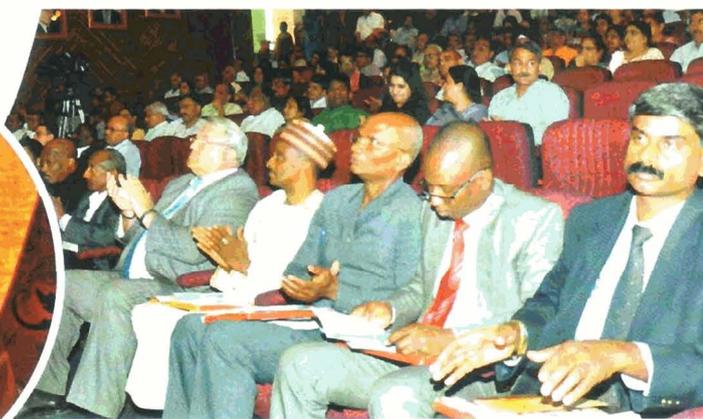


ओपन लेटर OPEN LETTER

इग्नू समुदाय की अपनी पत्रिका IN-HOUSE MAGAZINE OF INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

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HIGHLIGHTS

- 27th Convocation of IGNOU
- International Women's Day Celebration
- Vocational Education & Skill Development



From the Editor's Desk

A convocation ceremony is the highlight of a university year. It is the culmination of long, arduous hours of learning and study, of dizzying moments of pure exhilaration as one scales what at times appears to be a formidable mountain of knowledge. And it is not the student alone who experiences this sense of fulfillment. For the teacher, in equal measure, is filled with a sense of quiet satisfaction as student after student walks up to applause and laurels and strides away with the priceless paper scroll clutched tightly in possessive pride. The silent hours of poring over reams and reams of text, the hollow nervousness of examination days, the anxious, heart-stopping day of reckoning that is the declaration of results – all of which sometimes threatens to eclipse the sheer joy of learning – is suddenly worth the toil and the trouble, the sleeplessness and the sedulity.

The convocation ceremony itself is conducted in various ways in different parts of the world. In some universities, it is accompanied by the beating of drums in festivity; in some others it is a deeply joyous moment to be shared with family and friends, all present to experience the academic revelry. In IGNOU, it is a solemn occasion as the academic procession files in with the Vice Chancellor, the Chief Guest, the Guest of Honour and Heads of various Schools and Divisions, all clothed in deeply rich coloured robes and caps (known as mortar boards) with swinging tassels. The graduating students are similarly clad and this symbolic accoutrement, in no small measure, marks it out as one of the most significant days of

their lives and adds to the immeasurable sanctity of the occasion.

Why is the convocation specially significant for IGNOU? Being an open and distance university, IGNOU's convocation is not just the award of degrees. It connotes the aspirations and achievements of large numbers of learners who might at times have despaired of ever getting a higher education but then suddenly found this institution of higher learning bringing education to their very doorstep! And the pure pleasure of the pursuit of knowledge that is such a vital part of the learning process and without which no effective learning really takes place – is kept intact by the flexibility of the distance mode so that the students can proceed comfortably, at their own pace, at any age, from any location. Learners in remote, inaccessible areas; the underprivileged sections of society who, due to financial or familial constraints cannot attend classes at conventional institutions; women confined to the walls of their homes but who feel the wild pulse of exploration in the deep seas of scholarship beating in them; incarcerated individuals wishing to reform – all these and others – are the students to whom IGNOU awards degrees at the convocation as a salute to their perseverance and determination to overcome personal and professional odds and grasp the wand of knowledge.

Ulatat Ulatat



संपादकीय

दीक्षांत समारोह किसी भी विश्वविद्यालय की प्रत्येक वर्ष होने वाली सर्वाधिक विशिष्ट घटना होती है। पढ़ने और सीखने के असाध्य और दीर्घ घंटों, ज्ञान के विकट शिखर पर चढ़ने जैसा प्रतीत होने वाले शुद्ध उत्साह के संभ्रमित करने वाले क्षणों की परिणति इसीमें होती है। विद्यार्थियों को ही इसमें परिपूर्णता की अनुभूति नहीं होती, वरन जब एक के बाद दूसरा विद्यार्थी हाथ में अपनी उपाधि लिये गर्व से चलता हुआ तालियों की गड़गड़ाहट के बीच सामने से गुजरता है तो अध्यापकों को भी पूर्ण संतुष्टि का बोध होता है। किताबों के एक के बाद दूसरे पन्ने पलटते हुए गुजर जाने वाले खामोश घंटे, परीक्षा के तनाव भरे दिन और परिणाम का इंतजार करते चिंता और बेचैनी से भरा हर पल और फिर परिणामों की घोषणा वाला दिन जब दिल की धड़कनें रुकी सी महसूस होती है— यह सब मिलकर कई बार सीखने के आनंद पर भय की काली छाया डाल देते हैं—

अचानक परिश्रम और परेशानियां, अनिद्रा और अध्यवसाय मूल्यवान हो उठते हैं।

दुनिया के विभिन्न हिस्सों में दीक्षांत समारोह कई तरह से आयोजित किये जाते हैं। कुछ विश्वविद्यालयों में यह उत्सव की तरह ढोल-नगाड़ों के साथ आयोजित किया जाता है। कुछ दूसरी जगह पर यह परिवारजनों और मित्रों के साथ मिल बांटकर मनाये जाने वाले गहन आनंद के क्षण होते हैं, जहां सभी उस शैक्षिक उत्सव का अनुभव करने के लिए मौजूद रहते हैं। इग्नू में, यह कुलपति, मुख्य अतिथि, सम्मानीय अतिथि और विभिन्न विद्यापीठों और प्रभागों के प्रमुख रंग-बिरंगी पोशाकों में पंक्तिबद्ध होकर एक शैक्षिक प्रोसेसन के रूप में मंच पर पहुँचते हैं। उपाधि प्राप्त करने वाले विद्यार्थी भी विशिष्ट प्रकार की पोशाक धारण किये होते हैं और यह विशाल पैमाने का प्रतीकात्मक उपस्कर उनके जीवन का सबसे यादगार दिन बन जाता है और इस अवसर को एक खास तरह की पवित्रता से भर देता है।

इग्नू के लिए दीक्षांत समारोह इतना महत्त्वपूर्ण क्यों है? मुक्त और दूर शिक्षा विश्वविद्यालय होने की वजह से, इग्नू का दीक्षांत समारोह सिर्फ उपाधियां प्रदान करने का अवसर नहीं है। यह उन शिक्षार्थियों की विशाल संख्या की आकांक्षाओं और उपलब्धियों की भी अभिव्यक्ति है जो कभी उच्च शिक्षा मिलने की उम्मीद खो चुके होंगे लेकिन अचानक इस संस्थान ने उन्हें उच्च शिक्षा का अवसर उनकी अपनी दहलीज पर दिला दिया था! ज्ञान के उद्यम का शुद्ध आनंद जो सीखने की प्रक्रिया का जरूरी हिस्सा है और जिसके बिना प्रभावी शिक्षा संभव नहीं हो सकती, उसको दूर शिक्षा पद्धति के माध्यम से सुरक्षित रखा गया है ताकि विद्यार्थी अपनी सुविधानुसार, उम्र के किसी भी पड़ाव पर, कहीं भी रहते हुए सुगमता से इस दिशा में आगे बढ़ सकें।

