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Foundation Stone by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India



Founding Vice Chancellor
of IGNOU



Prof. G. Ram Reddy

From plan to work:

- *Admissions: workability of online admissions*
- *Evaluation: shorter duration of exam days*
- *Student support:*
 - I - Student grievance addressed*
 - II- Compacting student data at one place for easy maneuverability*

Transitions

- *Digitization of work culture*
- *Digital management of student data*

The Upheavals

- *Academic counseling via Gyanvani*

Know all

- *News & Events*

Stems and branches

- *Rural India Ingress of IGNOU*
- *Unnat Bharat Abhiyan*
- *Sidelights*
- *MOOC*



FROM PLANNING TO WORK

Admissions: Workability of online admissions

In consonance with the Digital India Initiative of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, IGNOU has made its admission and re-registration process completely online, except for merit-based and entrance test-based programmes. The University has received tremendous response to its online initiative which is evident from the fact that more than 371000 applicants have already registered on the Online Admission System for July 2017 cycle of admission. Similarly, more than 230000 students have submitted their re-registration form online.

The Online Admission System allows the students to submit their application online, upload the relevant documents online and pay the fee through credit/debit card/net banking. They receive confirmation of their application submission instantly through email and SMS.

Evaluation: Shorter duration of exam days

July 2017 TEE Clashes: What Went Behind The Scene?

IGNOU started its Term End Examinations for July 2017 session from 1 June 2017 and concluded in a historic time frame of 18 days. Normally, the examination process gets completed in 29 to 30 days. But, this time, it was the most trending topic on Google! Not because of the short window span but because of examinations getting lined up on the same day, i.e., morning and afternoon shift. There was uproar amongst students upon learning the same. Many of them blamed IGNOU and called it a clash. But, was it really a clash?

IGNOU TEE date clashes? Yes, there were and No, there were not

Conducting examinations for 232 programs with almost 1700 plus courses pan India, coordinating with 56 RCs for about 1200 exam centres is not a small feat. The total number of examinees for June term end exam were approximately 6,28,000 with 26 lakh sittings (i.e. total number of examinees multiplied by the total number of courses for which they were supposed to write the exam).

IGNOU was able to manage this, albeit some glitches in terms of overlaps for certain courses where students had opted for simultaneous diploma and certificate programs, is no mean feat. The overlaps accounted for less than 0.5% percent.

The challenge:

The last June cycle of IGNOU examinations had a challenge to complete the exams in 18 days of time with two shifts a day excluding Sundays. The exam cycle had to be pruned owing to Kendriya Vidyalaya's inability to provide more days for conducting exams at their schools. KVs were engaged by IGNOU to add more centers for conducting examinations and also with a view to increase sanctity in the term end exams. And the number of students across programs, across the length & breadth of the country was at a staggering figure of 6,28,000. So, to give an idea of the task at hand for IGNOU with lesser days to accomplish can be gauged by the total number of sittings (26 lakhs) required to compress it in 18 days.

The permutation and combination while preparing the date-sheet, keeping in mind students who would appear for courses of current and previous sessions was daunting. But IGNOU took up the challenge and reduced the overlaps to manageable 1100 clashes after running several iterations of the date-sheet and then finalizing the best possible scenario and minimizing them for students at the same time.

Issues that cropped up:

From what was a normal procedure of conducting the examination in 24 days was compressed to a window of 18 days. There were a lot of factors which were inter-dependent and could not be changed.

1. There should be no clash of courses within the programme and no two different programmes for which a candidate has opted for should be conducted on the same day. (As per the UGC norms, a student is allowed to do a diploma or a certificate course with a degree programme.)
2. Keeping in view of the seating capacity per exam centre, the strength of the students had to be identified. There were about 20-50 students per day/centre some day while the number swelled up to 1000 plus the other day.
3. Limited availability of time added to the urgency to resolve the issue. The team working on it had 7-8 working days. Normally, by 21st May every year, the date sheet is on the website.

Normally, the procedure is completed in three phases:

Phase 1: Work on the availability and establishment of exam centers is done by the RCs

Phase 2: Students are given a time frame to submit the exam forms and choose the exam centre of their choice.

Phase 3: Question paper packets are dispatched by the Student Evaluation Division (SED) to the exam centres and emergency bags of QPs are also sent to RCs to meet any exigency at the last moment.

This time, the third phase had also to be managed by the SED, after compression of the date sheet, which left them with little time to manage the huge task. While managing the collision of the dates of the exams, the core team also had to work in coordination with the SED for testing, retesting and running the combinations to minimize clashes.

How did we overcome?

The core team, with their expertise at various divisions of the University and also at the field level at Regional Centres and study centres know how the university works at different levels.

