

## OLIMPIC - A Newsletter covering Open Learning Innovations & Management Practices in IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin

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The Regional Centre (RC14), Cochin Newsletter is named as OLIMPIC in the year 2017 by the team comprising Dr. M. Rajesh (RD), Dr. Sindhu P. Nair (ARD), Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari (ARD) and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan (AD)

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The Regional Centre Campus is in a one acre campus housing two sets of blocks of buildings surrounded by space, many fruit yielding trees and flowering plants. The plants and trees were planted and nourished by the founding staff of Regional Centre, Cochin and sustained by the successors.

Some of the fruit yielding trees are Mango Tree (*Mangifera indica*), Jack Fruit Tree (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), Banana Tree (*Musa acuminata*) and Guava (*Psidium guajava*). Ornamental Trees are Red Palm (*Acanthophoenix rubra*), Fig tree (*Ficus*), *Dracaena* (*Asparagaceae*), Neem Tree (*Azadirachta indica*), Cycas (*Cycas revolute*).

Flowering Plants add beauty to the campus and they are Shoe Flower (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*), Maranta leuconeura (*Maranta leuconeura*), West Indian Lantana (*Lantana camara*), West Indian Jasmine (*Ixora*), Mussaenda (*Mussaenda*), Red frangipani (*Plumeria rubra*), Yellow elder (*Tecoma stans*), Century plant (*Agave americana*) and Dogbanes (*Apocynaceae*). Fruit Plants are Indian Gooseberry (*Phyllanthus emblica*), Sugar apple (*Annona squamosa*), Mango Tree (*Mangifera indica*) and Breadfruit (*Artocarpus*). The Kerala State Flower, Golden shower tree (*Cassia fistula*) also blooms during the April-June season.

However certain plants like Oak Tree and Gauva Tree were washed off during the recent floods.

The inputs for this section was provided by Dr. Baby Usha Kiran, Asst. Coordinator, SC 14000, Regional Centre Campus, Kaloor.



## 32<sup>nd</sup> IGNOU Convocation at Regional Centre Cochin

The 32nd Convocation of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was held on 3rd April, 2019 and webcasted live from Head Quarters, New Delhi from 10.30 am. onwards. Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India was the Chief Guest at the IGNOU Main Campus, New Delhi. The Regional Centre Cochin Convocation was simultaneously organized by the Regional Centre Cochin at Municipal Corporation Town Hall, Near Railway over bridge, Ernakulam North. Prof. (Dr.) R. Sasidharan, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Cochin University of Science & Technology (CUSAT) was the Guest of Honour at Regional Centre, Cochin. In his Convocation address, he emphasized on the important role played by IGNOU in opening the doors of Higher education to the common man and how the knowledge and skills gained from studying at IGNOU would empower learners to face the challenges of life.



Guest of Honour Prof. (Dr.) Sasidharan, Vice-Chancellor, CUSAT delivering the 32nd IGNOU Convocation address on 03.04.2019.

At the Regional Centre, Cochin, 3832 learners of various academic programmes have successfully completed their programme and have been awarded degrees in this convocation.

The learners who attended in person to collect their Degrees and Diplomas were given the Certificates in the stage by the Guest and during the convocation, the three gold medalists were also honoured for securing the highest marks in their programme of study.

Sh. Sajith Kumar K.T. for Master of Arts (Philosophy), Smt. Anju Anna John for Master of Social Work Counselling (MSWC) and Smt. Thasni Shahul for Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications (PGDCA) received their Gold Medals.



Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, presenting the Report of the Regional Centre in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Convocation held on 03.04.2019



Participants of 32<sup>nd</sup> IGNOU Convocation at Regional Centre Cochin on 03.04.2019



Gold medalists (First Row) along with the Regional Centre Staff and Guest of Honour Prof.(Dr.) Sasidharan, Vice-Chancellor, CUSAT at the 32nd IGNOU Convocation on 03.04.2019





Regional Centre Cochin and Regional Evaluation Centre Cochin staff with Guest of Honour Prof. (Dr.) Sasidharan at the 32nd Convocation on 03.04.2019

### Induction Meeting at Lakshadweep

Induction Meeting for students of January 2019 admission session was conducted at SSC 14176D Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Kavarathy, UT of Lakshadweep by the Coordinator, Shri. Jain George on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Dr. V T Jalajakumari, ARD participated in this meeting and addressed the students on the various aspects of being the IGNOU Student.