दूर दराज के इलाकों में रहने वाले और समाज के वंचित वर्गों के वे विद्यार्थी जो आर्थिक और सामाजिक कारणों से परंपरागत संस्थानों में शिक्षा नहीं हासिल कर पाते; वे महिलाएं जो घर की चारदीवारी में कैद रहती हैं लेकिन जिनमें गहरी ज्ञान पिपासा होती है; और जेल में बंद रहते हुए भी जो अपने को सुधारना चाहते हैं, ये सब और दूसरे भी ऐसे विद्यार्थी हैं जिन्हें दीक्षांत समारोह के दिन उपाधियां प्रदान कर उनके अध्यवसाय, अपनी निजी और व्यावसायिक विषमताओं पर विजय प्राप्त करने के दृढ़निश्चय और ज्ञान के शिखर तक पहुंच जाने की कामयाबी को इग्नू सलाम करता है।

Atinal 01/3/2

New Co-opted Members of the Academic Council under Statute 9 (viii)

The Open Letter team welcomes the following new members of the Academic Council:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. Prof. Rajan Gurukkel
Former Vice Chancellor
Mahatma Gandhi University
Kottayam, Kerala</p> | <p>9. Prof. R. G. Harshe
Former Vice-Chancellor
(University of Allahabad)
Hyderabad</p> |
| <p>2. Prof. Joseph Dorairaj
Acting Vice-Chancellor
Gandhigram Rural University
Madurai, Tamil Nadu</p> | <p>10. Dr. S. S. Meenakshisundaram
Former Secretary,
Government of India,
Bangalore,
Karnataka</p> |
| <p>3. Prof. V.R. Panchmukhi
Former Chairman
Indian Council of Social Science Research
New Delhi</p> | <p>11. Dr. D. N. Reddy
Chairman
Recruitment and Assessment Centre
DRDO, Timapur,
Delhi</p> |
| <p>4. Prof. Nitin Madhusudan Nagarkar
Director, All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences
Raipur, Chhattishgarh</p> | <p>12. Dr. B. K. Gairola
Former DG,
NIC
New Delhi</p> |
| <p>5. Prof. Vinay Srivastava
Department of Anthropology
University of Delhi, Delhi</p> | <p>13. Dr. K. K. Chakravarty
Chairman
Lalit Kala Akademi and Chancellor (Hony.)
NUEPA,
New Delhi</p> |
| <p>6. Prof. S. E. Hasnain
Kusuma School of Biological Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology
Hauz Khas, New Delhi</p> | <p>14. Dr. George Mathew
Chairman
Institute of Social Sciences
New Delhi</p> |
| <p>7. Prof. Man Mohan Singh
Director
Centre for Science Education
North Eastern Hill University Shillong, Meghalaya</p> | <p>15. Prof. K. Sudha Rao
Former Vice-Chancellor,
KSOU
Bangalore,
Karnataka</p> |
| <p>8. Prof. Indu Agnihotri
Director
Centre for Women's Development Studies,
New Delhi</p> | |

27th Convocation, 2014

The 27th Convocation of IGNOU was held on 16th April, 2014 in the Headquarters of the University as well as all its Regional Centres. The Chief Guest was Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource

University is also keen to harness the potential of ICT for enhancing the teaching-learning process. IGNOU has a significant international presence as well, with 58,437 students on its rolls. Recognising the need to collaborate with institutions of higher education globally, IGNOU also organized a conference of Ambassadors/High Commissioners under the aegis of the Pan African e-Networking project.



The Vice Chancellor's address

The Vice Chancellor declared that "...a new thrust is being planned through extensive consultations in formulating the Action Plan for National Centre for Disability Studies (NCDS) by identifying priority areas for training, research and development activities in the Centre". The Vice Chancellor also dwelt upon maximizing impact through diversity and sustainability; expanding access to learning resources via the virtual learning environment under

Development, Govt of India and the Guest of Honour was Dr. Vijitha Nanayakkara, Vice Chancellor, Open University of Sri Lanka. The event was broadcast live over Gyandarshan. In all, 2,38,276 learners were awarded degrees, diplomas and certificates including MPhil and PhD degrees. 93 students were awarded gold medals.

the NODLINET programme and e-library resources and promoting synergy in regional services by exploring the possibility of expanding the scope of various collaborative projects namely, the defence forces and jails. He spoke about key issues like

In his report, Prof M Aslam, IGNOU VC, touched upon significant strides made by the University in the areas of reaching the unreached and enhancing State-of-Art ICT upgradation and outreach. "IGNOU has been mandated to reach out to the marginalized sections of our society", he said and it has "responded to the need to initiate special measures to attract learners from the disadvantaged groups". The



The VC presenting mementos to the guests



The Chief guest delivering his address

strengthening and streamlining operations in student registration and evaluation and material dispatch that is at the core of the study activities in the university; providing enhanced student support services in order to improve completion rate, reduce drop-out rate, provide sustainable, quality education and enhance the credibility of the ODL system; supporting student placements and enhancing job opportunities by profiling students on a Pan-India basis on the university portal enabling them to get free job alerts from prospective employers on their cell phones for six months from their date of registration. The VC emphasised the need to strengthen research and promote capacity building by providing a vibrant and conducive environment and organising workshops, training programmes and other need-based activities; greening the campus and being environmentally responsible through the production of chemical-free vegetables.

The Chief Guest, Shri Ashok Thakur, in his address congratulated the University on its achievements over the years, its emergence as a leader in the field of distance education and its global outreach. He spoke of the need to “focus more than ever on ICT and the way it has taken the world of teaching-learning by

storm”. Shri Thakur outlined the Indian higher education scenario and the challenges it faces in an increasing complex world which demands of its workers that they “constantly increase the knowledge base, to go through a process of skilling and re-skilling, inventing and re-inventing themselves”. Stressing that learning is a continuous, seamless process with no end, he said that there would now be an emergence of the “career learner” who would be lifelong learners set on achieving more than one goal while

enrolling for academic programmes. In this setting, open and distance learning would be “uniquely situated to meet the challenges of the new age” as learning would move off-campus into the home or the workplace or “wherever the learner is”. While focusing on student learners, it is imperative not to lose sight of educating the teachers. Shri Thakur lauded IGNOU for having taken up a project to train thousands of in-service teachers employed by the Kendriya Vidhyalaya Sangathan and other state govt. schools. In a country like India where “tradition meets modernity”, a crucial challenge is to move ahead with times while not losing the precious heritage of traditional knowledge systems and languages. Shri Thakur opined that, “IGNOU, with its tremendous reach and access to cutting edge technologies”, is



The ceremony in progress

particularly well-suited to “provide meaningful direction in this respect by building up a resource base and knowledge repositories combining knowledge and skills unique to specific regions and communities across the country”.

