

IGNOU IN THE NORTH EAST REGION

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) since its establishment in 1985 has made efforts to expand its outreach in the whole country including the North East Region (NER). It has its presence in all the States of the NER: 9 Regional Centres (RCs) established at Shillong, Guwahati, Jorhat, Kohima, Agartala, Aizawl, Itanagar, Imphal, and Gangtok and one Recognized Regional Centre (RRC) at Assam Rifles (Shillong). The University has set up 176 Learner Support Centres (LSCs) under the purview of these Regional Centres. The vast network of RCs and LSCs extends the outreach of IGNOU to the hitherto deprived rural, remote, socially and physically disadvantaged segments of the population, providing them access to quality and cost-effective higher education in a flexible manner.

States in NER	IGNOU Regional Centres
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar
Assam	Guwahati & Jorhat
Manipur	Imphal
Meghalaya	Shillong
Mizoram	Aizawl
Nagaland	Kohima
Sikkim	Gangtok
Tripura	Agatala

The University has constructed its own building for RC Shillong and has started construction of its buildings for RC Agartala and RC Aizawl, which will strengthen efforts to enhance access to learners in the states.

RC Shillong



RC Agartala



RC Aizawl



Table 1: IGNOU's Network in North East Region (NER)

Sl. No.	RC Name	State	District	No. of LSCs
1	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	5
2	Guwahati	Assam	Guwahati	28
3	Jorhat	Assam	Jorhat	29
4	Imphal	Manipur	Imphal	20
5	Aizawl	Mizoram	Aizawl	24
6	Kohima	Nagaland	Kohima	18
7	Gangtok	Sikkim	Gangtok	5
8	Agartala	Tripura	Agartala	13
9	Shillong	Meghalaya	Shillong	25
	Total			167*
	LSC at 9 RCs			9
	Grand Total			176

* There are LSCs set up in jails at Aizawl, Imphal, Guwahati, and Shillong.

In order to fulfill its mission and goal, IGNOU offers high-quality learner-centric quality general and professional education, knowledge, and skill by integrating the latest trends and research, data, resources, perspectives in each subject area to cater to the local, regional, national and global needs of learners. IGNOU is offering a total of 232 programmes of studies in ODL mode and also 32 programmes in online mode. There are 49 PG Degree Programmes and 28 UG Degree Programmes among the 232 programmes.

IGNOU is offering a large number of programmes across a wide spectrum which includes liberal education programmes such as the Master's and Bachelor's degree programmes in Social Sciences and Natural Sciences aimed at developing a socially aware citizenry that possesses domain knowledge, critical thinking abilities and the capacity to apply the knowledge acquired to their own lives and for local, regional and national development. To enhance learners' employability, these programmes also include courses that aim to develop their skills. Some programmes cater to the educational needs and aspirations of the professional working in the field of Management, Banking, Accountancy, Computer Sciences, Engineering, Applied Statistics, Power Distribution Management, etc. providing them opportunities for employment/upward mobility by engendering knowledge and capacity building.

There are a host of vocational education and skill development programmes catering to the skill development of the entry-level workforce in areas of food and nutrition, science laboratories, renewable energy, agriculture, integrated pest management, motorcycle repair, power distribution utilities, etc. Programmes are also developed in areas of cyber law, IPR, agriculture policy, patent practice, criminal justice, etc. for updating knowledge, training and upskilling of the workforce. All the programmes are recognized by the respective regulatory bodies of the country. IGNOU has been graded A++ by NAAC for providing quality Higher Education.

Table 2: Learner Enrolment in IGNOU Programs in NER (2016-2020)

Sr No.	Regional Centre	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1.	Itanagar	4531	3716	4750	3392	4102
2.	Guwahati	5110	7004	7072	6696	5794
3.	Imphal	2803	2784	2327	2533	2090
4.	Shillong	4535	4629	4141	3272	2291
5.	Aizawl	3336	2212	5753	4657	2949
6.	Kohima	1859	1765	2243	2343	1569
7.	Gangtok	1949	1805	1818	2327	1838
8.	Agartala	3007	5755	4017	2668	2863
9.	Jorhat	2902	3295	3087	2976	2852
10.	RRC Assam Rifles	86	82	130	35	50

Source: IGNOU Data

Digital Initiatives

The University is going digital in all its operations.

Activities are undertaken by all RCs:

- Promotional activities through various ICT modes
 - Publicity about IGNOU Programs through RC Official Facebook Pages, twitter handle and Instagram
 - Webinars and virtual meetings
 - GyanVani, FM Radio channel and other Radio channels.
 - GyanDarshan for community connect
 - Posters or banners for various programmes on the official Facebook page of RC and circulated on Twitter.
 - Use of Mobile Applications: WhatsApp groups and SMS for connecting with target groups at the grass-root level.
- In-house staff development meetings and coordinator meetings
- Digital Conferences/Webinars
- Orientation Programmes of Academic Counsellors and LSC functionaries
- Induction Meetings for newly enrolled learners
- Reaching out to IGNOU learners in regional language (Assamese) through SWAYAMPURABHA and GyanDarshan channels for providing counselling support.
- Online academic counselling sessions organized by LSC and monitored by RC
- Receipt of Scanned assignments received at RCs and LSCs
- Online Student Grievance Redressal Camps by RC and LSC
- Conduct of placement activities by RCs.

Multi-media resources provided to learners:

- eGyankosh (Web-based SLM repository)
- A provision of a 15% fee refund is in place for learners opting for the digital study material
- IGNOU e-Content App
- IGNOU YouTube channel
- Audio/Video CDs/DVDs
- Interactive channels like GyanDarshan (TV), GyanVani (FM) and GyanDhara (internet radio)
- Online counselling sessions using platforms like Google Meet, Zoom, WebEx, Microsoft Teams, etc.
- Sharing recordings of online counselling sessions for asynchronous study
- WEAS portal for counselling support
- IGNOU Website for Online Admission and Student Support
- Freedom 2 Learn (podcast platform)
- Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter handles for University updates and Counselling on FaceBook Live
- Online Alumni portal has been launched for Alumni registration