

## 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 Gymnasium at IGNOU Regional Centre Campus, Cochin

The age old adage 'Health is Wealth' is especially true in this current fast paced life. A Healthy mind and body are essential ingredients for the overall happiness of an individual to perform both personally and professionally. Now-a-days, people hardly get time to exercise. Hence, going to a Gymnasium to do exercise makes them physically and mentally active. Considering this aspect and to improve upon the health status of its staff, the Regional Centre Campus of Cochin houses a Gymnasium in the Main Building on the Ground floor.

The Gymnasium was established in the ground floor of the old block under the guidance and leadership of Dr. V. Venugopal Reddy, Former Regional Director (who served RC Cochin from 01/08/2011 to 02/11/2012). The staff welfare Cell and cultural club of Cochin Regional Centre manages the utilization and maintenance of the equipment in the Gym. The equipments available here are Treadmill (which is a device used for exercise consisting of a continuous moving belt on which one walks or runs); Orbitrack Exercise bike (which reduces the stress and strain on the legs through an elliptical motion); Dumbbells (which is used for joint-isolation exercises such as biceps curls, chest flyes or shoulder raises.); Barbell (which is the longer version of the dumbbell and is used for free weight training and competitive sports, such as powerlifting); Push up stand (which is used for doing push-ups, the most common form of exercise that makes use of the body weight as resistance to build muscle strength); and Hip twister (which targets to reduce the excess fat around the stomach to help to lose some extra weight).

The staff at RC Cochin makes use of this Gymnasium in their leisure time. The Gymnasium is also an attraction for little children of staff members who come to attend cultural functions and other events at the Regional Centre.



## Republic Day Celebrations

The Regional Centre, Cochin celebrated the Republic Day on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Dr. Sindhu P Nair, ARD hoisted the National flag in the presence of all staff members and security guards infusing the spirit of Patriotism amongst one and all.



The Regional Centre staff after hoisting the National flag on 26.01.2019

## Voters' Day Celebration

The Voters' Day celebrations were jointly celebrated at RC Cochin by the staff of Regional Centre, Regional Evaluation Centre, and Model Study Centre SC 14000 on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019 at 11 am. The brief about the origin of India as a Democratic Republic and the importance of casting vote as citizen was highlighted to the audience by Dr. J. S. Dorothy, Regional Director, RC Cochin. The importance of the Voter as a deciding authority for Governance was shared by Sh. Venugopal, SO, REC Cochin. The pledge as a responsible voter was taken by all present. Sh. K.K. Joseph, AR administered the Voter's Day pledge.



Pledge administered by Shri. K K Joseph, AR RC Cochin on 25.01.2019

## Coordinators' Meeting

The Regional Centre Cochin conducted its 38<sup>th</sup> Coordinators/PICs meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Among the 36 LSCs in operational mode under Regional Centre Cochin, Coordinators/PICs of 19 LSCs had participated in the meeting. St. Antony's College, Peruvanthanam (14186) was the first time participant in this meeting as it is a newly established Regional Centre established on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The Proposal was sent during the tenure of former Regional Director I/C Dr. Sindhu P Nair in the year 2018. The objective of the meeting was to update the Coordinators about the recent initiatives and developments of IGNOU.



Participants of 38<sup>th</sup> Coordinators' Meeting on 28.02.2019

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD in her address highlighted the responsibilities of the Head of the Institutions, Coordinators/PICs and other Part Time Staffs besides the new initiatives at IGNOU related to SLMs, Online entry for Empanelment of Academic Counselors initiated by RSD on 09.01.2019. Dr. Sindhu. P. Nair, ARD in her session emphasized on the Components of Internal and External Evaluation at IGNOU, Projects, Viva-Voce etc. Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD addressed the participants on the development and functioning of LSCs with special emphasis on the necessity of Renewal of Part Time-Staff and Appointment of Part Time Staff as per the Student enrolment. A technical session for giving hands on experience on the digital initiative of Online Empanelment of Academic Counselors was



facilitated by Shri. Sebastian D'cruz, Executive DP and Shri. Muhammed Ansar, AEDP. Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD in her session highlighted on the Maintenance of database of students; webhosting of theory and practical Counseling Session Schedule. Besides this, she also presented about the importance and handling of counseling sessions with the support of video demonstrations.