The Guest of Honour, Dr. Vijitha Nanayakkara expressed his delight at the way in which IGNOU, in

stipulated time-frame. He also spoke about the need to review and redesign programmes according to social requirements and the significance of quality assurance. Brain drain in academia was also another area of concern that he touched upon as he offered statistics to emphasise the magnitude of the problem and spelt out the measures that universities and

governments could initiate which would encourage academics to stay and contribute constructively to their own countries. New trends in college education have ensured that increasingly, there is a flow of students and research towards the east from the west, reversing earlier practices. He was of the opinion that “the establishment of a consortium of open universities representing India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand and Phillipines seems to be a very promising move which benefits each university in the group”. Since we are ever-

increasingly becoming a global village, it would be in the best interests of our communities to set up a coalition of Asian/South Asian open universities which could pool academic and intellectual resources to

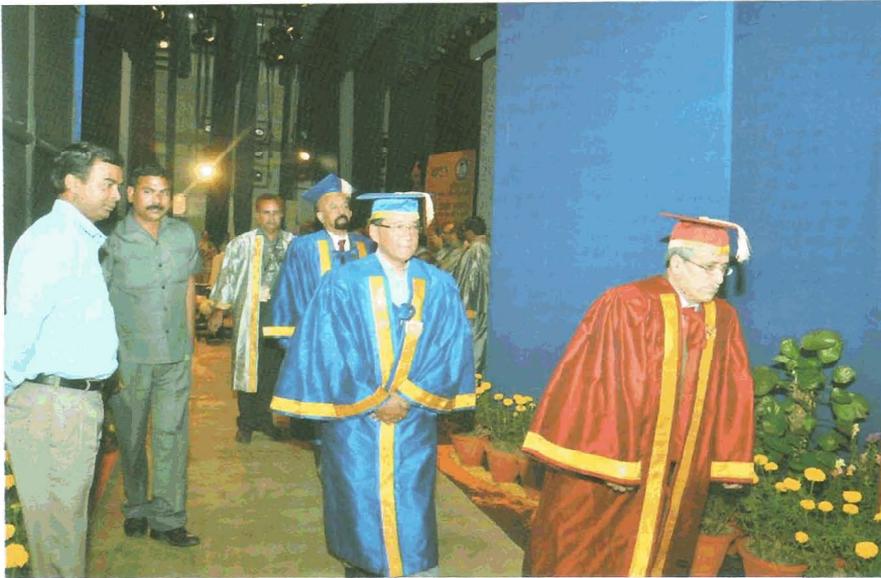


The Guest of Honour addressing the audience

less than 30 years, has expanded to over 3 million students in India and overseas. He pleaded for an education system that would have, at its core, human values and which would “aim at making human life better not only through economic upliftment... but also through social, moral and spiritual strengthening”. Recognising that knowledge is power as witnessed in the increasing transformation of industrial societies to knowledge-based ones, Dr. Nanayakkara gave an overview of the changes that are occurring in university systems worldwide and rued the fact that countries like India and Sri Lanka are lagging behind the OECD benchmark. He stressed that there is an urgent need for such countries to increase the rate of participation in higher education within a



The Convocation under way



The ceremony draws to a close

improve the quality of higher education in this region. Dr. Nanayakkara concluded with the earnest wish that each one of us would look beyond our personal aspirations and join hands in the collective responsibility of making the world a better place to live in.

Free Health Camp

The School of Health Sciences organized a free Health camp in collaboration with Max Healthcare



Activity at the Health Camp

Super Speciality Hospital on 26th March, 2014 for all IGNOU employees and family members including daily wagers and staff on contract basis. Consultation

related to Heart Disease and Diabetes was provided in addition to check-up for Blood Sugar & ECG. More than 230 employees and their family members availed of the facility. Small group discussions were also held by diabetologists and dieticians.

Memorandum between IGNOU & NHM

A Memorandum of Collaboration between IGNOU and National Health Mission (NHM), Government of Haryana was signed on 14th February, 2014. It aims to provide

Training to health professionals and health workers in the IMNCI component in 21 districts of Haryana, using the e-learning package developed by IGNOU.

National Seminar on Diversity and Dialogue: Translation Among Indian Languages

The School of Translation Studies and Training (SOTST), IGNOU in collaboration with National Book Trust (NBT) organized a One Day National Seminar on 'Diversity and Dialogue: Translation among Indian Languages', on 18th Feb. 2014, at World Book Fair, New Delhi.

The inaugural session was presided over by Prof. M. Aslam, VC, IGNOU; Prof. Kim Do Y'oung, a noted scholar of Korean language and Professor at Delhi University was the guest of Honour. Prof. Sethu Madhvan, Chairman NBT was also present on the occasion. Dr. M. Sikandar, Director NBT welcomed the guests and Prof. A.K. Singh, Director SOTST briefed those present about the initiative.

Prof. M. Aslam highlighted the need for a greater dialogue among Indian languages, especially in the era of globalization when a large number of languages are reeling under the pressure of market forces.

The seminar was divided into various sessions: "Indian Linguistic Scenario and Culture of Translation",

“Translating Oral Discourses and Inter-language Dialogue” and “Creating New Worlds: Translating Children's Literature”. The eminent speakers on the panel included: Prof. Ganesh Devy, Shri Ashok Vajpeyi, Prof. K. Satchidanandan, Prof. Ranjeet Kumar Goswami, Ms. Vandana Tete, Prof. Esther Syeim, Dr. Divik Ramesh and Dr. T. Kikuchi. The sessions saw engaging interaction on issues such as core understanding of the people in remote areas, their customs and the terminology that emanates from the life and living patterns. The scholars also had a glimpse of the evolution of animated literature in Japan and children's literature.

More than 150 scholars, researchers and students from various fields of study across the states of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan attended the seminar.

Workshop on Assignments in Open and Distance Learning

The Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education (STRIDE) organized a Workshop on Assignments in Open and Distance Learning on 9-10 January, 2014 at the university Headquarters.

Objectives of the workshop were to define the concept of 'assignment' and its role in ODL; explain various types of assignments, acquaint participants with the processes of developing assignment questions; discuss evaluation methods and the importance of tutor comments; and underline various operational issues relating to assignment handling and assessment.

25 faculty members from various Schools of Studies of IGNOU participated in the workshop which was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. M. Aslam. In his inaugural address he highlighted the place of assignments in the instructional design at IGNOU and appealed to the



The Valedictory Session

faculty to take utmost care in preparation of assignments so that overall quality of the system can be maintained. Pro-Vice Chancellors Prof. Sushma Yadav and Prof. Nageshwar Rao also interacted with the participants and made their observations.

The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Ali Asgar and Professor C.R.K Murthy from STRIDE. Faculty members from STRIDE and other schools and divisions acted as resource persons. The Valedictory address was delivered by Prof. Sushma Yadav and certificates were distributed to the participants.

International Women's Day

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the University launched a Gender Sensitization Initiative



Celebrating International Women's Day

promoted by the School of Gender and Development Studies (SOGDS) in collaboration with Regional Services Division (RSD). Prof. M. Aslam launched the Initiative at the function relayed through teleconferencing to regional centers across the country, emphasized key thrust areas for the Initiative, expanded on the institutional relevance and created a blueprint for action. The Pro Vice Chancellor Incharge of the School, Prof. Sushma Yadav was the Guest of Honour and she highlighted the context of the Initiative, present realities and critical issues. Prof. Nageshwara Rao and Prof. P. Prakash, Pro Vice Chancellors also touched on global and national perspectives while emphasizing the importance of the Initiative.

The Initiative is a collaborative endeavor to maximize outreach and sensitivity to local/regional concerns and issues and is envisaged as a multipronged spectrum of interventions including course/module/package design, development and delivery; research studies; information, knowledge dissemination and skill development through gender training for selected target groups.

National Workshop on SLMs

A national workshop on Development of SLMs for distance and online learning was organized by STRIDE from March 03 to March 07, 2014 at IGNOU headquarters. The coordinators of this programme were Dr. Rampalli Satyanarayana and Mr. Tata Ramakrishna.

