in streamlining processes, maintaining secure academic records, and improving student accessibility.

**Dr. Shruti Goyal** highlighted the shift from traditional examination systems to **360-degree holistic student development**. She stressed that value-based education must go hand in hand with technology. "*The challenge is not to deny the presence of AI but to teach students to use it ethically,"* she said. Dr. Goyal suggested that AI tools such as ChatGPT and Gemini should be used responsibly — for brainstorming, preparing outlines, structuring projects, and reviewing work — with integrity as the guiding principle.

Reflecting on the challenges of scale, **Dr. Sanjiv Singh** shared strategies from his university, including uploading all marksheets on **DigiLocker**, embedding **QR codes** for authenticity, and exploring **blockchain technology** for secure issuance of credentials. He noted, "*Easy accessibility through the Academic Bank of Credits can make examination reforms inclusive and equitable, particularly for students from rural and resource-limited backgrounds.*"

**Dr. Rajeev Kamal Sharma** addressed the alignment of university examinations with **NEP 2020, UGC guidelines, NAAC, NBA, and NCRF**. He advocated a **gradual, pilot-based approach** to reforms, stating, "*New methods should be introduced in a phased manner before mainstream implementation so that reforms remain flexible and student-friendly.*"

When asked how examination reforms could ease student stress, the panelists provided diverse solutions. Prof. Garg encouraged consistent preparation instead of last-minute cramming. Dr. Goyal explained that RGNUL has restructured its examination model to include **application-based questions with access to Bare Acts**, mirroring competitive judicial exams. Dr. Singh pointed out that **mid-semester examinations and project work** have reduced student pressure significantly.

Concluding the summit, **Dr. Rajeev Kamal Sharma** of Chitkara University extended gratitude to the speakers and participants, remarking: *"At Chitkara University, we believe that academic excellence must go hand in hand with fairness, transparency, and innovation. This summit has reaffirmed our commitment to advancing examination reforms that are both technology-driven and student-centric."*

The summit ended with a shared understanding that **digital transformation, value-based education, and the ethical use of technology must work together to preserve academic integrity in the digital era** — a vision strongly aligned with CIPU's mission to make India a global knowledge leader.

**Public Relation Officer**

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