“Keeping 18 days intact, we used the date sheet of December 2016 for reference whose total number of exam days was 24. The idea was to compress it to 17 days for June 2017 TEE. The exams with dates 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 27th, 28th and 29th June was shifted on 1st, 2nd, 5th, 9th, 10th, 13th and 16th June 2017,” told the core team.



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IGNOU DIGI NEWS

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FROM PLANNING
TO WORK

Sundays had to be barred because a lot of competitive exams are scheduled on this day. Keeping all these parameters in mind, the University had to make minimum changes for courses that were fixed and to avoid any last moment chaos. The university conducted its examination on 22nd and 23rd July to accommodate candidates who missed it.

What is being done for December 2017 examination?

This time, the window to conduct the examination is even smaller time period Committee has been constituted to work on the matter well in advance now. A draft date sheet is in process for approval. Keeping the June 2017 examinations as a base now, and focusing on zero clashes, the RCs are asked to identify the exam centres by July end. Normally, this stage is achieved by September every year. Advance payments through online is being processed for hiring exam centres to expedite the process.



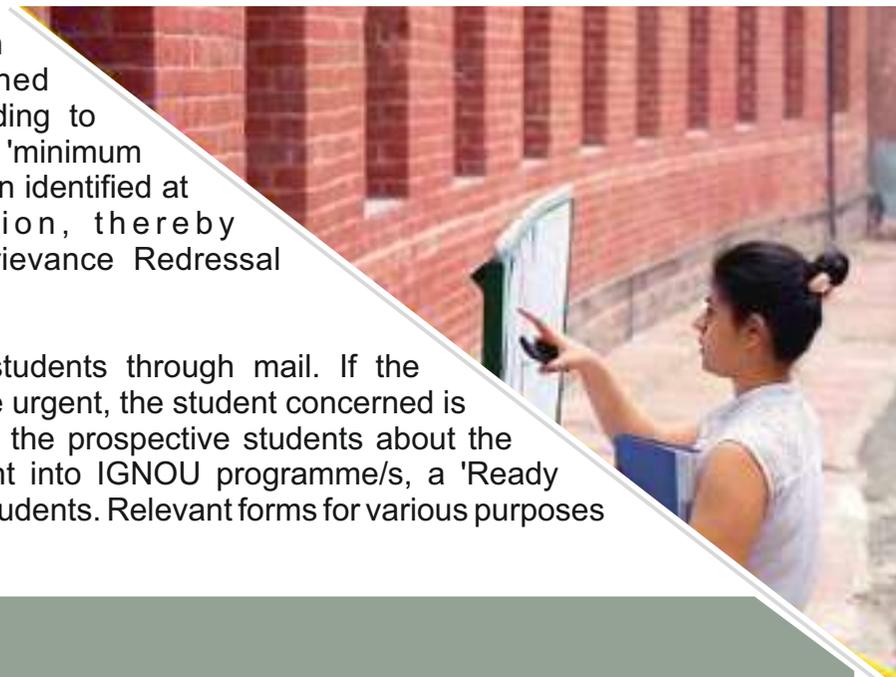
Student Support: Student Grievance Addressal

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has an effective Grievance Redressal Mechanism with a dedicated centre namely the Student Service Centre (SSC), established in the year 1999 at the University headquarters. SSC has the mandate to provide the right information at the right time, redress student grievances at every stage, provide counselling from time to time and bridge the gap between the organization and the student. SSC constantly tries to address the causes and consequences of student grievances and works with the motto of maintaining 'zero grievance' and advancing a culture of safety, transparency and justice; thereby trying to improve student experience and satisfaction.

The various modes through which the University receives student grievances include face to face, email, letters, fax, telephone calls, Portals (UGC on line Portal, PG Portal and RTI MIS Portal, iGRAM, INGRAM). SSC also handles the National and Delhi Scholarship Portals and related queries/grievances from students.

Proactive and regular follow ups are made with Schools/Regional Centres/Divisions concerned through emails and telephone calls for attending to student queries/grievances in order to ensure 'minimum average disposal time'. Nodal persons have been identified at each Regional Centre/School/Division, thereby establishing/strengthening linkages in the Grievance Redressal Network of the University

Regular updates are sent to the aggrieved students through mail. If the query/grievance lacks clarity and it appears to be urgent, the student concerned is approached on phone. To familiarize and guide the prospective students about the procedures involved before and after enrolment into IGNOU programme/s, a 'Ready Reckoner' has been prepared and distributed to students. Relevant forms for various purposes are kept handy for the students online and offline.



Cloud Based Integrated Student Services Management System (SSMS)

As components of the overall teaching-learning arrangement, IGNOU offers various services to its learners covering the entire learning lifecycle, beginning from admission to certification and placement.

To provide better services throughout the learning life-cycle of students, the University is planning to make the whole process encompassing all the key functions web-based. Towards this end, IGNOU has started the planning process for developing a vertically and horizontally integrated online platform which would support all the processes associated with the learning life cycle. This will considerably improve the support services extended to the learners at different levels and will also make the entire system transparent and efficient.