Session on Finance by Shri. K J Joseph, SO

A special session was conducted by Shri. Jojy S Pattathil, Deputy Registrar of Regional Evaluation Centre, Cochin explaining the issues faced in evaluating answer scripts related to the necessity for more evaluators and the role of Learner Support Centres in the empanelment of evaluators. In addition to the academic activities, a session was specifically included in the Agenda for giving review on the finance and administrative matters with special reference on audit requirements and record keeping at LSCs. The Assistant Registrar Shri. K.K. Joseph, Section Officers Shri. K.J. Joseph and Shri. K. Muraleedharan were the Resource persons for this session. The meeting was interactive with liberal exchanges of thoughts on both the sides and the participants given opportunity to clarify doubts related to both academic and administrative matters.

### **Orientation Programmes for Academic Counselors and Part Time Staffs**

The Training of LSC functionaries about the Online Academic Counselor portal was held on three different

dates targeting separately for Academic Counselors (local), Academic Counselors (outside Ernakulam ) and Part-Time Staffs as given below:

S. N o.	Date	Participants	No.of Participants
1	26.02.2019	Academic Counselors (Local LSCs)	41
2	27.02.2019	Part-Time Staff	25
3	05.03.2019	Academic Counselors (from other than Ernakulam Dist.)	32

During the training programme on all three days besides orienting to the ODL system, the new initiatives related to e-support services ranging from Admission to Examination, Study Materials and special session on Online entry for Empanelment of Academic Counselors was ensured. Hands on experience to use the online academic Counselor portal by creating user ID and password was also extended during the training.



Participants of the Academic Counselors (Local LSCs) Orientation programme held on 26.02.2019 along with the Regional Centre staff



Session on 'Handling and Maintenance of Assignment Records and Online entry of Assignment Awards' by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD in the 'Orientation Programme for Part Time Staff' held on 27.02.2019





Participants of the Part Time Staff alongwith the Regional Centre Staff in the Orientation programme held on 27.02.2019



Academic Counsellor from SC14183 sharing her feedback about the Orientation Programme held on 05.03.2019 after the sesion for newly established LSC



Participants of the Academic Counselors (Outstation LSCs) Orientation programme alongwith the RC staff on 05.03.2019

### Induction Meetings

The Induction meeting provides the learners with the basic information required for being an IGNOU student and the opportunity to get accustomed to the staff and the functionaries of the Learner Support Centre. The Induction meetings for the January 2019 Admission

session were conducted both at the RC Campus and the individual study centre venue. The Induction meeting started with the Learners attached to the IGNOU Model SC 14000 functioning from the RC Campus. Similarly, the local LSC learners were called for the Induction meeting at the RC Campus itself. For all the Induction meeting held at the RC Campus, representatives from each of the local LSCs were also present. The Induction meetings held for is as per the schedule given below.

S No	Date	Place	Name of RC Officials who Participated
1	15.03.2019	RC Campus	Dr. J S Dorothy, RD Dr. Sindhu P Nair, ARD Dr. Praseetha U, AD
2	16.03.2019	SC 1407 Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur	Dr. Praseetha U, AD
3	19.03.2019	RC Campus	Dr. J S Dorothy, RD Dr. Sindhu P Nair, ARD Dr. Praseetha U, AD
4	20.03.2019	RC Campus	Dr. J S Dorothy, RD Dr. Sindhu P Nair, ARD Dr. Praseetha U, AD
5	23.03.2019	SSC 14178 Darul Huda Islamic Madrasa, Vadakkancheri	Dr. Praseetha U, AD
6	23.03.2019	SC 14127 Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha	Dr. Sindhu P Nair, ARD
7	24.03.2019	SC 1402 SH College, Thevara	Dr. Sindhu P Nair, ARD
8	25.03.2019	BEd Admission Counselling at RC Madurai	Dr. S Vijayaragavan, ARD
9	31.03.2019	SC 1406 CMS College, Kottayam	Dr. S Vijayaragavan, ARD



'Learning through ODL' address by DR. J.S. Dorothy, RD on 15.03.2019. Seen on the dais are Dr. Sindhu P Nair, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD





Dr. A.K. Prema, Coordinator of SC 14000 addressing the learners at the Induction Meeting held at Regional Centre Campus on 19.03.2019. Seen in the dais are Dr. J. S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD



Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD addressing the learners at SC 1402 Sacred Heart College, Thevara on 24.03.2019.



Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD addressing the learners of SSC 14178D, Darul Huda Islamic Madrasa, Vadakkancherry on 23.03.2019. Seen on the dais are Ms. Suja Kamal, Coordinator (R to L first row), Staff of Ideal Training College and Academic Counsellors of SSC 14178D (second row)



Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD addressing the learners at SC 1407, Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur on 16.03.2019



Mr. Vijayakumar, Coordinator of SC 14157 addressing learners at the Induction Meeting held at RC Campus on 20.03.2019



Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD addressing the learners at SC 14127, Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha on 23.03.2019



Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD addressing the learners SC 1406, CMS College, Kottayam on 31.03.2019



## 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 Career Management, MOOCs, E-Support services of IGNOU to ICT Interventions in Education, Environmental Sustainability/Protection 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.

