

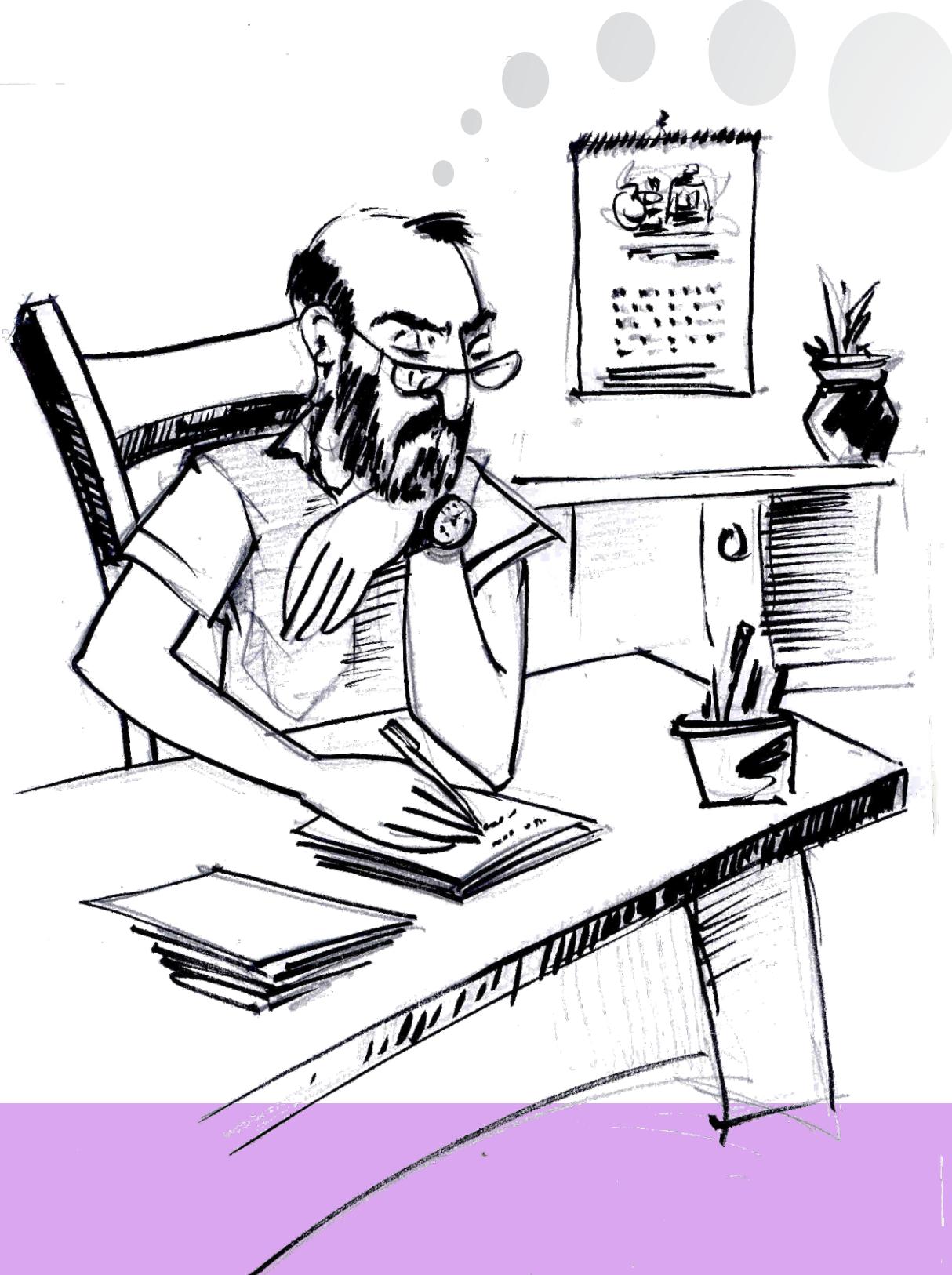
IGNOU DIGI NEWS

October'17

INDIA
GOING
Now
OPEN &
UN-INTERUPTED

Synergy between MoEIT & IGNOU
for using CSCs as facility center
would help in realizing dream of
Digitally Empowered India





Future of Education

Education as a Service as a concept has been gaining currency. With Artificial Intelligence making in-roads into many fields. It is matter of time that bots enter education as well, On-Demand education is what next generation wants.