An important advantage of this initiative will be the analytics generated by SSMS which will help the University in taking informed decisions based on analytical reports.

Broad features of the proposed SSMS are:

- Web-based application hosted in the cloud network accessible through various devices including computer, smart phones using Apps. Secure web-based access (e.g., https instead of http) as well as digital signatures in secured processes like updating of marks, student records, etc.
- Access with Login authentication or through other methods like bio-metric.
- Provision for role based/data item based access rights
- Provision for integration with online payment mechanisms
- Provision for continuous improvement and up-gradation and linking/inter-operability with other solutions.
- Configurability through web-interface and client interface.
- Provision for decision support mechanism
- Workflow based process approval and archival mechanism
- Digital signatures/alternative authentication mechanisms
- Provision for comprehensive data and application security features for preventing tampering of the software as well as data.
- Information and data archival.
- Provision to define and view rules and regulations of IGNOU as applicable on date
- Provision of interactive validations of data entry
- Provision for reports generation as per requirements
- Generation of Analytics



T RANSITIONS AND RANSFORMATIONS

Digitization of work culture

IGNOU is making rapid strides in digitizing the teaching-learning arrangements and associated processes, thus, redefining 'open and distance learning' as 'open and digital learning'.

The University has made its admission and re-registration process fully online. The learners get instant confirmation of their admission through SMS and email. The facility of online payment through debit/credit card and net banking has been made in the online admission system, which helps the learners in making payment without the hassle of getting a bank draft. In addition, POS machines have been installed at Regional Centres for receiving payment. The response to these initiatives has been very encouraging.

The process of examination registration has also been made fully online. Now students are not required to visit their Regional Centre to register for examinations. For the June 2017 term-end examination, more than six lakh students registered for examination online.

The University has created a vast repository of learning resources in the form of digital content, recorded video and audio lectures. The University is planning to provide these learning resources to its learners on a DVD. This will be in addition to the printed self-instructional material to be provided to them.

As an added dimension of academic support, the learners are provided teaching input through Gyandarshan and Gyanvani. This is in addition to the face-to-face academic counseling organized at the local study centres.

THE UPHEAVALS

Academic counseling via Gyanvani

IGNOU's Electronic Media Production Center (EMPC) has been running Gyan Vani educational FM stations across the country since 2001. After a brief interruption in transmission, Gyan Vani Delhi FM 105.6 MHz resumed its operation from 11th January 2017. Currently, the transmission of the FM station is from at 8 am to 8 pm with a bouquet of programmes ranging from Interactive radio counseling to weekly education news to programmes related to culture and tradition, and other programmes contributed by various educational Institutions, ministries and government organizations.



Educational FM Radio of India



Home About IGNOU Register Online Student Support Regional Network

gyandhara

SOEDS MONDAYS
SOJNMS WEDNESDAYS
SOTHSM FRIDAYS

Gyan Dhara is an internet based interactive audio counseling / web radio service being offered by IGNOU for the students of SOEDS, SOTHSM and SOJNMS. Students can listen to the discussions by the teachers and experts in the field on the topic of the day and interact with them through telephone (011-29533103 and 011-29533581). Toll Free: 1800 112347 and through Email gyandhara@ignou.ac.in

This service will be available through IGNOU website www.ignou.ac.in from 3.10.2016.

The Interactive Radio Counselling sessions on Gyanvani are a way of bridging the gap between the teachers and the learners. As the word 'interactive' suggests, it is a two way communication wherein the learner can listen to the session and participate by asking questions or clarifying their doubts regarding the subject under discussion in real time. This is done through telephone medium or chat mode through internet. And if due to some reason, the learner is unable to listen to the sessions during their first broadcast, they can listen to the repeat broadcast of the sessions later in the day. These sessions can also be heard online through 'Gyandhara' on www.ignouonline.ac.in/gyandhara. The details of the sessions for every month is being uploaded onto IGNOU Website's Education Broadcast as well as on Gyandhara.

Besides IGNOU learners, Gyan Vani FM channels also find wide listenership among other general public as evident from the feedback received by the stations.



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30th convocation

IGNOU Goes From Free Distance To Free Digital Education



IGNOU hosted its 30th convocation at the EMPC grounds in its headquarter in April 2017 at Delhi headquarters and simultaneously at 56 regional centres in India through video-conferencing to confer degrees/diplomas/certificates to 2,38,000 students.

Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Minister of State for Higher Education, HRD, presented the gold medals to the students along with cash awards.

Students from more than 200 courses were presented with 120 PhDs, 10 MPhils and 66 gold medals during the convocation.

Dr. Pandey, in his convocation address, said that, "IGNOU has now reached the free and digital education horizon, expanding the perimeter of the free and distance education system. The MHRD has given the channels of 'Swayam' and 'Swayamprabha' to IGNOU so that it can bring a digital revolution in higher education."

