

OLIMPIC - a Newsletter covering Open Learning Innovations & Management Practices in IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin (RC14)

Vol: 4, Issue: 3
July –Sept 2020

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 (DD), Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari (ARD) and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan (AD)

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Seamless move from 'Work from Home' to 'Face-to-Face'



With the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation in the State of Kerala, the Regional Centre Cochin (RC14) once again stood up to the challenges and was on the forefront in confronting these challenges by effective use of ICT enabled innovative measures like conduct of Online Counseling sessions for learners of January 2020 session and coordinating for the conduct of Face to Face Term End Examination June 2020 adhering to the Covid-19 norms.

Work from home suggestive activities was assigned in 23 lots to the Academics to sustain the Student Support Activities. Availability of Technology and work life balance remained the challenge to be overcome during the pandemic while working from home.

Further the transition of all staff of Regional Centre Cochin from 'Work from home' to 'Face-to-Face' mode has been smooth due to the support and efforts of all Staff working at Regional Centre Cochin. The spirit and dedication put forth by all Learner Support Centres and their staff for conduct of Term End Examination in Face-to-Face mode during pandemic period is commendable and appreciated.

Resumption of 'Face-to-Face' mode, student services using Help Desk and Reception was also extended to all students visiting Regional Centre Cochin adhering to Covid-19 norms during this period (July-September 2020).

The present Newsletter intends to cover all activities undertaken by Regional Centre Cochin in the challenging Covid-19 scenario.

"Good health to you and your household" was the preferred greeting during the pandemic while coordinating Staff on rolls while ensuring their health and fulfilling the deadlines in the work front was to be balanced.

Prof. Ram Reddy Memorial Lecture

The 25th Prof. Ram Reddy Memorial Lecture was attended by the Staff/Academics of Regional Centre Cochin through virtual mode on 2nd July 2020 at 11 am.

Independence Day Celebrations

The Independence Day celebrations were collectively celebrated at Regional Centre Cochin by the staff of Regional Centre, Regional Evaluation Centre, and Model Study Centre 14000 on 15th August 2020 at 10am. The Flag was hoisted by the senior most employee Sh. K. K. Joseph, Assistant Registrar, Regional Centre Cochin.



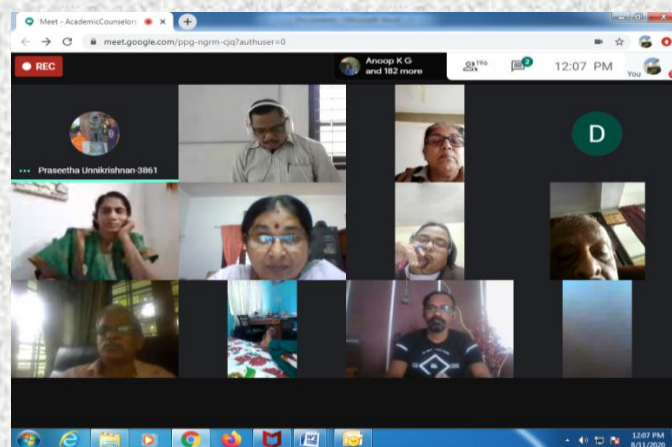
Flag hoisting at Regional Centre Campus on the 74th Independence Day Celebration

The brief about the origin of India as a democratic Republic and the importance of freedom Struggle was highlighted to the audience by Dr. J. S .Dorothy Regional Director, Regional Centre. Cochin. The importance of the Independence day celebrations during the COVID19 lockdown was shared by Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, Deputy Director, Regional Centre Cochin. Strength for the motherland and the fellow citizens during the pandemic was the main wish of everyone during the eve.

Academic Counselors Orientation Programme

IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin conducted a Virtual/Online Orientation Programme for Academic Counselors under Regional Centre Cochin to orient them about Online Counseling and Evaluation Strategies on 11.08.2020 from 10.30 am to 2.45 pm. Among the 1650 empanelled academic counselors in the RSD portal, 225 participants participated in the Orientation Programme. The meeting was administered and Coordinated by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD.

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director addressed and welcomed Dr. M. Shanmugham, the Director, Regional Service Division and the participants. In his Inaugural address Dr. M. Shanmugham, Director, Regional Service Division explained briefly about IGNOU, highlighted the wide variety of Distance Learners and their characteristics besides the various kinds of exposure the academic counselors are getting by dealing with distance learners. The Director, RSD also reminded about the opportunities, the Academic Counselors are getting at IGNOU and its credibility in their professional development. The Director, RSD also emphasized the duties and responsibilities of the Academic Counselors in the Online Counseling sessions, evaluation and other support services during the pandemic which has a role in the internal assessment of the learner. Gratitude was placed to the LSC functionaries and Regional Centre staff for their continuous efforts in sustenance of the student support services during the period of COVID 19 using ICT facilities.



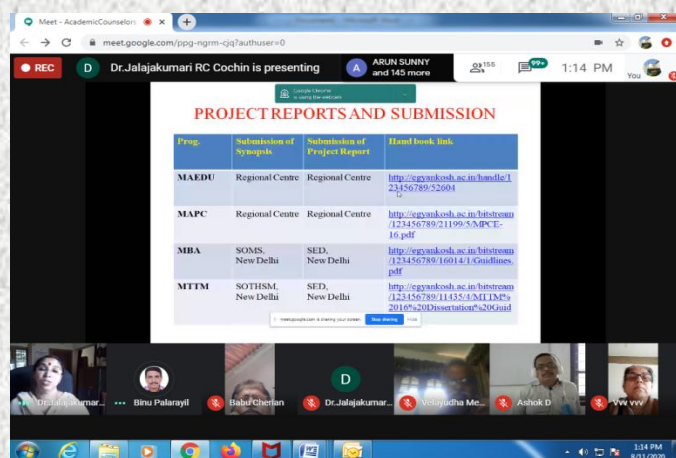
Participants of Virtual/Online Orientation Programme for Academic Counselors on 11.08.2020

Dr. Sindhu P Nair, DD presented on Modalities of Online Academic Counseling. Dr. S Vijayaragavan, ARD discussed on the Issues related to the Evaluation of soft copy of assignment response, Expression of interest from Academic counselor to be the observer for the Term End Examination.

Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD gave a detailed presentation on Utilization of online tools/platforms in online Academic Counseling. Dr. V. T. Jalajakumari ARD presented on IGNOU norms governing project guidance, Internal supervisor Vs learner ratio; necessity for empanelment of more external evaluator; Empanelment of Academic Counselor Vs Renewal; viewing the data related to the Academic counselor in the RSD portal.



Presentation by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD on Utilization of online tools/platforms in online Academic Counseling.



Presentation by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD during Virtual/Online Orientation Programme for Academic Counselors on 11.08.2020

A special interface Session with the REC was included in the virtual meeting. The Deputy Registrar of Regional Evaluation Centre, Cochin Sh. Jojo S Pattathil shared about the work done in connection with revaluation and issuance of photocopy of answer books during lockdown period. He also expressed the need to empanel more evaluators by explaining the eligibility conditions. In addition, to the academic presentations, in the last session the Assistant Registrar of Regional Centre, Cochin Sh. K.K. Joseph presented on Modality for

Accessing the Study Material, Payment norms for online counseling and Importance of online fiscal transfer.

Coordinators/PIC Orientation Programme

The Regional Centre Cochin conducted Virtual/Online Meeting for Coordinator/PIC of LSC under Regional Centre Cochin which was inaugurated by Dr. M. Shanmugham, Director RSD, IGNOU, and Maidan Garhi. New Delhi on 07.07.2020 at 11 am. Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD gave a brief about how the Student Support Services are sustained at the LSC besides the virtual contact with the LSC for integrating the Head Quarters policy for implementation.

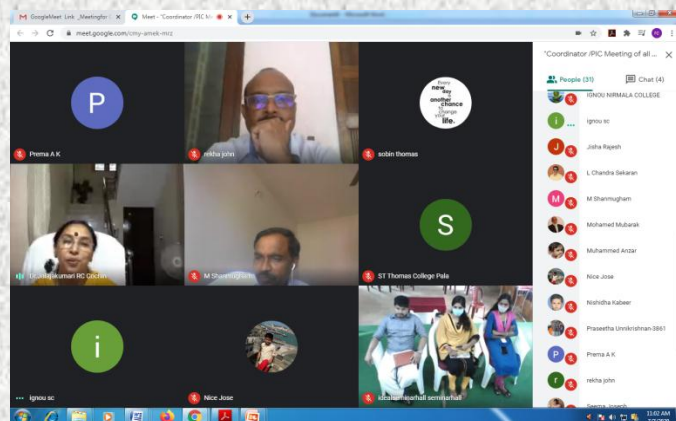


Inaugural session by Dr. M. Shanmugham, Director RSD, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi during the Virtual/Online Meeting for Coordinator/ PIC of LSC on 07.07.2020

Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD made a presentation on Contribution for Online Counseling by Academic Counselors, Online Learning Platforms for Counseling Sessions during COVID 19 Pandemic, Modalities for submission of Online Counseling Schedule and Uploading Online Counseling Schedule in Website - Status at RC14. Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD spoke about Status of Renewal of Academic Counselors, Appointment of Academic Counselors in Online portal, Fulfillment of requirements for Academic Counselors vis-a-vis programmes including CBCS based programmes at LSC, Status of Part-time Staff appointment and renewal at LSC. Ensuring the right number of PTS appointed as eligible on the basis of the student enrolment and extended date and Online Submission of Synopsis/Project/Practicum/Internship.

Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD emphasized on Guidelines for Assignment Evaluation Activities- with focus on online submissions during lockdown period, Evaluation of soft copy assignment by Approved Academic Counselors.

Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD gave a brief presentation on Admission & Re-registration of January 2020 –New Link, Strategies for Promotional activities for July 2020 admission session at Regional Centre Level and LSC level, Maintenance of LSC records under purview of NAAC requirements and Student Satisfaction Survey by NAAC.



Participants of Virtual/Online Meeting for Coordinator/ PIC of LSC on 07.07.2020

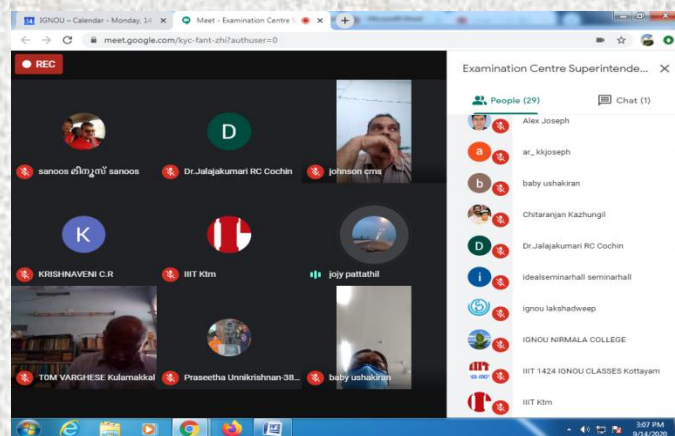
The agenda included items related to the sustenance of the Student Support Services at Regional Centre Cochin during the pandemic Lockdown. The Academics of Regional Centre Cochin and Sh. Jojoy S. Pattathil, Deputy Registrar, Regional Evaluation Centre, Cochin were present virtually to interact with the gathering.