S. No	Date	Resource Person	Topic of Presentation
1	22.01.2019	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan	E- support services in IGNOU
2	13.02.2019	Dr. S. Vijayaragavan	Environment Sustainability in day to day life
3	07.03.2019	Dr. V .T. Jalajakumari	ICT Intervention in Education



Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD addressing learners during the Enrichment session of Innovation Club on 'E-Support Services of IGNOU' on 22.01.2019



Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD addressing learners during the Enrichment session of Innovation Club on 'Environment Sustainability in day to day life' on 13.02.2019.



Dr.V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD addressing learners during the Enrichment session of Innovation Club on 'ICT Intervention in Education' on 07.03.2019

### Promotional Initiatives

Promotional Meetings, campaigns and events were organized at the Regional Centre, various Study Centres and other Institutions to promote IGNOU programmes by reaching out to the unreached.

#### Meeting at Police Reserve Camp, Thripunithara

A Promotional meeting to promote IGNOU programmes was held on 07.02.2019 at Police Training Academy, Tripunithura. Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD addressed around 80 Police officials.



Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD addressing the Police Officials of Police Reserve Camp, Tripunithura. Seen on the dais are Dr. Praseetha unnikrsihnan, AD and Shri. J R D'Cruz, Asst. Commandant, Police Reserve Camp, Tripunithura





Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD sharing about IGNOU in a Promotional Meeting for Officials of Police Reserve Camp, Triupunithura

### **Two day Exhibition cum Promotional stall at Vytilla Hub, Ernakulam, Cochin**

A two day Exhibition cum Promotional stall was held at Vytilla Transit Hub, Cochin on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 wherein people from different walks of the society like advocates, working professionals, bus conductors, students, senior citizens etc. walked into the stall and gained information about the IGNOU programmes.



Two day Promotional Campaign at Vytilla Mobility Hub, (Bus Stand) Ernakulam, Cochin held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019

### **Promotion through Akashvani FM Radio**

IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin was provided a slot for presentation about IGNOU programmes on offer through Regional Centre, Cochin on 27.03.2019 in a live interactive radio programme called 'Sahayatri (Meaning 'Friend' in Malayalam)' being broadcast on Akashvani FM in the slot 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD was the Resource person for the programme. She was in the team comprising Dr. S. Vijayragavan, ARD and Shri. Mohammad Ansar, AEDP for the programme broadcast.

### **Promotional Meetings at Study centres/ Other Educational Institutions**

Cooperation and Collaboration in mobilizing learners by creating Awareness about IGNOU programmes is a joint venture of RC Cochin and Learner Support Centres. The Photographs taken during the various occasions are presented for view of the readers.



Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD holding Admission campaign at SC 14119, DePaul Institute of Science and Technology, Angamaly on 11.01.2019.



Promotional Campaign by Dr. Praseetha Unnikirshnan, AD and Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD at Ansar Women's College, Perumpilavu, Thrissur on 23.01.2019



Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD at a Promotional meeting for IGNOU programmes on 26.01.2019 at Vaikom Muhammed Basheer Samskarika Samithi, Thalayola Parambu



## Unnath Bharat Abhiyan Activities

A visit was undertaken by Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD to Edathala Grama Panchayat on 22.01.2019 wherein they met the officials of Panchayat and Kudumbashree Unit to assess the needs of the people at grassroot level and how IGNOU could be a partner in it. It was understood from the Asst. Secretary, Edathala Panchayat that the need for Skill Based Training Programmes which would provide Employment Opportunities to the local people is being felt at the field level. The member of the Kudumbashree unit informed that IGNOU officials could deliver awareness sessions in their monthly cluster meetings. A meeting was also held with the Head Mistress of Government School, Edathala to handover brochures and to find out avenues to promote IGNOU programmes amongst the Teachers, Learners and Parents. It was assured that the school would arrange a meeting of IGNOU programmes for their Higher Secondary Students, so that they can be made aware of the Higher Education avenues which they can enrol after their school level education.

## Other Activities at RC Cochin

### TOLIC Awareness Programme

In order to spread awareness about Hindi language, an Official Language Awareness Programme was held at Regional Centre, Cochin on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. The staff of Regional Centre and Regional Evaluation Division participated in the meeting. Shri. K. Ramachandran, Dy. Director, TOLIC Office was the Resource person for the programme. He traced the origin of Hindi as an Official language on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1949 and the reason for Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> being celebrated as Hindi day in India. He also informed the participants that the Committee of Parliamentary language emphasized on the use of Hindi language usage for noting to be 55 percent. He encouraged the use of Hindi Language in day-to-day office dealings and encouraged the staff to develop their language skills by use of various Hindi Teaching Schemes offered by the Government of India.