"The university is already working on Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). Our expectation from the university shall be to extend its students horizon towards digital education through new technology, communication mediums, electronic mediums and devices," he added.

The university has introduced 11 MOOCs out of which two, Certificate course in Russian and Certificate course in e-learning, are already functional.



Certificate Programme in Russian Language Launched

The School of Foreign Languages of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) launched a Certificate programme in Russian Language in January 2017 which aims to provide the basics of Russian Language for beginners enabling them to read, write and speak Russian language in an accurate manner.

Talk on Gender Inclusivity in STEM Education

School of Gender & Development Studies (SOGDS), IGNOU organised a talk on "ODL and Women's Careers in IT & STEM" by Dr. Clem Herman, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computing and Communications at the UK Open University in March 2017. This talk kicked off of the celebration of International Women's Week by SOGDS.

Training by STRIDE

A three day training workshop was held at the university headquarters in March 2017 to familiarize newly promoted JATs with general finance and administration related matters.

Dr. Ali Asgar, workshop coordinator, Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education (STRIDE), brought forward the need to conduct such kind of training workshops considering the change in their designations, role and responsibilities.

Women's Day Celebration

Voices from the Grassroots : School of Gender & Development Studies (SOGDS), IGNOU commemorated International Women's Day in March 2017. It organized an event inviting the transgender and grass root activists working for gender inclusivity and equity. They shared their experiences working for the cause especially for women and transgender community in India.

Seminar on Skill Development through ODeL

A three day International Seminar on Skill Development through ODeL: Innovations, Entrepreneurship, Employment for Inclusive and Sustainable Livelihoods was organised by STRIDE (Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education), IGNOU in March 2017.

The seminar was inaugurated by Sh. Sudhir Yadav, Director General, Tihar Jail, along with guest of honor Prof. Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain, Pro Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University and Shri Uday Upendra, Founder and CEO, The HR Company. Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU presided over the inaugural session.



Seminar on Interpreting Culture: Subjectivity, Ideology and Identity

Conveying the need to do research work on multiplicity of newer forms of histories, icons, literature, artwork, architecture etc. that have created their own space today, the VC of IGNOU, Prof. Ravindra Kumar emphasized on the “need to see culture from a new perspective.” He asked the social scientists to take cognizance of the post-colonial perspective as well while taking a deep look into the Indian culture or its identity.

He said that we tend to look at our culture from the prism of western social scientists that see it from their perspective taking their own cultural values as a unit or comparative standard to evaluate ours. “This can lead to distortion in understanding Indian culture,” he averred. He also cautioned the social scientists to have a clear distinction while looking at civilization and culture as its variable. He asked the social scientists to take cognizance of the post-colonial perspective as well while taking a deep look into the Indian culture or its identity.

International workshop on Open Badges

The Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education (STRIDE) hosted an International Workshop on Open Badges for Open Education to create awareness amongst its faculty members about the world using digital certificates to certify certain qualifications/ skills.

Dr. Ilona Buchem, Professor for media and communication, Beuth University of Applied Science, Berlin, Germany, during her presentation doled out how it is a common phenomenon in Europe to use a digital certificate to certify a certain non formal learning for every stage.

2nd International Conference on Migration Diasporas: Emerging Diversities and Development Challenges

School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (SOITS) organized a two-day 2nd International Conference on Migration Diasporas: Emerging Diversities and Development Challenges in March 2017 co-sponsored by India Centre for Migration (ICM) and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) inviting 18 countries for participation.

Dr. D.M. Mulay, Secretary, Ministry Of External Affairs in his inaugural address said that, there are roughly 250 million people working outside their countries today and contributing almost 9.4% of world GDP which is \$6.7 Trillion.

New Programme On Dairy Farming Launched

School of Agriculture (SOA) in March 2017 launched a two-month non-credit 'Awareness Programme on Dairy Farming' through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode. Inaugurated in Bihar by Sh. Upendra Kushwaha, Minister of State for HRD in the presence of the IGNOU VC, Prof. Ravindra Kumar and MD of Patna Dairy Project Dr. Sudhir Singh, this programme is being implemented in Sonapat, Karnal, Bhopal, Vishakhapatnam, Aligarh and different centres of Patna Dairy Project in Bihar.

Food Processing cum Testing Laboratory in Delhi campus

IGNOU has set up a food processing cum testing laboratory in the School of Agriculture, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, Delhi campus with the financial assistance of Ministry of Food Processing Industries GoI. This laboratory is equipped with the facilities for processing and packaging of dairy, fruits and vegetables, bakery, meat and fish products and also the basic facilities for chemical, physical and microbiological testing of food.