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Villager entrepreneurs, particularly women, have taken the lead in providing government services through the common service centres (CSCs) they run in far-flung areas, thereby powering up the digital India campaign, said the Union Minister of Electronics and IT, Law & Justice, Mr Ravi Shankar Prasad.



"The University is also progressing towards digitizing its learning resources (study materials) and students can be benefited to access its learning resources at CSCs. The University is planning a series of workshops for the Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) of CSCs to acquaint them about the digital support services to be given to its students," said Prof Ravindra Kumar, VC, IGMOU..

Rural Ingress of IGNOU Through CSC Network

To tap into the demographic dividend, it is imperative that we educate/ skill our youth, especially in the rural areas. Synergy between MoEIT and IGNOU for using CSCs as facility centre and NeGD for developing e-governance model gives a thrust to the dream of digital India.

The Indira Gandhi National Open University, under Digital India Programme for digital inclusion signed a MoU with Common Service Centres (CSC) (spread over 2 lakh nationwide) for facilitating the prospective and enrolled students of IGNOU in the rural areas with the information about the University.

The CSCs, run by the Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs), now facilitate information about the online admission form submission, online re-registration, online examination form submission, and other online services made available by IGNOU, including online payment facilitation through the CSC SPV Digital Sewa portal. Through this collaborative arrangement, over 2 lakhs CSCs will act as a single contact point for all the digital support services of the University.

This initiative is helping IGNOU to outreach its potential students in far flung and disadvantaged regions besides providing alternative digital support helpdesk to urban and semi urban students.

The University is also progressing towards digitizing its learning resources (study materials) and students can be benefitted to access its learning resources at CSCs. The University is planning a series of workshops for the VLEs to acquaint them about the digital support services to be given to its students. In the first phase, the regional workshops are planned at Lucknow, Patna, Jammu, Ahmedabad, Raipur and Guwahati in the month of September. The University is also contemplating to train and orient the VLEs to brand its Digital Learning Ambassadors (DLAs).

In an another significant initiative, the University signed a MoU with National e-Governance Division, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MoEITY) to capacity building initiatives relating to awareness and communication activities under the Digital India Program, jointly developing certificate/ diploma programme in e-Governance besides NeGD assisting the University in developing e-learning portals and digitization of degree / certificates and its storage in digital lockers. Through this initiative, the University is also contemplating for training and capacity building in e-Governance and also provide certification on successful completion of the programme.



He suggested that, "All the philosophy and Indology students of colleges should attend this lecture series. People do not know about India. We should know the true identity of our own country. Knowledge Tradition and Practices of India, which is a course in CBSE taught in class 11th and 12th, teaches India's culture from ayurveda to science."

The Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, Prof. Ravindra Kumar confirmed that, "The University shall soon launch a new formal academic programme called Certificate course in Bharat Bodh. This will talk about the cultural wealth of India and will also take a critical look at it. We will not take everything for granted and critically examine it and whatever is valuable we will retain it."

Talking about the series of this lecture, he said, "It will be an interactive series where we will invite people to raise questions, issues and debates from all over India with the help of our regional centres having nationwide presence. A lot of traditional wisdom is available in our country which is untapped. We have to make a syllabus which is India centric."

Know your roots: Bharat Bodh lecture series flagged by IGNOU

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in association with Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal (BSM) inaugurated a lecture series on Bharat Bodh. The inauguration was done by Sh. Prakash Javadekar, Minister for HRD, Govt. of India at the India Habitat Centre. He expressed that, "These lectures should be conducted in a series all over India." He also inaugurated the IGNOU DIGI NEWS of the University, which is a monthly news letter of the varsity.