Exam Centre Superintendents Meeting

An Online/Virtual Orientation programme for Examination Centre Superintendents Meeting for June, 2020 Term End Examination was held in Virtual/Online mode on 14th September, 2020 from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm. Around 29 participants which included the 12 Examination Centre Superintendents and staff of Regional Centre Cochin attended the Virtual Meeting. Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD and Sh. Muhammad Ansar T.A, AEDP administered/coordinated the Virtual meeting.

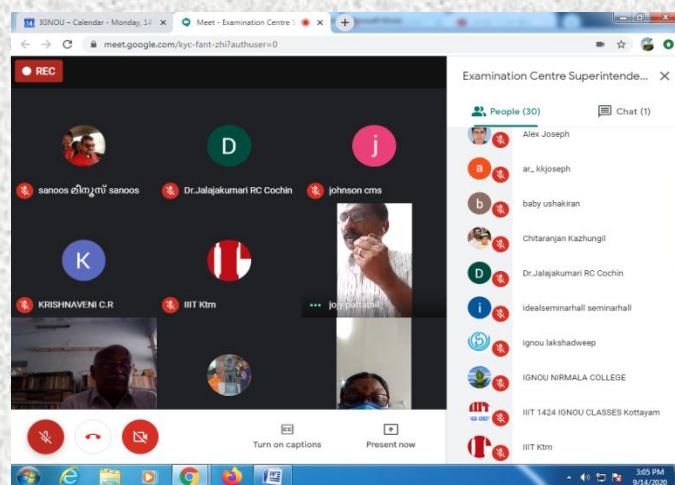
Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Assistant Director (AD), IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin welcomed all the participants to the meeting. This was followed by Inaugural address by Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD in which the Regional Director shared that the June 2020 Term End Examination (TEE) had to be postponed due to the prevailing Pandemic situation; however IGNOU TEE for the final year/semester students would be conducted from 17th September, 2020 to 16th October, 2020 and Practical Examinations till 20th October, 2020 as per the UGC, MHA and MHRD mandate. A brief about the safety precautions which

need to be taken for the conduct of examinations during the Pandemic situation was shared amongst all.



Participants of Virtual/Online Examination Centre Superintendents Meeting on 14.09.2020

Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD informed about the IGNOU TEE, receipt of Question Papers, Scheme of Despatch of Answer Sheets; Observers Deputed and guidelines for the Online Question Paper Delivery System (OQPDS). Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD shared about the Modalities for Practical Examination, Waiver of Attendance and Virtual conduct of the same in Batches Sh. Jojoy S. Pattathil, Deputy Registrar, Regional Evaluation Centre shared the information about the jurisdiction for sending Answer scripts to Regional Evaluation Centre, Bhubaneshwar for Examination Centres under Regional Centre Cochin.



Dr. Jojoy S. Pattathil, Deputy Registrar addressing the participants during the Virtual/Online Examination Centre Superintendents Meeting on 14.09.2020

The session was then open for discussion wherein queries pertaining to Online Question Paper Delivery, conduct of MCA/BCA practical examination and norms for Invigilator to Student ratio in the present COVID scenario was shared and discussed.

Online Counseling

In compliance to WEAS (Web Enabled Academic Support) policy, Online counseling sessions were conducted for January 2020 learners with support all LSC. The conduct of Online Counseling was coordinated by Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD and 150 Counseling sessions were conducted during period July-September 2020. Prior to this period, the LSC were in touch with the learners for the Academic transaction through WhatsApp, YouTube videos. However, as a preliminary initiative, the following meetings were held to plan and schedule the Online Counseling sessions and to orient the LSC about the conduct of Online Counseling session.

S. No	Date & Time	Meeting organized/ administered by	Participants	Purpose
1.	13.07.2020 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm	Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD	Coordinator /PIC for LSC of MEG programme under RC14	To schedule Online counseling for January, 2020 Learners
2.	08.08.2020 4.15 pm to 6.35pm	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD	Regional Centre Staff meeting of RD, DD, ARDs and AD	Regarding Online Counseling session, coordination among LSC and availability of Academic Counselors against scholar enrolled
3.	26.08.2020 10.15 am	Dr. Sindhu P Nair, DD	38 participants including 12 nos. Regional Centre officials/ staff, 26 nos. Coordinators /PICs/ PTS of LSCs	Consolidate the Online Counseling Schedule for January 2020 session on the basis of the coordination among LSC and availability of Academic Counselors against scholar enrolled

SWAYAM Courses Translation Initiatives

IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin had undertaken the work for coordinating for the Translation of Eight SWAYAM Courses of IGNOU for which Dr. B. Sukumar, RD, IGNOU Regional Centre, Trivandrum is the Nodal Officer. Eight virtual meetings were held during the period July-September, 2020 to review upon the status of the Translation work by the Nodal Officer Dr. B. Sukumar. All Academics of Regional Centre Cochin, Vatakara and Trivandrum attended the meetings and provided inputs pertaining to the Courses they were coordinating. The meetings

were administered/coordinated by Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Regional Centre Cochin. The meeting were held on 04.07.2020 from 3.00 pm to 5.30 pm; 11.07.2020 from 3.15 pm to 5.45 pm; 25.07.2020 from 3.15pm to 5.45 pm; 08.08.2020 from 3.15 pm to 4.15 pm; 22.08.2020 from 3.15 pm - 4.15 pm

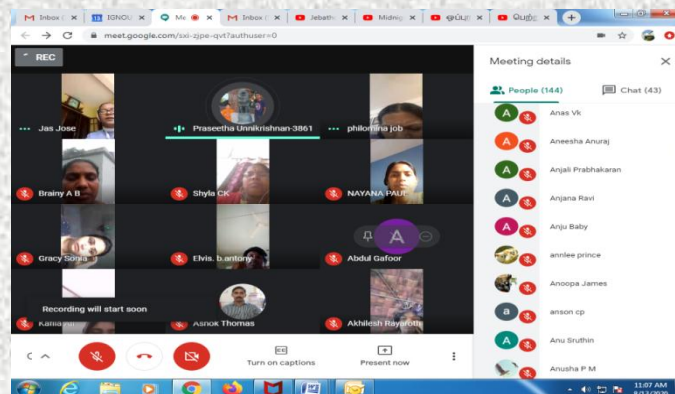
With the last meeting held on 22.08.2020, all the major translation work of the available transcripts were completed by the Academics of Regional Centre Cochin.