The Objectives of this workshop were to familiarize the participants with adult learning and distance learning, and latest developments in DE; to explain the characteristics and processes of development of self-



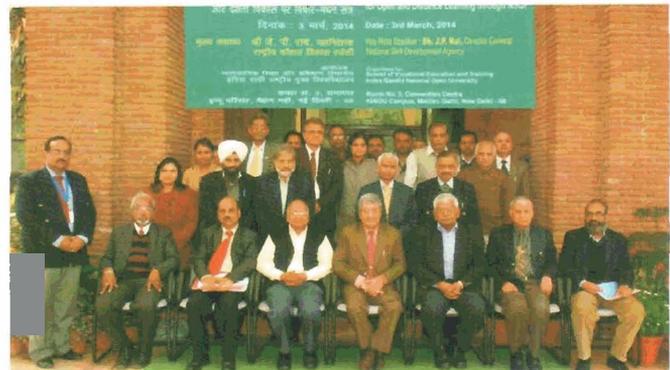
Interaction at the SLM Workshop

learning materials with practical activities as a key component, and develop skills of writing SLMs; to acquaint the participants with various other vital issues relating to the development of SLMs; to explain additional strategies of converting the existing print materials for online delivery and to enable participants to exchange experiences of their institutional practices of ODL, and build a network of experts of SLMs.

23 faculty members including new faculty of IGNOU, faculty of DDEs, CCI and SOUs participated in the workshop. The resource persons were from STRIDE, various Schools and divisions and experts from outside IGNOU.

Brainstorming session on 'Vocational Education and Skill Development for Open Distance Learning'

The School of Vocational Education and Training (SOVET) organized a Brainstorming session on 'Vocational Education and Skill Development for Open



Organisers and Participants

Distance Learning through National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF)/National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF)' at Convention Centre, IGNOU on 3rd March, 2014. The objective of the session was to explore innovative models of vocational education and skill development through the ODL system for employability. Shri. J P Rai, Director General, National Skill Development Agency delivered the key note address and reiterated that "Skill Development Mission target to train 500 million by 2022 is a challenge, considering the available infrastructure,

resources in general and qualified instructors in particular. In such a scenario, involvement of ODL institutions is a necessity and it can play a significant role in the capacity building of trainers/instructors for VET. ODL can also contribute significantly in Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and its certification through NSQF”.

Prof. M. Aslam, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, in his inaugural address, elaborated upon the contribution made by IGNOU in disseminating knowledge and empowering people from all walks of life. He emphasized the inbuilt flexibility of the ODL system to adapt/ adopt the new dimensions of teaching - learning and its ability to cater to all segments of society through its network.

The Brainstorming Session deliberated upon VET curriculum/ content development and transaction; learner support system; funding and monitoring mechanism in the ODL framework.

The experts recommended that IGNOU should evolve its own model of skill development given its rich expertise in the ODL system at the national and international level. The university should focus on research and development activities and documentation of traditional skill training existing in the country. Skill based programmes should be developed keeping in mind the employment prospects as per local industry requirements. Industry should be involved in the design and development process of VET curriculum and in imparting hands-on training. They should be encouraged to use their corporate social responsibility fund for sponsoring their employees to enhance their skill through the ODL system.



The deliberations on performing and visual arts

hosted a two day National Seminar on “Emerging trends and New Perspectives in the Teaching-Learning Practices in Performing and Visual Arts” on 29th and 30th of January 2014. More than 50 participants from academic and cultural institutions all over India attended the Seminar which began with a panel discussion and had six technical sessions in all, each chaired by an expert of the related field.

The seminar was inaugurated by the chief guest, IGNOU VC, Prof. M. Aslam who offered valuable insights on the need to understand the emerging trends in the Teaching-Learning practices in the area of Performing and Visual Arts. He emphasized the need to understand the paradigmatic shifts in the models of the educational system with stress on making courses more employment-friendly.

Dr. Govindaraju Bharadwaza, the convener of the seminar and the Director I/C of SOPVA, presented the welcome address and introductory note of the seminar. The seminar covered issues such as the importance of exploring new avenues like Music Therapy in the Music curriculum; the need to create concern and awareness of the environment through art education; the move to utilize ICT for propagation of music and also to train the trainers and an overview of the liberal arts programme as offered at other institutions which offered intelligent choices to students through entire programmes that were built upon an interesting palette of courses encompassing choices from visual and performing arts and social sciences. There was also the expression of the need for a curriculum on Theatre at the national level. Issues related to gaps between scholarship and performance and the need to develop theatre as a contemporized expression were brought to the fore as scholars and practitioners shared their experiences.

National Seminar on Emerging and New Perspectives in the Teaching-Learning Practices in Performing and Visual Arts

The School of Performing and Visual Arts (SOPVA),
 Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi,

The six technical sessions were chaired by eminent educationists from the fields of Music, Theatre Arts and Fine Arts from all over the country. The first day also featured music concerts by research scholars and faculty of SOPVA, followed by a documentary film on Bharata's *Natyashastra* directed by Dr. Gautam Chatterjee, Faculty of BHU.

Book Talk

The Library and Documentation Division organized a Book Talk on 11.3.2014, at IGNOU Library, Maidan Garhi Campus. The Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nageshwar Rao chaired the talk; Prof. Jagpal Singh, SOSS, was the main speaker and Prof. S.B. Upadhyay, SOSS, was the discussant.

The talk was on two books (i) *The Production of Hindu-Muslim Violence in Contemporary India* by Paul R Brass (2003), Oxford University Press, New Delhi) and (ii) *Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life: Hindus and Muslims in India* by Ashutosh Varshney (2005/2002), Oxford University Press, New Delhi.

It was well attended and generated some animated discussion. Participants appreciated the efforts of L&DD and voiced a request to make it a regular feature of library activities. Keeping in view the interests of different kinds of users, L&DD will organize more such Book Talks/discussions in future.

Ambedkar Birthday Celebration

A function was organised by the SC/ST association of IGNOU to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. Dr. Jai Prakash Kardam (noted Hindi writer) delivered a lecture while Prof. M. Aslam, VC IGNOU, presided over the function. Prof. P. Prakash, PVC was also present.



A view of dias'

In Focus - New Programme(s)

PG Diploma in Urban Planning and Development

Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Urban Planning and Development will be launched by the School of Extension and Development Studies of IGNOU from the July 2014 session.

It is estimated that globally, nearly 45% of the population resides in urban areas and in India, it constitutes around 31% of the total population. Rapid urbanization has put tremendous pressure on urban development and created new demands in the areas of housing, employment, education, health, sanitation, drinking water and transport. Urbanization and its issues are not being studied as an integrated area of study in Indian Universities. Through this Diploma programme on Urban Planning and Development, the School intends to fill the critical knowledge gap in this field.

The objective of this programme is to increase the knowledge and understanding of the learners regarding urban planning and development. It will enhance the capabilities of the functionaries and elected representatives of local self government and others associated with the urban sector. A person holding a graduate degree in any discipline can take admission in this PG Diploma programme for which the fee is Rs. 2800/-. Admission will be open till 15th June 2014 without late fee and till 31st July 2014 with late fee. More information is available on the IGNOU website.