"Bharat's education system became such that we kept on forgetting Bharat's culture and insisted on remembering the rest of the worlds. It is necessary to know and remember the world but this does not imply that we can forget Bharat. It is necessary to understand the Bharat and its glorious past," he said while bringing forward the need to conduct this conference.



Higher GER can't be achieved by classroom method of pedagogy: Outgoing IGNOU VC

"What is not realized by public in general is that the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has given education a sense of democracy which no other system has been able to give," said the outgoing Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, Prof. Ravindra Kumar while presiding over a press conference in the Board room of the Vice Chancellor Office (VCO), IGNOU campus, Maidan Garhi today.

"IGNOU has democratized higher education by aggregating resources from across the country. The syllabi specific course material has helped standardization and quality across programs. The effort in aggregating different sources from across the country has been humongous but rewarding for the education in the country," he said.

He also brought forth various new initiatives that he has undertaken under his tenure. "8th December 2017 shall see the launch of two programmes on solar awareness and solar application in water pump. These programmes shall be in French and Spanish language and are primarily meant for the African countries," he informed.



The university has also signed a MoU with S-VYASA University in Bangalore, offering yoga programmes at all levels from certificate to PhD level. "This should take shape by January 2018," he confirmed. The work for laying down the optical fiber network with Reliance JIO in the entire campus is also going on. "This network shall be used in the future by the university to upload various study materials in audio/video format," he said.

Prof. Kumar also stressed upon re-defining 'Open and Distance Learning' for the university to 'Open and Digital Learning'. He feels that IGNOU has been predominantly active in the urban sector and should now work equivalently for the rural too. "With the help of the two MoUs that we have signed with the MoEIT for the common service centres (CSCs), the rural penetration should increase," he felt. He strongly believes that, "No rural student in the village should travel beyond 5 kms for education. CSCs shall help them to the core to bring IGNOU near to such population."

IGNOU, NHFDC Organize National Conference for Persons with Disability

IGNOU's National Centre for Disability Studies (NCDS) in collaboration with National Handicap Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) organized a two day national conference on 'Vocational Rehabilitation and Economic Inclusion of Persons with Disability (PWD) in India' beginning today at the Baba Saheb Ambedkar Convention Centre in Maidan Garhi inviting Ramdas Athawale, MoS, MoSJE and P.C Das, CMD, NHFDC as its chief guest.

Enumerating the various initiatives of the government for the persons with disability, Gurjar mentioned that the government has now increased the reservation from 3% to 4% in central government services and to 5% in education for them. He also mentioned that it has now included 21 types of disabilities for PWDs to utilize the services.

The Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Ravindra Kumar, emphasized on the vocational rehabilitation and economic inclusion of PWDs in society and encourage their participation in all spheres of life.

"According to the 2011 census of India, there are 2.68 crore PWDs, the number would have definitely increased by now. The government has been successful in providing Rs.808 crore aid to 1,43,000 disabled people in the year 2017. It has also provided Rs.77 crore worth scholarships to 13,140 students of NHFDC who underwent 3-6 months training course along with a stipend of Rs.2000 per month," said Athawale while mentioning the contribution of the government in the past three years.

"It is not perfect to call them disabled as it hurts their sentiments. We aim to make them independent which is why we are active in organizing camps. More than 550 such camps have been organized by now to benefit 7.5 lakh disabled with wheel chairs, computers, artificial limbs, etc." he concluded while strongly believing in creating an employability hub for them.

Dr Hemlata, Director, NCDS, IGNOU in her address outlined the various initiatives that the university has taken to make education accessible to the persons with disability. "The university provides study material in Braille for learners with vision disability. To help learners easily access the course material for most of the programmes, the same has been digitized and is available through e-Gyankosh interface of the university," she mentioned.

The two day program starting today would have 28 abstracts being presented by experts covering range of topics and issues concerning the persons with disability. Prof. S.K. Mishra, Deputy Director, NCDS presented the vote of thanks.