Innovation Club Activities

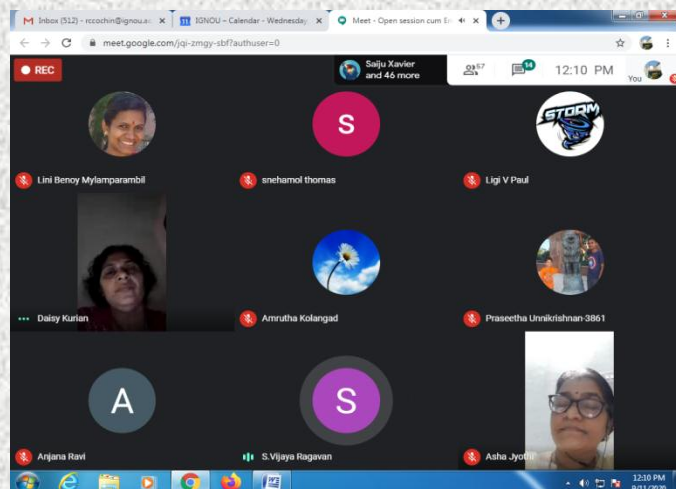
The Innovation Club at Regional Centre Cochin was initiated under the encouragement of the National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE) of IGNOU. The sessions were held at Regional Centre Cochin with an objective to enrich and generate awareness amongst the learners of IGNOU on a wide range of topics ranging Student Support Services to Environmental Challenges in the present day scenario through which the learners were made aware about various issues and motivated to think innovatively, generate ideas and embark on a path which could lead to future development of the Nation.

Two Online/Virtual monthly lecture identified as Open cum Enrichment Session were held at the Regional Centre Cochin as per the following schedule during this period. The meetings were coordinated/administered by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD who is also the Nodal Officer for the Innovation club activity at Regional Centre Cochin.

S. No	Date	Resource Person	Topic of Presentation
1	13.08.2020	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD, IGNOU, RC Cochin	E-Support Services of IGNOU
2	11.09.2020	Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD, IGNOU, RC Cochin	Environmental Significance and Challenges in the present day scenario



Screenshot of the Virtual/Online Open Session cum Enrichment Session on 13.08.2020



Screenshot of the Virtual/Online Open Session cum Enrichment Session on 11.09.2020

The report of the Open cum Enrichment Session as Innovation club activity of Regional Centre Cochin was published in Ennovate at <http://ignou.ac.in/ignou/aboutignou/icc/ncide/e-news>

Promotional initiatives

Online/Virtual Promotional Meetings, Campaigns and Events targeting increasing the enrolment for July 2020 Admission cycle were organized by the Regional Centre Cochin through various Study Centres and other Educational Institutions to promote IGNOU programmes to the learners of the Host Institution. Facebook Live sessions were also organized for the Learners/General public associated with Regional Centre Cochin for sharing of information pertaining to IGNOU Admissions for July, 2020. The Live Programme using Regional Centre Cochin Official Facebook Page was Administered/Coordinated/interacted by the Academics of Regional Centre Cochin. The Technical support for the Face Book Session Programme was provided by Sh. Muhammad Ansar, AEDP; on the spot reply for chat / comments was rendered by Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD of Regional Centre Cochin.

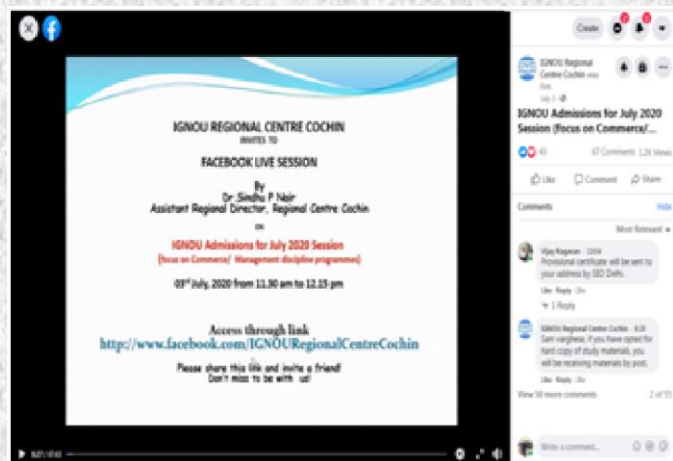
An Online/Virtual meeting of staff/Academics was also conducted to share information regarding Preliminary Steps for Facebook Live sessions with respect to the Action plan of Promotional Activities for the July, 2020 admission session on 01.07.2020 at 11 am. Guidance for conduct of Facebook live session was provided by Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD and the meeting was organized and administered by Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD.

The following initiatives were undertaken during the period of July – September 2020.