Dr.V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD addressing learners of SSC 14176D Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Kavarathy, UT of Lakshadweep at the Induction Meeting on 07.03.2019

### Orientation Programme on CBCS

The Regional Centre, Cochin conducted a One Day Orientation Programme on the theme of newly introduced CBCS for the Part-Time Staff under IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin on 16th May 2019. The Orientation Programme was attended by 21 Part Time Staff from various Regular LSCs where BDP programme have been activated under Regional Centre Cochin.

Dr. V T Jalajakumari, ARD gave the welcome address. In the Inaugural address Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD gave a detailed description about the common features of Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) for BA, BCOM and BSC Programmes of IGNOU under the scheme of CBCS as two scheme- General and Honours; she also highlighted its relevance for implementation in the current scenario of multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary approach in Higher Education. Dr. V. T. Jalajakumari, ARD discussed on the mode of selection of courses for BAG, BCOMG and BSCG according to CBCS in the Online Admission portal. The Part Time Staff were encouraged to help the Coordinators of the LSCs to empanel more academic counselors in the existing courses revised and added courses under CBCS through online portal for empanelment of Academic counselors.



Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director addressing the participants at Orientation Programmes for Part-Time Staff on 16.05.2019





Discussion by participant in progress under CBCS Orientation Programmes for Part-Time Staff on 16.05.2019

Sh. Sebastian D'Cruz, Ex.DP informed about the IGNOU Online Admission Portal for 2019 July session to give clarity about the classification and selection of courses under CBCS. Sh. Muhammad Ansar T. A., AEDP oriented the participants on the Changed Evaluation pattern as per CBCS. Shri. K J Joseph, Section Officer explained about fee exemption scheme for SC/ST students, Jail Inmates, submission of Stock Verification Report, bill etc. in time. Shri. K.K. Joseph, Assistant Registrar proposed the vote of thanks for the programme.



Participants at the CBCS Orientation Programme for Part-Time Staff on 16.05.2019

## Extended Contact Programme for PGDSLM

The PGDSLM programme developed in collaboration with the Education section of the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, is aimed at developing essential skills, competencies and values needed for effective School Leadership and Management, is offered at Regional Centre, Cochin. As part of this programme, a four day ECP was scheduled at the Regional centre during 10-13 May 2019, based on the theoretical components of PGDSLM programme. The ECP of PGDSLM covered lectures, discussions, individual and group activities. Seven learners attended the programme at Regional Centre.



Dr. Benny Varghese, Programme Director addressing the participants of PGDSLM programme in the Inaugural session



ECP Workshop Participants of PGDSLM programme with the Regional Centre Officials and Programme Director



### Extended Contact Programme in PGDHE

IGNOU Regional Centre conducted the ten day Extended Contact Programme for PGDHE students of the Region from 17<sup>th</sup> May to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The ECP of PGDHE programme is intended to provide the learners with vital inputs on various aspects of Higher Education such as characteristics of the Teaching profession, Financing of Higher Education, Globalization and Privatization, Course Design, Project work, Teachers as Counsellors and Learners with special needs. The programme was attended by three participants.



PGDHE ECP Workshop Director Dr. C.K. Shankaran Nair addressing the students of PGDHE



ECP Workshop Participants of PGDHE programme with the Regional Centre Officials and Workshop Director

### Exam Centres Superintendent Meeting

The Regional Centre conducted a one day meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 for all Examination Centres Superintendent in preparation to Term End Examinations. In the Inaugural address, Regional Director Dr. J.S. Dorothy gave a detailed description about the modalities for the conduct of the Term End Examination, the changed jurisdiction for dispatch of answer sheets and the role of the Learner Support Centres in the smooth conduct of the Examination so that the access into the programme of Study leads to the successful completion of the Programme for a learner. Dr. S.Vijayaragavan, ARD addressed all on the topic IGNOU Term End Examination- Receipt of Question Papers, Scheme of Despatch of Answer Sheets and Observers Deputed. Shri. S. Venugopal, Section Officer, IGNOU REC Cochin deliberated on the topic Information about reframed jurisdiction for sending Answer Scripts to Regional Evaluation Centre Bhubaneswar for Examination Centres under Regional Centre Cochin and Empanelment of Evaluators.