Educational FM Radio of India

IGNOU launches GyanDarshan through webcast and FB page. reaches worldwide

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) took two major steps today for imparting knowledge through ICT and social media World over. The Gyandarshan channel of IGNOU was launched through webcasting along with the IGNOU EMPC page on Facebook. This will make the IGNOU programmes available on the mobile phones too.

The Gyandarshan programmes can be accessed at www.ignouonline.ac.in/gyandarshan. While launching the webcast, Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU described it as a major step forward in implementing the education through electronic media. He also mentioned that, "We are digital and open university now. There is no distance between us and our learners."

Prof. Kapil Kumar, Director, Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC), IGNOU, on what kind of programmes would get telecast, stated that, "We will use this platform as a promotional tool for our country's cultural awareness and empowerment on a variety of themes on issues and challenges related to societal development, cultural heritage, environment etc.

He added that "This channel will also serve the Indian Diasporas world over, not only to promote Indian culture but also enlightening them with contemporary achievements of India. Similarly, the EMPC FB page will be providing regular updates on Indian education and will be a major source of feedback from the learners from all over the world," he added. This facility will be of extreme use to our Armed forces who can continue with their studies while guarding the borders of the country . Kumar further added that it's the armed forces that save our democracy and freedoms and IGNOU is duty bound to facilitate their educational development.

IGNOU has already started GyanVani interactive radio counseling programmes through both broadcast as well as webcasting. These initiatives from the EMPC will also enable the various study centres of IGNOU in West Asia and African countries to further enhance the learning processes of the foreign students.The Vice Chancellor on this occasion, also pointed out that IGNOU is in the process of opening many more foreign centres and is exploring the possibilities for partner institutions.



You not just study, but also get placed by IGNOU

The Campus Placement Cell (CPC), IGNOU in association with Regional Centres of Delhi,NCR organized Campus Placement Drive at B. R. Ambedkar Convention Centre, IGNOU Campus, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi.

The drive was planned for the following positions in various companies under the aegis of Roadtonaukri.com: Customers Services Executives; Lead Generation Executives and Counselors.

In response to the drive, 311 students of IGNOU appeared for interview and out of the appeared numbers 96 students have been shortlisted/selected in the event.

CPC of IGNOU regularly holds such drives for various companies and head-hunting organization involving IGNOU students and alumni.



Defence Unit: Educational Empowerment of the Armed Forces

IGNOU's Defence Unit coordinates the activities pertaining to three wings of the Indian Armed Forces: Army, Navy and Air Force. The projects pertaining to the Indian Army is designated as Gyandeep, Indian Air Force is Akashdeep and Sagardeep for the Indian Navy. The schemes became operational from 2009 onward, when the IGNOU signed MoUs with the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy for Gyandeep, Akashdeep and Sagardeep respectively.

These schemes are meant to facilitate the educational up-liftment and career advancement of the personnel of the Armed Forces, by recognizing the in-service training/ courses undergone by them at their respective training institutes/ schools/ establishments. Since majority of them superannuate in their mid lives unlike the civilians, they need to be possess civilian awards of Higher Education, to be job ready at the time of their early retirement.

Under these projects 4.2 lakh soldiers and 49 thousand airmen have registered for various courses and programmes. Till date, IGNOU has conferred 11 lakh certificates to the personnel serving the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force, and 1465 have successfully graduated from the University under the vertical mobility scheme. The Director of the Defence Unit Prof Manjulika Srivastava, said that it is indeed a matter of pride for the University to award so many defence personnel who have dedicated their lives in the service of the nation. Under these schemes the University has generated revenue of 40 crores (approximately).

The second phase of re-launch of Gyandeep, Akashdeep and Sagardeep is under process. The Defence Unit has already had a series of meetings with the three wings of the Armed Forces and is also contemplating the extension of this Scheme to the Security Forces of the country, namely: Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Security Guard (NSG), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Indian Coast Guard Personnel.



IGNOU confers 11 lakh certificates to personnel of Army, Air Force

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has so far conferred over 11 lakh certificates to personnel of the Army and the Indian Air Force for completing their courses in different levels.