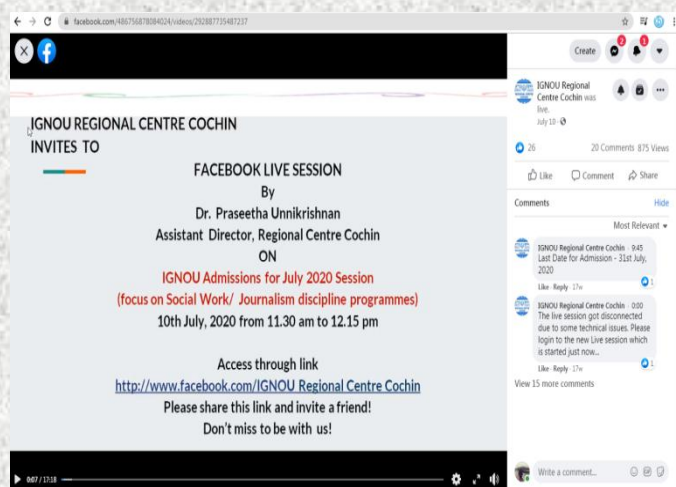
S. No	Date & Time	Meeting organized/ administered by	Participants	Purpose
1.	03.07.2020 11.30 am to 12.15 pm	Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD	The Facebook session has received 822 views, 63 comments and 4 shares.	Promotion focusing on Commerce /Management discipline for the Learners/ General public associated with RC Cochin
2.	10.07.2020 11 am	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	The Facebook session has received 1.2k views, 35 comments and 6 shares	Promotion focusing on Social Work and Journalism discipline for the Learners/ General public associated with RC Cochin
3.	27.07.2020 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD, RC Cochin in collaboration with IQAC, Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur	Around 50 participants which included Faculty and Under-Graduate Second Year students	Promotional activity through Virtual meeting coordinated with SC 1407, in association with IQAC of the college.
4.	27.08.2020 03.00 pm to 03.45pm	Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD.	The Facebook session was viewed by many and has 2.7K views, 510 comments and 7 shares	Promotion focusing on Computer and Information Sciences discipline for the Learners/General public associated with RC Cochin.
5.	27.08.2020	Dr.V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD in collaboration with IQAC, Al-Ameen College, Edathala	127 Students participated in the webinar	A webinar conducted on 'Prospects Of Future Learning In Higher Education Through IGNOU'
6.	11.09.2020 3 pm	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD, RC Cochin in collaboration with IQAC, Ansar Women's College, Perumpilavu	84 Students participated	Promotional activity through Virtual meeting coordinated with LSC14182, in association with IQAC of the college.

S. No	Date & Time	Meeting organized/ administered by	Participants	Purpose
6.	24.09.2020 11 am	Dr. Sindhu P Nair, DD in collaboration with IQAC, Cochin College, Cochin	84 Students participated	Promotional activity through Virtual meeting coordinated with LSC14166, in association with IQAC of the college.

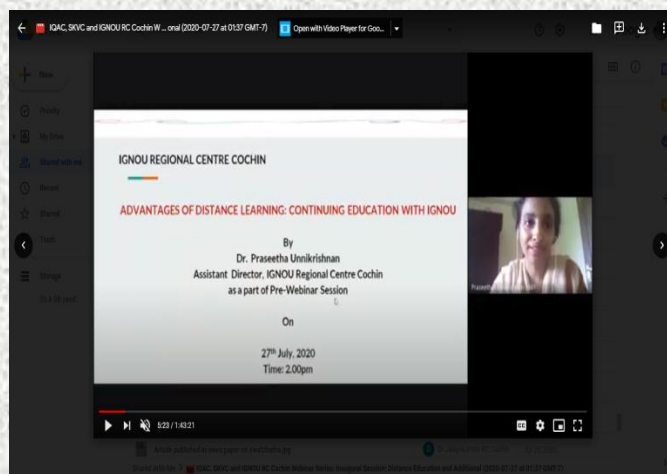
Further as a Promotional initiative 44 Colleges/Institutions/ Universities under the jurisdiction of Regional Centre Cochin were contacted via email and information about IGNOU Programmes were shared by enclosing the Common Prospectus and Regional Centre Cochin Brochure.



Screenshot of Presentation presented by Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD during the Facebook Live session on 03.07.2020 at 11.30 am.



Screenshot of Presentation presented by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD during the Facebook Live session on 10.07.2020 at 11.30 am.



Screenshot of Presentation presented by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD during the Promotional initiative with IQAC, SKV College, Thrissur on 27.07.2020

Official YouTube of IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin

The Official YouTube of IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin was launched on 20.03.2020 which incidentally was prior to the launch of nationwide lockdown period. Sh. Muhammed Ansar T.A., AEDP rendered technical assistance. The Official YouTube of IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin can be accessed <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ3Yy8UXX3NnaFPeDXycMgQ>. The Induction meeting video was prepared involving Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD, Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD, Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD, Sh. K.J. Joseph, SO, Dr. L. Chandra Sekaran, PS and Ms. Sujini Babu, Assistant and is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZbeH2VRE80&t=22s>.

Other ICT Enabled Initiatives/Activities

ICT Enabled Initiatives were undertaken with a view to facilitate the newly enrolled/existing Learners of Regional Centre Cochin (RC14) to the various Academic/Student Support Services of IGNOU. The Regional Centre Cochin (RC14) website is being regularly updated with the latest activities of IGNOU and essential links are being disseminated to specific/target Learners directly through SMS.

Some of the ICT enabled Initiatives undertaken at Regional Centre Cochin during this period are given below:

- PPT/ Academic content shared by Schools of Studies uploaded on Regional Centre website for benefit of learners.
- Online Assignment evaluation undertaken and Guidelines also forwarded to Coordinators for

mobilizing Academic counselors for online evaluation.

Online/Virtual Lectures delivered by Academics of Regional Centre Cochin as Resource Person

The following Lectures were delivered by Academics of Regional Centre Cochin in the Webinar session conducted by Regional Centre, Vatakara (RC83) using *Google Meet* platform.