Session on IGNOU Term End Examination related to Receipt of Question Papers, Scheme of Dispatch of Answer Sheets and Observers Deputed were also deliberated by Dr S Vijayaragavan, ARD in the Exam Centres Superintendent Meeting held on 29.05.2019



Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Asst. Director, handled a session on Necessity for promotional meeting for increased Examinee Strength through July 2019 Admissions. Dr. V. T. Jalajakumari, Assistant Regional Director discussed on the Newly introduced CBCS and its effect on Examination Centres from December 2019. Shri. K.K. Joseph, Assistant Registrar, proposed the vote of thanks for the programmes.



Regional Centre Staff alongwith all Exam Centres Superintendent on the meeting held on 29.05.2019

### Brainstorming Session with Regional Centre Staff

A Brainstorming session was conducted at the Regional Centre Cochin on 30.05.2019 coordinated by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD for promotion of IGNOU programmes for all Regional Centre staff.



Brainstorming session in progress at Regional Centre Cochin for promotion of IGNOU programmes on 30.05.2019

The suggestions which emerged are as follows.

- Contacting/Writing to Tribal Extension Officers of Each Districts for reaching out to SC/ST Students
- Contacting AIR/Doordarsan for a slot for presentation of all IGNOU programmes
- Contacting for Admission promotion meeting at various Study Centres, Police Academy, Jails, nearby colleges
- Promoting IGNOU programmes through Social Media

### Term End Examination (June 2019)

The IGNOU Term End Examination was conducted in the month of June 2019. The Examinations were conducted at 11 Examination Centres under the region at Ernakulam, Kottayam, Idukki, Thrissur and Union Territory of Lakshadweep with 13593 registered examinees. The Examinations were conducted smoothly in all Districts under Regional Centre Cochin. The Model Study Centre SC 14000 functioning from Regional centre Campus also served as the Examination Centre.

### Innovation Club Activities

The Innovation Club at Regional Centre, Cochin was initiated under the encouragement of the National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE) of IGNOU. The sessions were held at Regional Centre, Cochin with an objective to enrich and generate awareness amongst the learners of IGNOU on a wide range of topics ranging from *IGNOU Website and E-Learner Support Systems of IGNOU*, *Citizen Responsibility for Environment and Challenges of Entrepreneurship* through which the learners were made aware about the various issues and motivated to think innovatively, generate ideas and embark on a path which could help all as well as future development of the Nation. A Series of monthly lecture identified as Enrichment Session were held at the Regional Centre, Cochin as per the following schedule.



Sl. No	Date	Resource Person	Topic of Presentation
1	25.04.2019	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan	IGNOU Website and E-Learner Support Systems of IGNOU
2	08.05.2019	Dr. S. Vijayaragavan	Citizen Responsibility for Environment Protection
3	21.06.2019	Smt. Omana Muraleedharan	Challenges of Entrepreneurship



Smt. Omana Muraleedharan, Proprietor of M/S. Amrutha Metal Finish & Charris Food Products Ltd., addressing Learners during the Enrichment session of Innovation Club on 'Challenges of Entrepreneurship' on 21.06.2019



Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD addressing learners during the Enrichment session of Innovation Club on 'IGNOU Website and E-Learner Support Systems of IGNOU' on 25.04.2019



The participants of the Enrichment Session with the Resource Person and Regional Centre Staff on 21.06.2019



Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD addressing learners during the Enrichment session of Innovation Club on 'Citizen Responsibility for Environment Protection' on 08.05.2019.