MOOCs Launched at Delhi RC-2 Website

As an endeavour to offer education through interactive counselling sessions to students as per their convenience, IGNOU RC Delhi 2 has launched an e-learning portal called 'IGNOU MOOCs', which can be accessed at <http://moocs.ignourcd2.ac.in/>. This will greatly enhance student interface with their counsellors as the portal is an interactive user forum for building online communities for students and counsellors, providing online access to audio-visual counselling sessions. There is also the provision of having an online discussion forum with their peer

group and counsellors irrespective of time and space. It enables unlimited participation through open access via web technologies facilitating repetitive view for better comprehension. There is also the facility of online self-assessment through sets of objective questions which would enable learners to assess their progress. To begin with, 4 courses have been identified on the basis of high enrolment in these courses. These are BSHF101, FEG1, FEG2 and IBO1.

This is a dynamic platform and can be frequently updated to offer flexibility. It is also accessible globally through YouTube to students, counsellors and teachers irrespective of their location.

Kyrgyzstan Delegates Visit IGNOU

A three member delegation from the International University of Kyrgyzstan (IUK) visited IGNOU from 09th February to 15th February, 2014. This visit was coordinated by Dr. Ali Asgar, Assistant Professor, (STRIDE). The delegates visited the Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC) to familiarize themselves with educational programmes and technology implementation issues. They also visited the International Division. On 15th February, 2014, the delegation led by Mr. A.A Aidaraliev, President, IUK had a meeting with the IGNOU VC, Prof. M Aslam during which Mr. A.A. Aidaraliev articulated their needs vis a vis the collaboration between IUK and IGNOU.

Ministry of Science & Technology National Award

The National Council for Science and Technology has conferred on Dr. Oum Prakash Sharma, Deputy Director, NCIDE, the prestigious National Award for Outstanding Efforts in Science and Technology Communication - 2013 for popularizing Science in society, particularly among children. The award was given by Padam Vibhushan Dr. T Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and Prof. Vijay Raghwan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology (Govt. of India), as part of National Science Day Celebrations held in New Delhi on 28th



Personal and Professional joy!

February, 2014. Dr. Sharma is the Chief Editor of a popular science magazine 'Vigyan Apke Liye'. A Physics Scholar, Dr. Sharma has to his credit a number of articles and popular books in science like - *Vigyaan ke Naye Aayam, Na Udane Wale Pakshi, Khane ke Mej Par Vigyan Charcha* and a co-edited book on Digital Madhyam or *Hindi Me Vigyan Sanchar*. He has developed a web portal www.worldofscience.in, and a mobile enabled science communication system 'Science@Mobile'. Dr. Sharma was earlier honored with the Rajbhasha Ratna Award in 2004 and Sahitya Shri Samman in 2005.

FAI Golden Jubilee Award

The Fertilizer Association of India has awarded Dr. Mukesh Kumar (School of Agriculture) the FAI Golden Jubilee Award for "Outstanding Doctoral Research in Fertilizer Usage". The Award comprises Rs. 50,000/-, a Gold Medal and a Citation. The award was presented by Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture, during the FAI Seminar in December, 2013.



A proud moment!

IASC-INSA-NASI Summer Fellowship Award

Dr. M. Abdul Kareem, Asstt. Prof. in Bio-Chemistry, School of Sciences, has been awarded IASC-INSA-NASI Summer Fellowship Award for 8 weeks in 2014. He will avail the fellowship in NIPGR on Computation Biology.



Awards to IGNOU

The Horticulture Cell of IGNOU participated in an exhibition cum competition at IARI (Indian Agriculture Research Institute) Pusa on 1st & 2nd March, 2014

organized by the Delhi-Agri-Hort-Society (DAHS) with Govt. organizations such as JNU, DRDO, DDA, NPL, IARI and others. The cell displayed a variety of flowers and vegetables in the show under different categories. In addition, the cell also competed under categories such as 'garden attached to Govt. institution', 'building veranda', 'office corridor', 'different sizes of lawns attached to Govt. Buildings'. The Cell won 71 appreciation prizes including 18 trophies for its exhibits. The University efforts towards gardening and cultivation of vegetables received accolades from the organisers. The IGNOU VC applauded the achievements of the Horticulture Cell and suggested innovations for long term planning of the activities of the cell towards making the IGNOU campus green and eco-friendly.



A clutch of Awards!

Nominations to the Board of Management of the University

Prof. Sudip Ranjan Jha, Professor of Physics at the School of Sciences, IGNOU and Dr. Sanjeev Pandey, RD, IGNOU Regional Centre, Delhi (RC-1) have been nominated by the Vice Chancellor to the Board of Management, IGNOU as representatives of Teachers and Academics of the University. They will serve on the Board of Management for a period of two years from the date of their nominations.

SUPERANNUATION

Prof. Bimla Kapoor, (School of Health Sciences), superannuated on 31st of January 2014 after a rewarding and committed journey of 17 years 5 months in this university. She made optimum use of her own experience and insights and the university's potential to strengthen the nursing programmes of IGNOU which have created an

awareness of acquiring an education in nursing through the distance mode among in-service nurses nationally and internationally. A commendable feature of the programmes was the empowerment of women candidates and specifically tribal women. Prof. Kapoor was also Director, School of Health Sciences and will ~~always~~ be remembered as the first Ph.D. of IGNOU. We wish her a creative, healthy and peaceful time in the years ahead.

Staff of the University Awarded in 27th Convocation

The Open Letter team congratulates the following staff members of the University for their achievements:

	Award/Medal	Recipient
1	Best Services Award For Regional Centres	Regional Centre, Raipur Regional Centre, Itanagar
2	Best Service Award For Overseas Partner Institution	International Center for Academics, Kathmandu, Nepal
3	Indian Bank Sponsored Medals for Best Research Paper and 2 nd Best Research Paper	Best Research Paper Dr. Rakhi Sharma Associate Professor, SOET 2 ND Best Research Paper Dr. Smita M. Patil Assistant Professor. SOGDS
4	Gold Medal for Innovation in Open And Distance Learning	Dr. P. Sivaswaroop Regional Director, Nagpur 100% Job Placement for IGNOU Tribal Students of Gadchiroli

The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
 And sorry I could not travel both
 And be one traveler, long I stood
 And looked down one as far as I could
 To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
 And having perhaps the better claim
 Because it was grassy and wanted wear,
 Though as for that the passing there
 Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
 In leaves no step had trodden black.
 Oh, I kept the first for another day!
 Yet knowing how way leads on to way
 I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
 Somewhere ages and ages hence:
 Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
 I took the one less traveled by,
 And that has made all the difference.

•Robert Frost

IGNOU's 27TH Convocation at Regional Centres Across India

The Convocation is an important ceremony in a University for its students as well as teachers. It gives immense satisfaction to the teachers and other staff of the University to witness the outcome of the hard work put in by the students to earn Certificates, Diplomas, and Degrees. The Convocation at IGNOU is a unique ceremony because, unlike other Universities, its Convocation is held simultaneously at its Headquarters at New Delhi and 56 Regional Centres spread all over the country. In the following 'Photo Feature', we show case the Convocation held at our Regional Centres.



AGARTALA



AHMEDABAD



BHOPAL



COCHIN





DARBHANGA



DEHRADUN



DELHI



JAIPUR



JAMMU



LUCKNOW



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM





MADURAI



PANAJI

VISHAKHAPATNAM



PORT BLAIR



CHENNAI



BANGALORE



CHANDIGARH

AIZWAL





GUWAHATI



GANGTOK



HYDERABAD



DEOGHAR



JABALPUR



IMPHAL

KOHIMA



JORHAT



KORAPUT



RAGHUNATHGANJ



RAJKOT



PATNA



RAIPUR



VATAKARA



SHILONG



VIJAYWADA



NAGPUR





SILIGURI



VARANASI



SHIMLA



RANCHI



SAHARSA

Visit of Foreign Delegations

In recent times, many foreign delegations visited the University to explore opportunities for collaboration for mutual benefit. Here, we present a 'Photo Feature' on some of these visits during January-April, 2014.