Shri.K. Ramachandran, Dy. Director, Resource Person, TOLIC, Kochi addressing the RC and REC staff on 19.03.2019

### Awareness Programme on Investment Planning

An Awareness Programme on Investment Planning was conducted at Regional Centre by Axis Bank Representative Ms. Soni Mathew on 11.02.2019. She explained in detail about the Investment options available with Axis Bank. She conveyed about the tie up of Axis Bank with Kochi Metro for the launch of their new metro card and how it would benefit IGNOU staff by reducing cost of the ticket on Kochi Metro if purchased using the card.

### Session on 'Entrepreneurship'

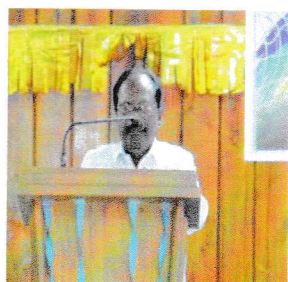
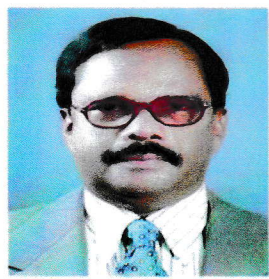
A session on 'Entrepreneurship' was conducted by Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD for the benefit of all RC and REC staff on 11.02.2019 in which she emphasized on the basic concepts of Entrepreneurship and the requirements/logistics required for venturing into Entrepreneurship. The concept for the presentation was the inputs obtained from the FDP attended by her at (EDII) KITCO, Cochin.

### FDPs/Refresher Programmes Attended from December to March, 2019

- Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD attended a Faculty Development Programme (FDP) from 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 to 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 on 'Entrepreneurship' organized by EDII and KITCO at SCMS Cochin School of Business, Prathap Nagar, Ernakulam Dist.
- Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD attended an Refresher Programme in 'Education' at UGC HRDC, University of Kerala from 11.03 2019 to 31.03.2019.
- Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan attended a Faculty Development Programme on 'Rural Community Engagement' from 12.02.2019 to 18.02.2019 at Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, Maharashtra.



### Homage to Dr. V. Vasudevan, Former RD (1945-2019)



Dr. V. Vasudevan, former Regional Director of Regional Centre, Cochin passed away on 25.03.2019. He is survived by his wife Smt. C.K. Karthiyayini and son Mr. Khanudev, who are available at email khaaanu@gmail.com (Mobile: 7829784271).

Dr. V. Vasudevan, born on 19.02.1945, former Regional Director (Sr. Scale) of Regional Centre Cochin was transferred from Regional Service Division, Delhi (*after joining services on 17.07.1989*) in the year 1989 and joined Cochin Regional Centre as Additional Regional Director on 06.11.1989. He also acted as Coordinator for Lakshadweep Study Centre till a full time Coordinator assumed charge. At that time Dr. C. N. Sathyapalan was the Regional Director at Cochin Regional Centre.

Dr. V. Vasudevan had joined IGNOU on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1989 and retired from the services of IGNOU on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007 as Regional Director (Sr. Scale). Dr. V. Vasudevan has the distinction of being the longest serving Regional Director of RC Cochin from 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1989 to 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2001; and 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2004 to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2007. In the interim period Dr. V. Vasudevan was the Regional Director of Hyderabad Regional Centre. During his tenure as Regional Director, RC Cochin Dr. V. Vasudevan was instrumental in acquiring land in a centrally located place of Cochin at Kaloor wherein the Regional Centre Building of Cochin presently stands. It was due to the relentless and tiring efforts of Dr. V. Vasudevan that the old Block of the Regional Centre Building could be constructed.

Dr. V. Vasudevan started his career in Kerala State Government in 1971 on completion of Masters Degree in Political Science from Kerala University. Later, Dr. V. Vasudevan joined the service of Cochin

University and continued till his appointment as Probationary Officer in Indian Bank, in 1976. In the meantime, Dr. V. Vasudevan has completed the three years LLB Degree course from Kerala University. During the six years of his career in the Bank, he held many responsible positions including that as Bank Manager for nearly three years. Dr. V. Vasudevan has completed PhD Degree from MG University and Diploma in Business Administration from Indian Institute of Management, New Delhi. Dr. V. Vasudevan has also undergone PRIME Training Course and Bank Officers Training Courses.