Out of the total 11,28,754 certificates issued, 1,413 graduation certificates have been issued by the university under vertical mobility scheme, said Manjulika Srivastava, Director of IGNOU's Defence Unit.

The IGNOU has the mandate to train defence personnel under project 'Gyandeep' for soldiers of the Indian Army and 'Akashdeep' for airmen of the IAF which would help them land in a promising job post retirement.

"IGNOU recognises the achievements of defence personnel in their service, equate such work to IGNOU standards, transfers the credit and suggests them to take up courses based on that for a lateral entry," Srivastava said.

The scheme became operational in 2009 when the IGNOU signed MoUs with the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy for 'Gyandeep', 'Akashdeep' and 'Sagardeep' respectively.

IGNOU Inks MoC with Government of Tripura to train 11,884 teachers



The MoC confirms to conduct the training for only those teachers "who possess the qualifications stipulated as per the NCTE norms and are working in Govt. / Govt. recognized primary /elementary schools, are eligible for admission to the programme, subject to relaxation of marks for reserved category candidates, as per NCTE norms".

Both IGNOU and Govt of Tripura shall develop a context specific block on elementary education in the State of Tripura. The objective of the block is to familiarize all enrolled teachers with dimensions of elementary education in Tripura. This is a compulsory value added input in the curriculum.

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)'s School of Education (SOE) had signed a Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) with the Government of Tripura to professionally train 11,884 untrained teachers of elementary level through IGNOUs two year Diploma in Elementary Education programme (in Tripura) through ODL mode and renewed it for three years.

The MoC was signed by Director SCERT, Tripura and Registrar (Admin), IGNOU in the university headquarters in Delhi.



Harsimrat Kaur Badal Inaugurates Food Processing Lab at IGNOU

Minister of Food Processing Industries, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, inaugurated the Food Processing Laboratory for the School of Agriculture at IGNOU Campus, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. The lab will act as a Study Centre for its on-going programmes for providing hands on experience and skill development in the area of food processing. The lab will also be used for offering short term training programmes for ensuring safe and quality food for the consumers.

The minister in her address at the inauguration stressed the need to enhance the growth of the food processing industry in India. She highlighted that today only 10% of the food produced in India gets processed and an increase in food processing capacity could help in minimizing wastage considerably saving crores of rupees thus benefiting everyone ranging from farmers to consumers.



"The 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" informed Prof. M.K. Salooja of School of Agriculture, IGNOU. The Laboratory has become the active Programme Study Centres of its Food Processing Programmes.

IGNOU would offer 9 programs in total including diplomas, PG Diplomas, certificate course and PhD programs,

"The Journey of Indian Languages : Perspectives on Culture and Society "

International Conference organised by the Regional Centre,Ahmedabad and the State Open University

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University at Ahmedabad during 14-15 October 2017

The Conference was aimed to focus on the journey of mankind, the invention of language, its usage for communication and its contribution to a greater extent in the development and growth of the society resulting into the cultural heritage It also aimed to study the change in the nature of language with cultural inferences, adaptability and endeavors to use a language for varied deliberations.

In the ever growing global world, communication has become an essential prerequisite and skill. Emergence of digital society has brought us the multiple avenues of communication. In this scenario, language, literature and translations along with cultural studies as disciplines have become indispensable in the exchange of thoughts, ideas and interactions.

With this background, the Conference was organised at Ahmedabad. His Excellency, Hon'ble Shri M. Venkaiah Naiduji - Hon'ble Vice President of India inaugurated the Conference with Shri Bhupendrasinh Chudasamaji - Hon'ble Education and Revenue Minister of Govt. of Gujarat.

The inauguration function was attended by more than one thousand (1000) teachers, dignitaries, students and academics from Gujarat, India and foreign countries.

Parallel to it, one more International Conference on Vedic Mathematics was also organised by International Vedic Mathematics Society at the same venue and time.