S. No.	Date	Resource Person	Lecture delivered
1	06.07.2020	Dr. J.S.Dorothy, RD, RC Cochin	Eating right at the work place
2	13.07.2020	Dr.Sindhu P Nair,DD, RC Cochin	Reflections on digital learner needs in the Post Covid 19 scenario
3	27.07.2020	Dr.V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD, RC Cochin	Maintaining Mental Health in the Life Pattern During Post Covid 19 Scenario
4	03.08.2020	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, DD, RC Cochin	E-Learning and ICT Tools for Online Teaching and Learning
5	17.08.2020	Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD, RC Cochin	Online learning Methods in India - reasons and advantages

Participation in Online/Virtual Workshops/Conference/Webinars

- Dr. Sindhu P Nair, DD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD, Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD participated in the webinar lecture on 'Eating right at the work place' in the webinar series conducted by RC Vatakara on 06.07.2020 from 09.45 am to 11.45 am using *Google Meet*.
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD, Dr. S. Vijayaragavan ARD, Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD participated in the webinar series conducted by Regional Centre Vatakara on 11.07.2020 'Distance Education – A Post Pandemic Perspective' from 11.00 am to 01.00 pm using *Google Meet*.
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD, Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD participated in the webinar lecture on 'Reflections on digital learner needs in the Post Covid 19 scenario' in the webinar series conducted by Regional Centre Vatakara on 13.07.2020 from 09.45 am to 11.45 am using *Google Meet*.
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Sindhu P Nair, DD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, participated in NCIDE Innovation Club Meeting on 14.07.2020 at 11.00 am on

'Innovative Initiatives towards enhancing enrolment in the Covid-19 Scenario' using *Google Meet*.

- Dr.Sindhu P Nair, DD participated in the National webinar on 'Gender Issues in India during the COVID-19 Pandemic' organised by School of Gender & Development Studies, IGNOU on 16.07.2020 at 11.30 am using *Google Meet*.
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD, Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD participated in the webinar lecture on 'Global Emergencies and Food security: Importance of Subsistence Farming and Role of Academia in Promoting it in the Post COVID period' from 09.45 am to 12.45 am on 27.07.2020 using *Google Meet*.
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD, and Dr. V.T.Jalajakumari, ARD a participated in the webinar lecture on 'E-Learning and ICT Tools for Online Teaching and Learning' on 03.08.2020 in the Webinar series 'Post COVID-19 Scenario - Challenges and Opportunities' from 09.30 am to 12.45 am using *Google Meet*.
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD, Dr.V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD attended a One day Conclave on National Education Policy by UGC on 07.08.2020.
- Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD Participated in a Virtual Symposium on Happiness@work on 07.08.2020 organised by School of Management Studies, IGNOU
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD, Dr. S. Vijayaragavan ARD, Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD participated in the Webinar Lecture on 'International Relations in the Post COVID world – An Assessment' conducted by Regional Centre Vatakara on 10.08.2020 from 09.30 am to 12.45 am using *Google Meet* in the webinar series on 'Post COVID-19 Scenario - Challenges and Opportunities'.
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD, and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD participated in the Webinar Lecture on 'Online learning Methods in India – reasons and advantages' conducted by Regional Centre Vatakara on 17.08.2020 at 09.30 am. using *Google Meet* in the webinar series on 'Post COVID-19 Scenario - Challenges and Opportunities'.
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD participated in the Webinar Lecture on 'COVID 19 and its long term health effects: A Medical perspective' conducted by Regional Centre Vatakara on 25.08.2020 at 09.30 am. using *Google Meet* in

the webinar series on 'Post COVID-19 Scenario - Challenges and Opportunities'

- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD, Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD, Sh. K.J. Joseph, SO and Sh. Sebastian D'Cruz, EDP attended an Orientation Programme for RCCASH Members on the University Policy on Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace, 2018 on 08.09.2020 from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm using Google stream/ *Google Meet*.
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD participated in a National Webinar on 'Implications of National Education Policy' on 10.09.2020 to 11.09.2020 at 11.00 am.
- Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD attended the Virtual Talk by Mr. Shiv Khera on 'Inspirational leader and Motivation' on 28-09-2020 from 12.00 Noon to 2.00 P.M. through Zoom Platform.

Online/Virtual Faculty Development Programme attended by Academics of Regional Centre Cochin

- Dr.V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD participated in MyeClass Online Faculty Development Program-Development and Management of MOOCs and Online Courses using LMS- MOODLE" organised in collaboration with GAD TLC of MHRD from 30.06.2020 to 04-07-2020.
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD, Dr. S. Vijayaragavan ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD participated in the Faculty Development Programme of STRIDE from 17.08.2020 to 21.08.2020 using *Google Meet* on the topic 'ICT enabled Research during the COVID Pandemic'
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD, Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD, Sh. Sebastian D'Cruz, EDP and Sh. Muhammed Ansar T.A., AEDP participated in the Online/Virtual Training Programme was held on 28.08.2020 from 3.00 pm to 6.00pm to train the Staff involved in the Admission process by Regional Services Division(RSD) in coordination with the Student Registration Division(SRD).