“It will act as a programme study centre for the Awareness and Diploma programmes of the School of Agriculture and also be utilized for skill development in the area of food processing through short term training programmes,” he added.



National conference on 'Teacher education through Open and Distance Learning: Challenges and the road ahead'

The School of Education organized this three day national conference in March 2017 which was inaugurated by Prof. Swaraj Basu, Director, School of Social Sciences (SOSS), IGNOU and former director of Distance Education Council (DEC).

He underlined the importance of teaching as a profession and highlighted the potential of teacher education through Open Distance Learning (ODL) to cater to the huge demand of teacher training requirements at all levels in the country. Prof Basu also deliberated on the issues and challenges being confronted by ODL teacher education institutions.



Workshop Series on "Sensitization in Dealing with Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly"



The Student Service Centre initiated a sensitization workshop series in conjunction with the National Centre for Disability Studies (NCDS), IGNOU in March 2017. The aim of the initiative was to sensitize and educate employees in dealing with Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and the elderly so as to provide effective support services to them. The first workshop in the series was held on 27th March 2017 at IGNOU headquarters. It had participation from Regional centers also.

Namibian delegation visit to IGNOU campus

The Indira Gandhi National Open University's (IGNOU) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ravindra Kumar, welcomed a delegation of 10 members from the Parliament of Namibia led by Hon. Prof. Peter. H. Katjavivi, speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Namibia. Prof. Katjavivi, with an intention, "To introduce an open learning arm in Namibia and develop some linkages and cooperation with IGNOU," visited the university.



Seminar on 70 Years of India-Russia Relations: The Way Forward



To mark the launch of Certificate in Russian Language, a seminar titled “70 Years of India-Russia Relations: The Way Forward” was organized by the School of Foreign Languages (SOFL), IGNOU in April 2017.

The self learning material with an audio/visual CD of Certificate in Russian Language was released by Prof. Ravindra Kumar, VC, IGNOU; Mr. Sergey Karmalito, Sr. Counsellor, Russian Embassy and Prof. Anju Sahgal Gupta, Director, SOFL during the event.

Malawi delegation visit to IGNOU campus



The Indira Gandhi National Open University's (IGNOU) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ravindra Kumar, welcomed a delegation from Malawi, a South-eastern African country led by Hon. Emmanuel Fabiano, Minister of Education, Science and Technology in April 2017.

“The purpose of the delegation's visit to India is to understand the model adopted by Indian universities like IGNOU and replicate it back home”, informed the minister while interacting with IGNOU team led by Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Vice Chancellor of the university.

Inauguration of Gandhi Facilitation Centre At Rajghat

Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Vice Chancellor of the Indira Gandhi National Open University at its Regional Centre in Rajghat in May 2017 inaugurated a Gandhi facilitation centre in collaboration with the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Smriti (GSDS) to introduce a non credit based course on Volunteerism in Gandhian thought. It is a three month course that will be launched by July 2017 end and can be joined by anyone.

Memorial Lecture on Rabindra Nath Tagore



Voice of Humanity: The School of Humanities hosted a memorial lecture on Rabindra Nath Tagore inviting Prof. Muchkund Dubey, former ambassador and former IFS, GoI, in May 2017. Seeking the relevance of the teachings of Gurudev in the 20th century he said that, “we still sing his songs, we still praise his poems and his plays are still a pertinent part of our culture.”

Training workshop on National Virtual Library of India



Now, search the availability of any book/ manuscript/ periodical/ journal which you thought is no more available in your nearest library or a 3D image of any museum artefact with a click of a mouse. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is aiding in the initiative of Ministry of Culture under the National Mission of Libraries by way of creating a union catalogue of libraries across India which apart from books includes artefacts and other resources from libraries, museums, archives etc. using open source platform Koha.

Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, during the inaugural session of a five day training workshop organised by IGNOU in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture and the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata emphasised the requirement of capacity building of library professionals especially with the major trend adoption of ICT applications in all walks of life and Digital India Initiative of Government of India.

MoU with IGNC A to focus on research



The Indira Gandhi National Open University signed a MoU with Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) in May 2017 to explore avenues of educational exchange in faculty research, collaborative research projects, student programmes of IGNC A and IGNOU.

“The aim of the collaboration is to offer credit/ non credit courses to students in the fields of Sanskrit, textual research, vedic studies, translation studies, manuscriptology, oral traditions, folklore, traditional knowledge system, performing arts, storytelling traditions, cultural informatics, conservation, diaspora, media and

communication, social work and other area of studies with IGNOU,” said Prof. Ravindra Kumar, VC, IGNOU.

Our students go places: Campus Placement Drive



The Campus Placement Cell (CPC), IGNOU in association with Regional Centres of Delhi, NCR organized Campus Placement Drive in May 2017 at IGNOU Campus, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. The drive was organised for the positions of Cabin Crew (Air Hostess). The salary for the offered positions was between Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 30,000/- per month as per qualification and experience. Over 300 students appeared for the interview and screening process for the placement drive.