U N Delegation



Thailand Delegation



Glasgow University UK Delegation



Kyrgyzstan Delegation



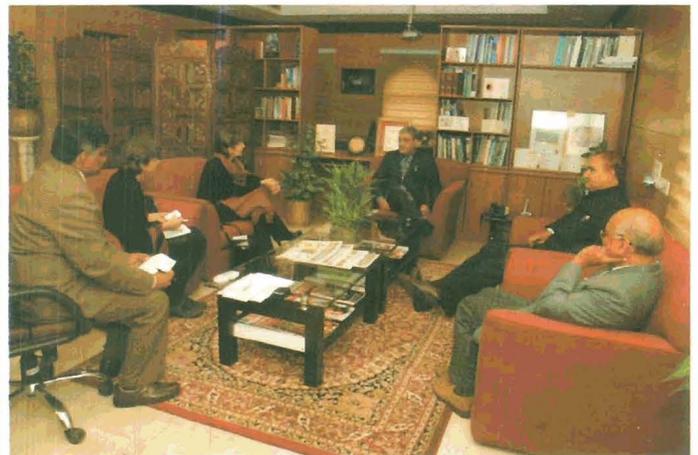
Kyrgyzstan Delegation



Ambassadors and High Commissioners Conference



Glasgow University Delegation UK



World Bank Delegation

इन्दिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय का 27वां दीक्षांत समारोह

16 अप्रैल, 2014 को इन्दिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय के मुख्यालय और साथ ही साथ विभिन्न क्षेत्रीय केंद्रों पर दीक्षांत समारोह आयोजित किये गये। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के प्रमुख सचिव श्री



श्री आनन्द गुप्ता, कृषि विद्यापीठ, पीएच.डी. उपाधि ग्रहण करते हुए

अशोक ठाकुर मुख्य अतिथि थे और ओपन युनिवर्सिटी ऑफ श्रीलंका के कुलपति डॉ. विजिता नानयाक्कारा विशिष्ट अतिथि थे। ज्ञानदर्शन पर दीक्षांत समारोह का लाइव प्रसारण भी किया गया। कुल 2,38,276 विद्यार्थियों को एम. फिल, और पीएच. डी सहित विभिन्न उपाधियां, डिप्लोमा और प्रमाणपत्र प्रदान किये गये। 93 विद्यार्थियों को स्वर्ण पदक प्रदान किये गये।

अपने प्रतिवेदन में विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति प्रो. एम. असलम ने उन क्षेत्रों में जहां तक उच्च शिक्षा नहीं पहुंची है वहां तक उसे पहुंचाने और नवीनतम सूचना और संचार प्रौद्योगिकी के स्तर को बढ़ाने का उल्लेख करते हुए विश्वविद्यालय की विशिष्ट प्रगति के बारे में बताया। उन्हीं के शब्दों में, "इग्नू को हमारे समाज के वंचित वर्गों तक उच्च शिक्षा पहुंचाने का निर्देश दिया गया है और विश्वविद्यालय ने वंचित वर्गों के विद्यार्थियों को आकृष्ट करने के लिए विशेष उपायों को आरम्भ करने की जरूरत के अनुसार काम करने का प्रयास किया है"। विश्वविद्यालय ने अध्ययन-अध्यापन

प्रक्रिया को बढ़ाने के लिए सूचना और संचार प्रौद्योगिकी की क्षमताओं का इस्तेमाल करने में उत्सुकता दिखाई है। 58,437 विद्यार्थियों के पंजीकरण द्वारा इग्नू ने अपनी महत्वपूर्ण अंतरराष्ट्रीय उपस्थिति भी दर्शाई है। वैश्विक स्तर पर उच्च शिक्षा के संस्थाओं के साथ सहयोग की जरूरतों को पहचानते हुए इग्नू ने पैन अफ्रीकन ई-नेटवर्किंग परियोजना के तहत राजदूतों/उच्चायुक्तों का सम्मेलन आयोजित किया।

कुलपति ने घोषणा करते हुए बताया कि "राष्ट्रीय विकलांगता अध्ययन केंद्र द्वारा प्रशिक्षण, अनुसंधान और विकास गतिविधियों के लिए प्राथमिकता के क्षेत्रों की पहचान द्वारा केंद्र के लिए कार्रवाई योजना को निर्मित करने के लिए योजना बनाई जा रही है"। कुलपति ने बताया कि विविधता और स्थायित्व के जरिये प्रभाव को बढ़ाने का प्रयास किया गया है। नोडलिनेट कार्यक्रम और ई-लाइब्रेरी संसाधनों के अधीन वर्चुअल अध्ययन परिवेश द्वारा शिक्षा के संसाधनों की उपलब्धता को बढ़ाया गया है। विभिन्न

सहयोगी परियोजनाओं के क्षेत्रों का विस्तार करते हुए उनमें संभावनाओं की खोज द्वारा क्षेत्रीय सेवाओं में सक्रियता को प्रोत्साहन देना आवश्यक है, विशेष रूप से रक्षा बलों और जेलों में। विश्वविद्यालय की अध्ययन गतिविधियों के मुख्य क्षेत्र विद्यार्थी पंजीकरण और मूल्यांकन और सामग्री वितरण की प्रक्रियाओं को व्यवस्थित और मजबूत करना होगा। मुक्त एवं दूर शिक्षा प्रणाली की साख बढ़ाने के लिए पढ़ाई बीच में छोड़कर जाने वाले विद्यार्थियों की संख्या में कमी लानी



गोल्ड मेडल ग्रहण करती हुई एक छात्रा



दीक्षांत समारोह के अवसर पर उपस्थित विदेशी अतिथि

होगी। स्थायी और गुणवत्ता वाली शिक्षा प्रदान करना और विद्यार्थी अपनी शिक्षा पूरी कर सकें उसके लिए विद्यार्थी सहायक सेवाओं को बढ़ाना होगा। विश्वविद्यालय पोर्टल पर पूरे भारत के आधार पर विद्यार्थियों के बारे में सम्पूर्ण जानकारी प्रस्तुत करते हुए कार्य अवसरों को बढ़ाने और उनको कार्य दिलवाने में सहयोग प्रदान करना। इस पोर्टल से उन्हें अपने पंजीकरण के दिन से छह महीने के अंदर सेल फोन के द्वारा संभावित नियोक्ताओं से निःशुल्क नौकरी सम्बंधी सूचनाएं प्राप्त हो सकेंगी। जीवंत और सहज परिवेश प्रदान करते हुए अनुसंधान गतिविधियों को मजबूत करना और क्षमता निर्माण को प्रोत्साहित करना और कार्यशालाएं प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम और अन्य जरूरत आधारित गतिविधियों को संगठित करना। परिसर को हरा-भरा बनाना और रसायन मुक्त सब्जियों के उत्पादन के द्वारा पर्यावरण के प्रति उत्तरदायित्व बनाना भी आवश्यक है।