Research publications by Academics of Regional Centre Cochin

- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD and Dr. L. Chandra Sekaran, PS published paper on "Human Capital in the Ambit of Learner Support Centre (LSC) of a Distance Teaching Institution (DTI)", International Journal of Management, 11(7), 2020, pp. 1074-1085

- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD presented a paper entitled Case Study of the Personal experience of being an online learner in the SWAYAM Portal (Sole author) in the 24th IDEA National Conference on Emerging Perspectives of Open and Distance Learning on 17th -18th July, 2020, organized by University of Mumbai Institute of Distance and Open Learning (IDOL) in association with Indian Distance Education Association (IDEA) & Commonwealth Educational Media Centre For Asia (CEMCA).
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD Sh. K. Balachandran Unnithan, Ms. Syama Jayaprakasan and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan published an Article on 'Similarity in Distance Teaching Institution and Banking Sector in Reaching the Grassroots' published in University News – A Weekly Journal of Higher Education, Vol. 58, No. 34, August 24-30, 2020 by Association of Indian Universities
- Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD has published a Chapter in an edited book-'Unnikrishnan, P. & Netto,S. (2019). Digitalization of Indira Gandhi National Open University - An Open Access to Global Communication. In. Dayal, D (Ed.), True Leadership & Effective Communication skills (pp 11-20), Uttar Pradesh: The Literati Council Publication Division.ISBN:978-93-89311-14-3'

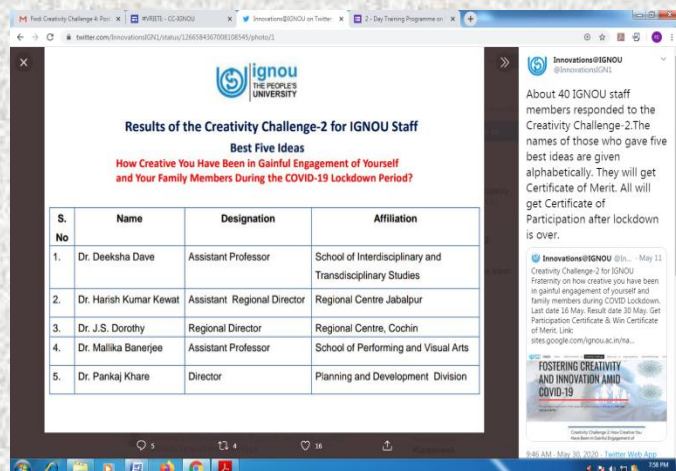
Special Invitation

- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director was the Resource Person for Gyan Vani live "Talk Session" about "Experience of Regional Centre during lockdown till Term End Examination" shared on 19.09.2020 at 10.15 am
- Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, participated as recipient of Certificate of Merit to share the idea documented in Creativity Challenge No 2 and 4 in the virtual session "Sharing of Experiences : My Innovative Initiatives during COVID19" Innovation Club meeting on September 23, 2020 at 11.00 AM as the recipient of the Certificate of Merit for sharing the Best ideas in two Creativity Challenge No 2 and 4 out of the four Creativity Challenge held for IGNOU staff.

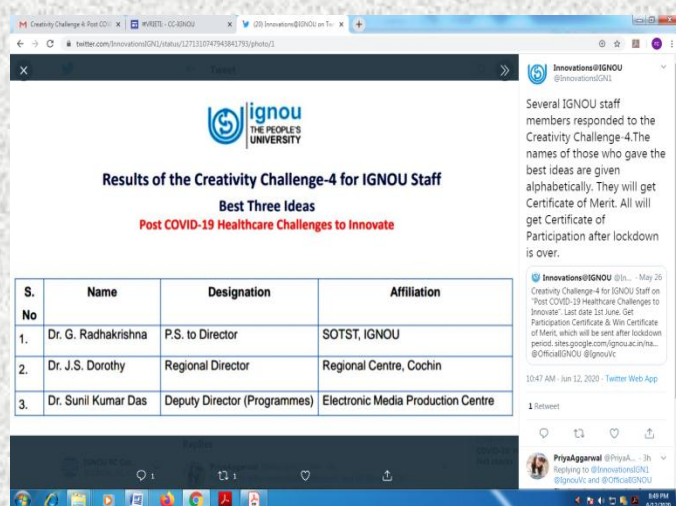
Best Idea award for Creativity challenge by NCIDE

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director participated in the four "Creativity Challenge" conducted by NCIDE and awarded Best Idea award twice on the themes 'How creative You have been in Gainful Engagement of Yourself and Your Family Members during the COVID-19 Lockdown period?' and 'Post COVID-19 Healthcare

Challenges to Innovate' during the month May and June 2020.



Screenshot of Best Idea's Award for the Creativity Challenge-2 for IGNOU Staff conducted by NCIDE, Delhi



Screenshot of Best Idea's Award for the Creativity Challenge-4 for IGNOU Staff conducted by NCIDE, Delhi

Virtual Onam Celebration

The Regional Centres Trivandrum, Vatakara and Cochin and Regional Evaluation Centre, Cochin and Model Study Centre SC 14000 Cochin celebrated together the Virtual Onam with the family and friends on 05.09.2020 at 10 am using Google Meet.

The celebration was inaugurated by Dr. B. Sukumar, Regional Director, Regional Centre Trivandrum. Dr. M. Rajesh, Regional Director, Regional Centre Vatakara gave introductory remarks and recalled how the Face-to-Face Onam celebration involving staff on roll and retired employee was held during his tenure as Regional Director at Regional Centre, Cochin. Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, Regional Centre Cochin welcomed the employees to the Virtual Onam celebrations with the family and friends.

The show case of talent by Sh. Anil Kumar, Assistant, Regional Centre Cochin staff through songs was enriching the celebration. Ms. Sreelakshmi and Ms. Meenakshi (Daughter and Niece of Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD, Regional Centre Cochin) enlightened the gathering with songs. Ms. Aswani K.G.(Daughter of Sh. Kumar Gaurav, AEDP, Regional Centre Trivandrum) coloured the event with a dance performance.

A quiz was also conducted by Dr. Prema A.K., Coordinator, SC14000 for all participants based on Onam festival.

Overall everyone participated enthusiastically, filled with joy and fun for all. The event was coordinated by Sh. K.K. Joseph, AR.