IGNOU buzzed during week long celebration of Independence Day



The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is celebrating a week long 'Swadhinta Parv' (9th -15th August) for Independence Day at its campus in Maidan Garhi, Delhi. The Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, Prof. Ravindra Kumar inaugurated the celebration and stressed upon the importance of being Indian. Yamini Krishnamurthy, a renowned dancer and a Bharatnatyam exponent was invited for a cultural performance in the campus.

The staff members also took an oath on 'New India'. On the second day of the celebration, in his address, Prof. Kapil Kumar, School of Social Sciences, IGNOU, vehemently objected to the distortions in Indian history which have crept in the Indian psyche by Britishers deliberately.

The programme was webcasted live in 56 Regional centres.

IGNOU celebrates 71st Independence Day

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) celebrated the 71st Independence Day in its campus in Maidan Garhi, Delhi. The Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Ravindra Kumar hoisted the national flag and announced the university's partnership with National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and Common Services Network of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and in the form of a MoU on 22nd August.

IGNOU Inks Pact With ASCI For Skill Development in Agriculture Sector



The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Agriculture Skill Council of India (ACSI) to strengthen the skill development activities and to develop new educational/ training programmes in the areas of agriculture and allied sectors for which Qualification Packs (QPs)/ National Occupational Standards (NOS) have been developed by the ACSI.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Jitendra Kumar Srivastav, Registrar, IGNOU and Dr. Satender Singh Arya, CEO, ACSI in the presence of IGNOU Vice-Chancellor Prof. S. B. Arora among other officials from both the organizations.

"The University is already into the skill development activities in various fields through its educational programmes. The University intends to integrate vocational and skill based programmes as per the National Skill Qualification Framework and in line with the policies of

Government of India with respect to skill mission and Start Up India programmes. This collaboration will add value to the pass-outs students of different agriculture programmes." said the VC of IGNOU.

Dr. Arya emphasized that the symbiotic relationship between the two institutions will augment the skill development activities in a significant way taking into the strengths of both the institution i.e ACSI linkage with the industry and ministry of skill development and IGNOU reach to the unreached and use of ICT in delivery of the programmes. IGNOU would support ACSI in the development of curriculum and course content for various segments said Dr. Arya, CEO, ACSI.

"ACSI and IGNOU may also think in future to jointly develop Bachelor of Vocation (B.Voc) Degree programme in the agriculture and allied sectors following the framework given by the UGC. The collaboration will also set the path for the recognition of skill development centres for training and capacity building across various segments of agriculture sector and conduct skill gap analysis for the agriculture & Agri-allied segment. IGNOU would support Activities will be undertaken by the SOA to strengthen the human resource of agriculture like development of new programmes, more academic collaboration and strengthening the existing programme," said Prof. M.K. Salooja, Director, SOA, IGNOU.

"IGNOU agrees to provide academic and faculty support for Revision / Development of Qualification Packs, Popularization of QPs and in identification of new Training Providers. The ACSI also agrees to provide academic and faculty support in aligning the Programmes with QPs, approval of IGNOU including its study centres as the training providers, assessment of students under RPL (Non Government Support), organize the train the trainer programme and in development of MOOC," says the MoU.

IGNOU DIGI NEWS

Passing the Baton

A Doctor by profession, Prof. Arora completed his MBBS from Maulana Azad Medical College New Delhi and M.D in Community Health Administration from National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, University of Delhi.

With over 23 years of the experience in IGNOU and out of which 17 years as a Professor, he had also served as Director, SOHS from 2005 to 2008. Besides, he was also the Programme Coordinator of Post Graduate Diploma in Maternal and Child Health (PGDMCH), Post Graduate Diploma in Hospital and Health Management (PGDHHM) and BSC(Hons) in Ophthalmic Techniques programme. Prior to joining at IGNOU in 1994, he was associated with National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) as Lecturer and Reader.



Prof. S. B. Arora
Vice-Chancellor (In-Charge)



Prof. S. B. Arora,
Director, School of Health Sciences (SOHS)
assumed the charge of the Vice Chancellor (I/c) of
Indira Gandhi National Open University on 31st October 2017