मुख्य अतिथि श्री अशोक ठाकुर ने अपने संम्भाषण में विश्वविद्यालय को उसकी उपलब्धियों के लिए, दूर शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में नेतृत्वकारी भूमिका और अंतरराष्ट्रीय पहुंच के लिए बधाई दी। उन्होंने "सूचना और संचार प्रौद्योगिकी पर अपेक्षाकृत अधिक ध्यान केंद्रित करने और अध्ययन-अध्यापन जगत में उभार पैदा करने" की जरूरत पर भी प्रकाश डाला। श्री ठाकुर ने लगातार जटिल होती दुनिया में भारतीय उच्च शिक्षा परिदृश्य और उसके सामने मौजूद चुनौतियों को रेखांकित करते हुए कहा कि यह दुनिया अपने कार्यकर्ताओं से यह मांग करती है कि वे "अपने आप को बारबार कुशल बनाने और पुनरविष्कार करने की प्रक्रिया से गुजरते हुए

अपने ज्ञान आधार को लगातार बढ़ाये"। उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि सीखना एक निरन्तर चलने वाली प्रक्रिया है जिसका कोई अन्त नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा कि अब एक ऐसे "कैरियर लर्नर" का उभार होगा जो किसी शैक्षिक कार्यक्रम में प्रवेश लेते हुए भी जीवनपर्यन्त सीखता रहेगा क्योंकि उसे एक से अधिक लक्ष्य हासिल करने हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में मुक्त और दूर शिक्षा में नये दौर की चुनौतियों को पूरा करने का अन्यतम अवसर है क्योंकि सीखने की प्रक्रिया परिसर से बाहर निकल कर घर या कार्यस्थल या सीखने वाला जहां भी है

वहां पहुंच सकेगी। विद्यार्थियों पर ध्यान केन्द्रित करते हुए साथ-साथ हमें शिक्षकों को शिक्षित करने की जरूरत को भी ध्यान में रखना होगा। श्री ठाकुर ने इग्नू द्वारा केंद्रीय विद्यालय संगठन और अन्य राज्य सरकार के स्कूलों के सेवारत हज़ारों अध्यापकों को प्रशिक्षित करने की परियोजना हाथ में लेने की प्रशंसा की। भारत जैसे देश में जहां "परंपरा आधुनिकता से मिलती है" वहां परंपरागत ज्ञान प्रणालियों और भाषाओं की समृद्ध विरासत से ध्यान हटाए बिना समय के साथ चलना एक बहुत बड़ी चुनौती है। श्री ठाकुर का मत था कि, "इग्नू अपनी व्यापक पहुंच और आधुनिकतम प्रौद्योगिकियों की उपलब्धता के साथ" साखतौर पर "सारे देश में विशिष्ट क्षेत्रों और समुदायों की विशिष्टता के अनुरूप ज्ञान और कौशलों के सम्मिलित संसाधन आधार और ज्ञान भण्डार का निर्माण करते हुए एक अर्थपूर्ण दिशा प्रदान करने" के लिए सर्वथा उपयुक्त है।

विशिष्ट अतिथि डॉ. विजिता नानयाक्कारा ने इस बात पर खुशी जाहिर की कि इग्नू ने 30 वर्षों से कम समय में भारत और विदेशों में 30 लाख विद्यार्थियों को शिक्षा देने तक का विस्तार किया है। उन्होंने एक ऐसी शिक्षा प्रणाली का समर्थन किया जो मूल रूप में मानव मूल्यों पर आधारित हों और जिसका मकसद मानव जीवन को केवल आर्थिक उत्थान की दृष्टि से ही बेहतर बनाना न हो बल्कि सामाजिक, नैतिक और अध्यात्मिक रूप से शक्तिशाली बनाना भी हो। उन्होंने इस बात को स्वीकार करते हुए कि सूचना ही शक्ति है, कहा कि आज औद्योगिक समाज सूचना आधारित समाजों में तेज़ी से बदल रहा है। डॉ. नानयाक्कारा ने दुनिया भर में

विश्वविद्यालय प्रणालियों में होने वाले परिवर्तनों का जायज़ा लिया और कहा कि भारत और श्रीलंका जैसे देश ओ.ई.सी.डी. स्तर से काफी पीछे हैं और ऐसे देशों को एक निश्चित समयावधि में उच्च शिक्षा में भागीदारी की दर को बढ़ाना होगा। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि शैक्षिक कार्यक्रमों को सामाजिक ज़रूरतों और गुणवत्ता मानकों के अनुसार समीक्षा करके बदलने की ज़रूरत है। शैक्षिक क्षेत्र में बौद्धिक पलायन एक अन्य चिन्ता का विषय है उन्होंने आंकड़े देखकर समस्या की गहनता पर बल दिया और विश्वविद्यालयों और सरकारों को कौन से कदम उठाने चाहिए जो कि शिक्षाविदों को अपने ही देश में रहकर रचनात्मक रूप से सहयोग करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित कर सके। कॉलेज शिक्षा में जो नयी प्रवृत्तियाँ उभर रही हैं वे विद्यार्थियों और अनुसंधान के प्रवाह को पश्चिम से

पूर्व की ओर मोड़ रही है जो कि पहले से उलट है। उनका विचार था कि भारत, श्रीलंका, पाकिस्तान, चीन, बांग्लादेश, मलेशिया, थाईलैंड और फिलीपीन्स के मुख्य विश्वविद्यालयों के महासंघ की स्थापना की पहलकदमी से इस समूह के प्रत्येक विश्वविद्यालय को लाभ होगा। हम लगातार एक भूमण्डलीय ग्राम की ओर बढ़ते जा रहे हैं, हमारे समुदायों के लिए बेहतर यही होगा कि एशियाई/दक्षिण एशियाई मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय का संघ स्थापित हो जो कि इस क्षेत्र में उच्च शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता को बढ़ाने के लिए शैक्षिक और बौद्धिक संसाधनों को एकजुट कर सके। डॉ. नानयाक्कारा ने व्याख्यान के अंत में कहा कि हममें से प्रत्येक निजी आकांक्षाओं से परे जाकर एक-दूसरे का सहयोग करेंगे ताकि यह दुनिया जिसमें हम रहते हैं, एक बेहतर दुनिया बन सके।

गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह

इन्दिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय में 65वें गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर कुलपति प्रो. एम. असलम ने अध्यापकों, अधिकारियों, कर्मचारियों और बच्चों की उपस्थिति में



गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह पर सुरक्षा कर्मियों के साथ कुलपति और अन्य अधिकारी

ध्वजारोहण किया। इस अवसर पर कुलपति ने इग्नू परिवार के सभी सदस्यों से आह्वान किया कि कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर सब लोग इग्नू को एक नयी बुलंदी तक पहुँचाएँ। इस अवसर पर बोलते हुए कुलपति ने कहा कि वे चाहते हैं कि गरीब विद्यार्थियों के लिए छात्रवृत्ति की व्यवस्था की जाए और इग्नू के आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर कर्मचारियों के इग्नू में दाखिल बच्चों को मुफ्त शिक्षा दी जाए। उन्होंने इस अवसर पर यह भी घोषणा की कि इग्नू आवासीय परिसर में जल्दी ही बच्चों के खेलने के लिए एक खेल का मैदान बनाया जाएगा।

रक्तदान शिविर

दिनांक 28 जनवरी, 2014 को इन्दिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय में रोटरी क्लब, दिल्ली के सहयोग से रक्तदान शिविर का आयोजन किया गया जिसका उद्घाटन कुलपति प्रो. एम. असलम ने किया। इस रक्तदान शिविर में इग्नू के 48 कर्मचारियों ने रक्तदान में हिस्सा लिया।

डॉ. अंबेडकर राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार

प्रो. शत्रुघ्न कुमार, मानविकी विद्यापीठ को भारतीय दलित साहित्य अकादमी, दिल्ली की ओर से डॉ. आंबेडकर राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया। पुरस्कार हिमाचल प्रदेश के पूर्व राज्यपाल डॉ. माता प्रसाद और राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जाति आयोग के अध्यक्ष श्री पी. एल. पुनिया द्वारा प्रदान किया गया।



प्रो. शत्रुघ्न कुमार पुरस्कार ग्रहण करते हुए

Pictorial Profile of Regional Centre

IGNOU Regional Centre, Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Year of Establishment	: January, 2003	No. of LSCs	: 39
Programmes Activated	: 54	No. of approved Academic Counsellors	: 564
Enrollment (Fresh+RR for Jan. 2014.)	: 1191+1088 = 2279	Award : University Gold Medal, 2014 for Best Services	



Regional Director Dr. H. Sangeeta Majhi with Asst. Regional Director, Asst. Registrar and support Staff in front of newly purchased building for IGNOU Regional Centre, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.