Swami Narayan Chair soon in the campus

“The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is mulling over establishing a Swami Narayan Chair in its campus and start value education and spiritualism programmes by August 2017,” announced Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, during a meeting with the representatives of the Swami Narayan sansthan in May 2017.

“With this collaboration, all the centres of Swami Narayan in India and abroad shall be established as IGNOU study centres and exam centres for the programme,” he informed.



MoU with OSOU

IGNOU signed a MoU with the Odisha State Open University on resource sharing. The MoU happened during the VC's visit to the OSOU as a chief guest to deliver a lecture on digital learning and democratization of education on the occasion of OSOU's second foundation day.

IGNOU's Term End Examinations at Kendriya Vidyalas

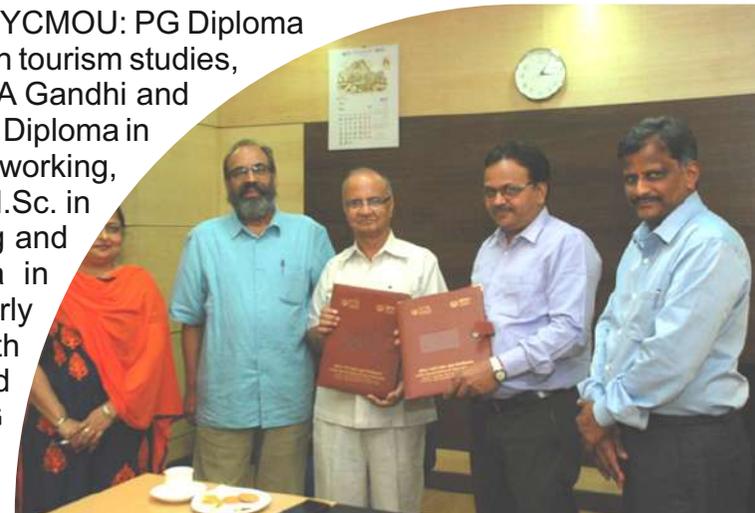
IGNOU's first cycle of Term End Examinations 2017 commenced from 1 June 2017 at Kendriya Vidyalas.

For the first time since its inception, the University completed the examination activities in a period of 18 days. Also, for the first time, the Kendriya Vidyalas (KVs) were designated as examination centres.

MoU with YCMOU

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) signed a MoU with the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), Nashik, to adopt selected 26 course materials already developed by IGNOU for the programmes offered by YCMOU, Nashik. The adopted 26 course materials shall be translated in their regional language, i.e., Marathi.

Following is the list of programmes that is intended to be adopted by YCMOU: PG Diploma in Intellectual Property rights, Diploma in tourism studies, certificate in tourism studies, MCA, MA Sociology, MA Psychology, MA Public Administration, MA Gandhi and Peace Studies, MA Political Science, MA History, MA Economics, PG Diploma in Disaster Management, PG Diploma in Library Automation and Networking, MA Rural Development, M.Sc in Counseling and Family Therapy, M.Sc. in Dietics and Food Service Management, PG Diploma in Counseling and Family Therapy, PG Diploma in Rural Development, Diploma in Panchayat level Administration and Development, Diploma in early Childhood Care and Education, Diploma in Nutrition and Health Education, Certificate in Nutrition and Childcare, Certificate in Food and Nutrition, Certificate programme in Rural Development, PG Diploma in Audio programme production, Bachelor in Social Work.



Celebration of 3rd INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

The International Day of Yoga was celebrated in the university premises for three days with the employees undergoing the following activities:

A. Lectures on the following themes

1. Yoga and Healthy Living
2. Pranayam and its importance for healthy living
3. Yoga for curing diseases
4. Yoga and Human wellbeing

B. Sessions on Yoga Demonstration

1. Yoga Demonstration- general
2. Yoga for Heart Patients
3. Yoga for the patients suffering from High Blood Pressure
4. Yoga for diabetic patients

C. Pranayam

- Illustration of various Pranayam techniques



Yogacharya Dr. Vandana Singh, faculty in the department of yoga, Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Sanskrit University, Jaipur was the key resource person to deliver the lectures.

IGNOU VC Announces Free Education to the Transgenders at the 22nd Prof. G Ram Reddy Memorial Lecture

"The Indira Gandhi National Open University, the world's largest open university, has exempted the fees of transgender students for all its programmes," announced Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Vice Chancellor of the university today during his address at the 22nd Prof. G. Ram Reddy Lecture at university headquarters in Delhi.



IGNOU Organizes Workshop on Quality Self Learning Material

Indira Gandhi National Open University's training arm STRIDE (Staff Training And Research Institute of Distance Education) organized a week long national workshop on "Quality Issues in Developing/ Revising Self Learning Materials in Open and Distance Learning" at the Delhi Headquarters of the University. It had more than 35 participants from across the countries representing 15 open universities including state open universities.