### Unnath Bharat Abhiyan Activities

IGNOU was provided a slot for presentation about programmes of Regional Centre, Cochin in the monthly Project review cluster meeting of Kudumbashree workers which was held at Edathala Grama Panchayat on 02.04.2019 and 02.05.2019 as a part of UBA activity of Regional Centre Cochin. The visits were undertaken by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD and Dr. V T Jalajakumari, ARD on 02.04.2019 and 02.05.2019 respectively. Around 300 members of Kudumbashree participated in the meetings.



For both these sessions a brief about IGNOU and its programmes was given. They also briefly explained the structure of IGNOU, the admission process, the structure of the programmes, the method of delivery of programmes, the role of Regional centre/Study centre. They also highlighted the programmes which would be beneficial to them and their children. The programmes like CFN, CLP, CDM, BA, BCom, BSW etc. were explained to the participants. The fee structure was also explained. An insight about assignments, examination and other student support services available with IGNOU were also explained to the participants.



Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD addressing Kudumbasree Members at Edathala Panchayath under UBA activity on 02.04.2019



Dr. V T Jalajakumari, ARD addressing Kudumbasree Members at Edathala Panchayat on 02.05.2019

## Promotional Initiatives

Promotional Meetings, Campaigns and Events were organized at the Regional Centre, various Study Centres, Jails and other Institutions to promote IGNOU programmes by reaching out to the unreached. Efforts were specifically made to reach out to Learners of Lakshadweep and Jail Inmates.



Promotional meeting for IGNOU programmes at Govt. ITI, Kavarathi Island, UT of Lakshadweep on 06.05.2019 by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD.



Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD at a Promotional meeting for IGNOU programmes amongst Kudumbasree workers at Agathi & Kavarathi Island, UT of Lakshadweep on 06.05.2019





Dr. Praseetha Unnikirshnan, AD and Sh. Muhammad Ansar T.A, AE DP, at the Promotional Admission Campaign for Womens Jail Inmates and staff at Viyyur Central Prison, Thrissur on 07.06.2019



Promotional Campaign by Dr. Praseetha Unnikirshnan, AD and Sh. Muhammad Ansar T.A, AE DP, at Men's Jail, Viyyur Central Prison, Thrissur on 07.06.2019

## Other Activities at Regional Centre Cochin

### International Yoga Day Celebrations

The Regional Centre, Cochin celebrated the Yoga Day on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019. The function was attended by the staff of Regional Centre, Regional Evaluation Centre and Model Study Centre (SC-14000).

Sh. Sooraj P Sekhar, Sahasrara Institute of Yoga and Mind Culture, Cochin was the Resource Person during the event. During the celebrations, Shri. Shekhar gave both theory and hands on experience to the audience.



Hands on Experience of Yoga during Yoga day celebrations at Regional Centre Cochin on 21.06.2019.

### Shakthi Sthapana Diwas

IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin participated in the Shakti Stapana Divas, Foundation day of Shakti Kerala without any financial liability on IGNOU at IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin on 27.05.2019. Shakti is a wing of Vijnana Bharati, involved in making lives of women better with scientific interventions in eco-friendly economic enterprises.

Dr. A K Prema, President, Shakti Kerala, presided and Ms. Leena D Mohan, Secretary gave the welcome address. After the Inaugural address by Dr. J. S. Dorothy, Regional Director, Regional Centre Cochin, the Shakti Prerana Puraskar was given to Mrs. Omana Muraleedharan, who was chosen for being an innovative women entrepreneur.



Smt. Omana Muraleedharan, Proprietor of M/s. Amrutha Metal Finish & Charris Food Products Ltd., receiving Shakti Prerana Puraskar from Dr. A K Prema, President, Shakti Kerala on 27.05.2019



Mrs. Omana Muraleedharan shared her evolved vision of being an entrepreneur, her ups and downs in life on her journey towards entrepreneurship and her struggles for establishing M/S. Charris Food Products. She was also recipient of entrepreneur Award from State Government and Canara Bank earlier.