Dr. V. Vasudevan, relinquished the service of bank in 1982, to take up the new appointment as Deputy Registrar in Cochin University of Science & Technology (CUSAT). Subsequently, Dr. V. Vasudevan was elevated to Planning and Development officer in 1988 and held the same position at CUSAT until Dr. V. Vasudevan joined IGNOU in 1989 as Regional Director, Regional Service Division Delhi.

Even after retirement, Dr. V. Vasudevan has graced the Regional Centre through his wisdom and knowledge on various important Occasions and Events. His participation in the Cultural events with family is also being remembered by all staff of Regional Centre Cochin. His presence would duly be missed by one and all at the Regional Centre Cochin.

### Homage to Shri. K.M.Mani (1933 – 2019)



Shri. K.M. Mani, born on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1933 was a veteran Kerala Congress leader who holds the distinction of being the longest serving Minister in the Govt. of Kerala and for having continuously represented Pala Legislative Constitution since its inception in 1964 until his death in 2019. During his stint as Honorable Former Finance Minister in 2015, Shri. K.M. Mani was instrumental in clearing the file pertaining to renewal of the lease of land to Regional



Centre, Cochin. Being the Finance Minister at that time Shri. K.M. Mani played a pivotal role in renewal/extension leasing of land to RC Cochin at a nominal rate. He has also graced on few occasions the Inaugural and Training sessions pertaining to programmes under Regional Centre, Cochin. His contributions towards the progress of Regional Centre, Cochin is duly acknowledged by one and all will be remembered forever

### Study Centre Corner

In 1813, Maharani Gouri Lakshmi Bai (1810-15) of the Travancore Royal family granted 16 acres of land, 500 rupees in cash, and timber from public forests for the construction of CMS college buildings on the banks of the Meenachil river. The construction was also supported financially by the proceeds from a deposit made by Col. Coin Macaulay, the first Resident of Travancore. Founded in 1817, the CMS College is one of the top colleges in Kerala. With its 21 Departments, the CMS College offers programmes in almost all Academic fields in Arts and Sciences.

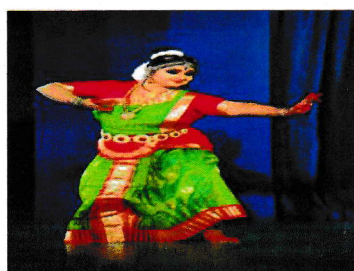
Under the leadership of Shri. Abraham Samuel, Coordinator, IGNOU Study Centre SC1406 is functioning from the campus of CMS College, Kottayam. It is a Regular Study Centre established under Regional Centre Cochin in the year 1990 with 102 students and has presently grown to 2247 IGNOU students on rolls as on January, 2019. There are around 37 IGNOU programmes activated at this Study centre which include various Post Graduate, Graduate, Diploma and Certificate programmes.



Shri. Abraham Samuel (Extreme Left – first row), Coordinator alongwith other staff of SC1406 at the Office of IGNOU Study centre in the Campus

### Meet the IGNOU Learner

This 'Meet the IGNOU Learner' series is about Mrs. Chandrika Sundaresan who is a student of Certificate in Performing Arts- Bharatanatyam (CPABN) of IGNOU. Her profile was facilitated for sharing by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD and Dr. A.K. Prema, Coordinator of SC1400 for use in the News Letter of Regional Centre, Cochin. According to Mrs. Chandirka, the programme is very knowledgeable and informative for practicing dancers, professionals, students and also for those who wish to perform on stages. The course orients the learners onto the various aspects of Indian classical dance.



For Mrs. Sundaresan age is not a barrier. She is 54 and has been performing Bharathanatyam on stage since 2012. She is a grandmother of two children and also the Secretary of Nrithaswadaka Sadas, an organization to promote dance at Changampuzha Park, Edappally, Ernakulam. She has also pursued her MBA degree in Marketing Management from IGNOU. She has already submitted her Dissertation for the award of Ph.D in Management to Bharathiar University in Feb, 2019. According to Mrs. Chandrika Sundaresan, the Certificate Course in Bharathanatyam (CPABN) gave her the fundamental and vital theoretical knowledge about dance upon which she wishes to add on to her existing knowledge of Indian Classical Dance by pursuing higher studies. She is grateful to IGNOU for providing her an opportunity to pursue MBA and Certificate Course in Bharathanatyam. She is very hopeful that IGNOU can contribute more to expand the horizon of knowledge in Indian Classical Dance. IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin salutes the spirit and enthusiasm of this Learner in her pursuit of knowledge and wisdom!