STEMS & BRANCHES

Rural India Ingress of IGNOU

University proposes to establish Digital Learning Centres (DLCs) in at the Village Panchayat Levels in every state of the nation with the help of its Regional Centres. These DLCs will be equipped with 24 hrs free to air Satellite Channels, Gyan Darshan and FM Radio Services , Gyan Vani.

Besides, the University will also provide Mobile Learning Vehicles (MLVs) to cover these centres periodically. These Centres will be accessible not only to IGNOU students but also to all the interested citizens of the respective villages.



Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan of the Govt of India, a MoU was signed with the Ministry of Textiles to adopt 100 villages for providing free education to the weaver's community and their children through specially designed certificate and diploma programmes of IGNOU.

Initially, the University has identified and admitted the weavers in two academic programmes i.e. BPP* (a bridge course for those weavers who have had little or no opportunity to study in the formal sector but are literate and mature enough to take University education) and CLP* (Computer Literacy programme).

In an action plan described for IGNOU under this scheme, the university is expected to contribute to the development of villages on the following pointers: sanitation and hygiene, water conservation and clean potable water, credible primary health, entrepreneurship and skill development, ICT in rural development, etc.





SIDELIGHTS:

Success stories of our students

Every learner associated with IGNOU has a success story to share of his own. Making strides becomes possible when you are set with the right kind of attitude to accomplish the impossible. Here's presenting the hurdles and upheavals, our heroes of this issue faced:

- 1. Dr. Ashwini Vora**
- 2. Mrs. Rashna Bharucha & Mr. Harvez Bharucha**
- 3. Shri Bhanubhai Patel**
- 4. Shri Kailash Prajapati**



Dr. Ashwini Vora

Time period with IGNOU: **22 years**

Academic journey started in the year: **1994**

Age at the time of IGNOU enrolment: **45 years**

Left studies at the age of **23 years**

Programmes enrolled for: Post Graduate Diploma in Marketing Management, MBA, Post Graduate Diploma in Distance Education (PGDDE)

“Being a science student, I did not have any knowledge of statistics, management fundamentals and marketing skills. But quality of assignments, faculties and my goal-oriented approach gave me the vision for logical, analytical and reasoning skills.”

“Today at the age of sixty eight, I go as a visiting faculty to various management institutes and also work as a hospital consultant. Presently, I am appointed as an academic consultant with Indian Institute of Public Health, a part of Public Health Foundation of India.”

Mrs. Rashna Bharucha & Mr. Harvez Bharucha

Students of Psychology (Wife and Husband both have studied in the same batch, at a senior age)

Back to college.....Mine and Hervez's two year journey of our second MASTER & DEGREE in CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY has been a roller coaster ride all the way. It started with all kinds of doubts and questions like why are you into it? You really don't need to, work will suffer, after a gap of 30 years studying again will not be easy etc. But believe me, learning and studying has never been better. We have broadened the horizons of our knowledge, mastered the MIND in all possible dimensions :
Psychopathology, Psychodiagnostics and Psychotherapeutics. Now we can label ourselves MIND DOCTORS indeed...learnt the art of hardcore multitasking.



Shri Bhanubhai Patel

Presently working with Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad as a consultant.

I came to know about IGNOU first time during my imprisonment in Sabarmati Central Prison where it has established study centre for prisoners since 1995. In prison, I was totally unprivileged person and was thinking about how to pass time there in prison. So I got enrolled in the B. Com. Programme of IGNOU though having MBBS background and started my study in prison. In this adverse environment, IGNOU helped me to stabilize my mind, keeping it engaged with study and learning different educational programmes of IGNOU.

I completed almost 31 degrees, diplomas and certificates programmes from different universities/educational institutions out of which 13 were from IGNOU. It was my world record to successfully complete 31 degrees, diplomas and certificate in prison in just seven years. My name was included in Limca book of Records, Asia Book of Records, India Book of Records and Unique World Records in 2012.

I continue my study in IGNOU even after releasing from prison and it became my mission to acquire as much as degrees, diploma and certificates in different disciplines from IGNOU and today I have successfully completed more than 54 degrees, diplomas and certificates and out of which 23 are from IGNOU like M.Com. and M.B.A. I admit that as IGNOU'S logo says it is PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY

Shri Kailash Prajapati

10th drop-out due to severe financial conditions, determined to resume his study along with a job he enrolled with IGNOU to pursue BPP in the year 2002 and cleared his way for a BA Hons (English) degree. He then went ahead with B.Ed, MA English and even cracked UGC NET.

“In June 2015, I cracked UGC NET Exam and it opened a vast ocean of opportunity for higher post in field of education. Really IGNOU brings forth the deprived talent into intellectual humanity. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all staff-members of IGNOU who are performing this noble task of bringing hidden & underprivileged people into light of knowledge.”