Regional Director, Dr. H. Sangeeta Majhi receiving University Gold Medal, 2014 for the Best Services from Guest of Honour Prof. Vijitha Nanayakkara, Vice-chancellor, Sri Lanka Open University during 27th Convocation of IGNOU.



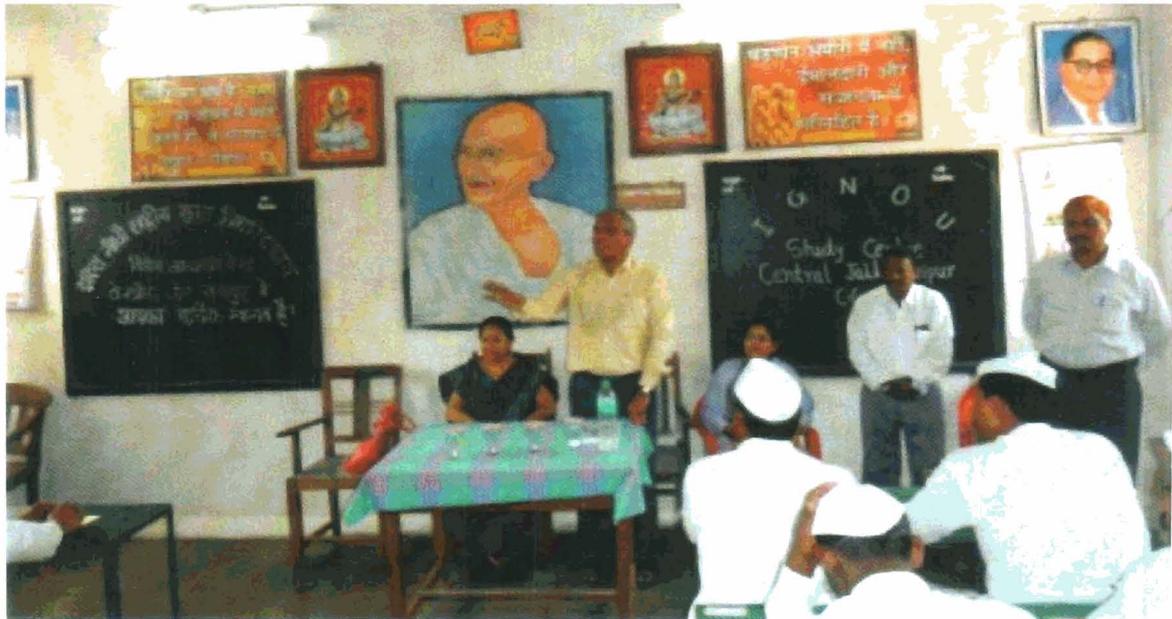
Taking IGNOU Upwards : Pictured with Hon'ble Governor of Chhattisgarh Shri Shekhar Dutt .



Dr. H. Sangeeta Majhi, RD with m/o Agriculture, CG, Shri Chadrashekhara Sahu and V.C, IGKV, Raipur Prof. S.K. Patil during inauguration of New PSC for SOA .



Faculty from School of Social Work, IGNOU interacting with the Learners of BSW & MSW Prog. at RC Raipur.



Regional Director Dr.H.Sangeeta Majhi with ARDs interacting with the Jail inmates at Central Jail, Raipur .



Dr.Saroj Kumar Mishra & Dr. Arshia Hussain, ARDs interacting with Female Jail Inmates at Central Jail, Durg, CG



Dr.Saroj Kr. Mishra,Asst. Regional Director delivering Guest Talk at Pt.Sundar Lal Sharma Open University(SOU), Bilaspur, CG. under extension services for SOU Staff.



A freed Jail Inmate from Central Jail, Durg, C.G. at Regional Centre, Raipur seeking solace to establish his life.



Promoting IGNOU Admissions among Police personnel during IPL-6 matches held at Raipur .

Dr. P. Prakash Joins as Pro Vice Chancellor



Dr. P. Prakash, who has earlier served as Vice Chancellor, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU), Hyderabad, Registrar, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad and UGC for more than two decades, joined the Indira

Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi on 7th of January, 2014 as Pro Vice Chancellor.

An alumnus of Osmania University, Hyderabad and with post graduate teaching experience at the same University, he did Post Doctoral Research work on "Biological control on Soil Borne Microbes/Pathogens" at Humboldt University, Berlin {Germany}. He is the recipient of the CSIR-NET Scholarship and Best Research Paper award of the Indian Botanical Society. Dr. Prakash has published research papers in Peer reviewed Journals, co-authored a reference book and chaired National/International Symposia/Conferences /Workshops, apart from participation in Radio and TV Programmes. During his tenure at UGC, he contributed to Policies, Planning and Coordination of quality education at the Tertiary level. He also facilitated state-of-art architecture in the

University network of Indian Universities (UGC-INFONET) and some innovative programmes such as e-journals Multimedia, e-content and e-learning, apart from launching SITS for EDUSAT programmes.

Dr. Prakash led the UGC delegation in the PIHEAD Programme to Syria and Dubai and a delegation of Commonwealth of Learning (Canada) to Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong Institutes/Universities for Academic Interaction in e-content, learning object repositories and e-learning concepts. He also participated in the First South Asia Education Dialogue on "Transforming Higher Education in South Asia" held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2013 and in SAKAL EDUCON-2013 International Vice-Chancellors' Summit on "Transformation for Excellence" in Istanbul, Turkey in 2013.

His initiatives have helped in building up Infrastructure capital and Human Resource Capital particularly in Science and Technology discipline(s). He has served as Member Secretary of Curricula Committees and formulated curricula for Undergraduate/Postgraduate subjects. As Peer Member for National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and Distance Education Council (DEC), he was involved in the assessment, accreditation and grading of Institutions. He has been recently elected as a member of A.P. Academy of Sciences, Hyderabad.

IGNOU warmly welcomes Dr. Prakash and wishes him a fruitful and creative tenure.

Objects of the University (IGNOU Act, Section 4)

The objects of the University shall be to advance and disseminate learning and knowledge by a diversity of means, including the use of any communication technology, to provide opportunities for higher education to a larger segment of the population and to promote the educational well being of the

community generally, to encourage the Open University and distance education systems in the educational pattern of the country and to coordinate and determine the standards in such systems, and the university shall, in organising its activities, have due regard to the objects specified in the First Schedule.

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