### Staff Corner

#### General Election to Lok Sabha- Polling Duty of Officials

The Regional Centre Cochin officials were deputed for Polling duty for General Election to Lok Sabha on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019. The duty assigned were as follows.

S. No	Resource Person	Type of Duty
1	D. V T Jalajakumari	Polling Officer 1
2	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan	Polling Officer 3
3	Sh. K Muraleedharan	Polling Officer 1
4	Sh. Muhammad Ansar T A	Polling Officer 1
5	Sh. Anil Kumar	Polling Officer 3
6	Smt. R Manju	Polling Officer 3
7	Sh. Sabu N G	Polling Officer 3

#### 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebration of Regional Centre Staff

The 25th Wedding Anniversary of Sh. K J Joseph, SO and his wife Smt. Molly Joseph was celebrated at Regional Centre Cochin premises on 23.05.2019. All the staff of Regional Centre and Regional Evaluation Centre gathered for lunch hosted by the couple and congratulated the couple for their personal milestone.

It is also pertinent to mention that Sh. K J Joseph was a part of team responsible to get the land for Regional centre building and the subsequent extension of subsidized lease amount for the Regional centre land from Government of Kerala.



Dr. J. S. Dorothy, RD wishing Shri. K. J. Joseph, SO and his wife Mrs. Molly Joseph on their 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary at Regional Centre premises on 23.05.2019

### Study Centre Corner

#### SC 14127 - Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha

Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha was founded in 1953 by His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Augustine Kandathil, Arch Bishop of Ernakulam to meet the educational needs of the eastern districts of north Travancore. In 1955, the college was raised to First Grade by offering B.A., B.Sc. and B.Com courses. Post graduate courses were introduced in 1965 and research facilities are available presently in five Departments.



Entrance of Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha

Presently, Nirmala College is one of the foremost colleges in Kerala with affiliation to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam and is nationally accredited by NAAC at B grade (CGPA of 2.85) in March 2013. In



addition, the college is accorded the star college status in 2017 by the Dept. of Bio-Technology, Govt. of India, in recognition of the advancements made by the science departments of the college in scientific research.



Students at the Entrance of IGNOU Study centre SC 14127 at Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha.

Under the leadership of Dr. Sreeja G R, Coordinator, IGNOU Study Centre SC 14127 is functioning from the campus of Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha.



IGNOU staff of SC 14127 interacting with students at Office in Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha.

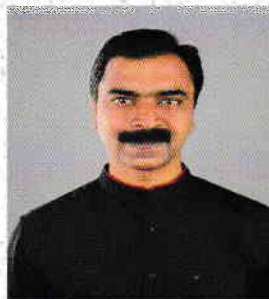
It is a Regular Study Centre established under Regional Centre Cochin in the year 2009 with 11 students and has presently grown to 466 IGNOU students on rolls as on January, 2019.

There are thirteen IGNOU programmes activated at this Study centre which include various Master and Bachelor

Degree programmes. This IGNOU LSC also serves as an Examination Centre.

IGNOU Regional centre Cochin thanks the Coordinator of SC 14127 Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha for providing inputs on the host institution and Learner Support centre for this Newsletter.

### Meet an IGNOU Learner



This 'Meet an IGNOU Learner' series is about Sh. Toms Abraham who was a Gold Medalist of Master of Philosophy (MAPY) programme of IGNOU in the 31<sup>st</sup> Convocation. His profile was shared to Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD for use in Regional Centre, Cochin.

He is basically a Yoga Teacher working with Marian Senior Secondary School, Kottayam, Kerala for the past 16 years. He has to his credit various publications including three books on Yoga in Malayalam.

He has thirteen Post Graduate Degrees to his credit from various Institutions/Universities in addition to a Ph.D in Alternative Medicine. According to Sh. Toms, his association with IGNOU has been an intellectual sojourn, which empowered him to tread into critical thinking and logical reasoning on the philosophical questions. The MAPY programme which he pursued from IGNOU has played an important role in his philosophical sojourn.

*IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin salutes the spirit and enthusiasm of this Learner in his pursuit of knowledge and wisdom!*



## A Collage depicting the activities of the Regional Centre