MOOC



The future of learning lies in Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), wherein not just students but any person interested in any subject of their choice can update their knowledge digitally and that too free of cost.

IGNOU is one of the National Coordinator among seven others for the SWAYAM programme of MHRD for offering Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) at certificate and diploma level. It has already launched 11 courses on SWAYAM from July 2017. These programmes are available free in the public domain and can be accessed by anyone in the world.

Apart from IGNOU, UGC is offering post graduate courses, Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC) undergraduate courses, IIT's National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) offering engineering and technology courses, IIM, Bangalore management courses, NIOS and NCERT high school level courses.

At present, following courses from IGNOU are live:

1. Food laws and standards
2. Technology of fermented, cheese, ice-cream and by products
3. Indian agricultural development
4. Sustainable management of Biodiversity
5. Introduction to poultry farming
6. Design and facilitation of e-learning courses
7. Basics of Russian Language
8. Library automation and digitization
9. Document processing and organization
10. Information sources and library services
11. Database and content management

What does it mean to you?

If you are an avid learner who is keen on developing knowledge in a certain subject, you just need to log on to the SWAYAM portal (www.swayam.gov.in) to register to courses of your choice and update yourself. A present, IGNOU is offering 11 courses and another 44 courses are getting ready and shall be added to the SWAYAM bouquet by January 2018. This includes courses offered from many State Open Universities in diverse areas particularly focussed on skill development.



The pedagogy and evaluation methodology

For the pedagogy four quadrant approach is followed with e-content mainly comprising 20 hours of video, reading material, self-check exercises and asynchronous discussions through discussion forum.

Continuous evaluation may include weekly quiz, assignments and activities as per course requirement.

To earn a credit from the course the learners must register for term end examination to be conducted in proctored centres throughout the country.

How will the exams happen?

Initially IGNOU plans to integrate the it's examination system with SWAYAM through a seamless process. Those registering for IGNOU courses for certification of completion will be taken as associate students and provided enrolment number for the same. This stage of registration will be done on IGNOU web platform for online registration for examination and examination. Initially the examination will be in traditional pen and paper mode in IGNOU exam centres. In future there are plans to go completely online with MHRD/ AICTE identified proctored exam centres.

Difference between associate student and normal IGNOU student:

A normal IGNOU student registers generally for a programme whereas in SWAYAM platform there is course-wise registration. "A day might come tomorrow wherein they can actually accumulate the credits for different courses and request for complete programme certification. But, at the moment there is a limit as per the UGC Gazette notification wherein only 20% of the credits can be earned through SWAYAM.

The online education policy is being eagerly awaited which will facilitate offer of Degrees and Diplomas completely through online mode on SWAYAM, said Prof. Uma Kanjilal, the National Coordinator for SWYAM from IGNOU.

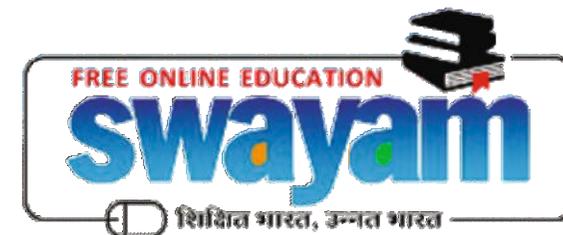
Are there any interactions happening?

"Yes, a lot of it. It is in a asynchronous mode where actually through discussion forum lot of topics are being discussed and a lot of handholding by the faculty is happening," she added.

There is a provision to also engage teaching assistant for these programmes. For every 500 learners enrolled faculty can engage one Teaching Assistant to facilitate the faculty in course delivery and evaluation.

At present, the courses offered by IGNOU on SWAYAM are customised with a lot of value addition from the programmes that are on offer in the offline mode. These courses are useful for already registered students as well.

"In future, we plan to offer new innovative courses based on the demand and requirements of the society," she said.



How is IGNOU student different from Swayam student?

An IGNOU student gets the flexibility of time for completion of the programme while a student in most of the courses of SWAYAM has to go through scheduled courses strictly based weekly schedule. If the student is not able to complete the course as per schedule then he/ she has to re-register when the re-run of the course will be happening. Then it will run as a fresh programme for him. A four credit course generally runs for three to four months.

How to access?

Visit SWAYAM portal at www.swayam.gov.in you can see listing of all the courses on offer and forthcoming. You need to register on the portal once and then can register for any number of courses. Registration is open worldwide and there is no restriction on registration.

Mobile App is also available for mobile access.





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IGNOU DIGI NEWS

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We can overcome distance through digital super-highway in Open education at IGNOU but what to do of the IGNOU Road full of super-potholes !!!



It riles me to see
piles of files on the
table all the time!!!

Lets Go DIGITAL!!!



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