"Work from home- suggestive activities"

The last working day before the lockdown due to pandemic was 20.03.2020 (Friday). The Regional Centre employees were with the hope of coming on Monday, 23.03.2020 to continue the job left under progress/process. But the employees were unable to be physically present on Monday, 23.03.2020. Hence, "Work from home- suggestive activities" in 23 lots were sent to the four Academics to continue their task assigned through Work Order, so that their subordinates are engaged in the routine activities of the Regional Centre. Thus, "Work from home-suggestive activities" in 23 lots served as link between the Work Order and what can be executed from home to sustain the support services of IGNOU, as it was needed for keeping in touch with the learners. (There was no "Work from home- suggestive activities" assigned to Finance and Administration Head-Assistant Registrar, as it was mandatory for coming in person risking the prevailing situation of pandemic to clear the bills, release advance, facilitate joining report, fulfilling the statutory/mandatory payments, payment of Salary/Remuneration, maintenance of building, ensuring functioning of office equipments for sustaining the financial flow of the Regional Centre).

The number of activities assigned as "Work from home- suggestive activities" in 23 lots for doing in the lockdown period is given in the Table below:

S.No	Date	Lot	No of Activities
1	07.04.2020	1	5
2	11.04.2020	2	6
3	19.04.2020	3	6
4	26.04.2020	4	3
5	04.05.2020	5	4
6	11.05.2020	6	3

S.No	Date	Lot	No of Activities
7	20.05.2020	7	2
8	27.05.2020	8	3
9	04.06.2020	9	3
10	10.06.2020	10	3
11	18.06.2020	11	5
12	22.06.2020	12	6
13	30.06.2020	13	6
14	07.07.2020	14	6
15	13.07.2020	15	8
16	23.07.2020	16	10
17	27.07.2020	17	10
18	31.07.2020	18	9
19	07.08.2020	19	9
20	15.08.2020	20	9
21	21.08.2020	21	17
22	28.08.2020	22	17
23	06.09.2020	23	15

A report of the activities assigned through "Work from home- suggestive activities" was requested to be submitted periodically for submitting to the authorities during the lockdown period.

The final "Work from home- suggestive activities" ie., lot 23 provided provision for linking "Work from home- suggestive activities" with Face-to-Face functioning at Regional Centre.

Study Centre Corner

SC 14184 Al-Ameen College, Edathala



Entrance of Al-Ameen College, Edathala, Aluva

Al-Ameen College, Edathala, Aluva, run by the Al-Ameen Education Trust, Kochi is an Arts and Science Co-Educational Institution of higher education in aided sector. The Al-Ameen Education Trust is part of the Al-Ameen Movement started in Bangalore by a

group of dedicated and inspired thinkers who wished to uplift the cause of education amongst the backward sections.

Al-Ameen College, Edathala has a humble beginning as a junior College with five Pre-Degree batches in 17 November, 1981 on the lap of rural area of Edathala Grama- Panchayat in a serene atmosphere, comprising 25 acres. The Institution was initially affiliated to the University of Kerala, Trivandrum. Subsequently, on the formation of Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam in 1983, the affiliation of the Institution was shifted to Mahatma Gandhi University. The College was elevated to the status of a Degree College by the affiliation of the first aided Degree course, B.Com Taxation in the year of 1991. Subsequently, more aided Degree courses, B.Sc Petrochemicals, B.A Economics (Model II) and B.Sc Physics (Model II) were started in the years 1995, 1998 and 2000 respectively. The College was raised to the level of a Post Graduate College with the starting of M.Com Degree course under aided stream in the year of 2001. The M.Sc Mathematics programme was started in the year of 2013 under the aided stream.



Entrance of Al-Ameen College, Edathala, Aluva with the board of IGNOU Study Centre

In year 2006 the College was included under sections 2 (F) and 12 (B) of the U G C Act. Al-Ameen College was declared as a Minority Educational Institution by the Government of India in the year of 2008. The year 2015 was notable in the history of the Al-Ameen College with the accreditation from National Assessment and Accreditation Committee (NAAC).

After completing nearly four decades since its inception, Al-Ameen College has to its credit 11 Under Graduate programmes, three Post Graduate programmes and one vocational programme.

The college community comprises 1365 Students, 77 teachers and 37 number of non-teaching staff. More than 60% of the students are female. Al-Ameen College is dedicated in the mission to develop ICT competence, social responsibility, a realistic awareness of life situations and global competencies among students. The College is working towards achieving an educational level that will be beneficial for the holistic development of its students.

IGNOU Study Centre SC 14184 is functioning from the campus of Al-Ameen College, Edathala. It is a Regular Study Centre established under Regional Centre Cochin in the year 2018 with 199 students and has presently grown to 242 IGNOU students as on January, 2020. There are fifteen IGNOU programmes (at Masters, Bachelors, PG Diploma and Diploma level) activated at this Study Centre.



IGNOU Study Centre 14184 Al-Ameen College, Edathala, Aluva

As part of Unnath Bharat Abhiyaan Activities, IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin collaborated with Al-Ameen College, Edathala in promotional meeting of IGNOU programme at the adopted village of Al-Ameen College, and also a Plantation Drive under the MHRD scheme 'One student One tree'.

IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin thanks Sh. Chitharanjan K.V., the Coordinator IGNOU Study Centre SC 14184 Al-Ameen College, Edathala, Aluva for providing inputs on behalf of the Management of Host Institution of Learner Support Centre 14184 for this issue of Newsletter.

Meet an IGNOU Learner



This 'Meet an IGNOU Learner' is about Sh. Dilraj Gopi, a student of Master of Arts in English (MEG) at IGNOU. He was the Runner up in Amrita TV Superstar 2014 music reality show. His profile was shared to Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD for use in the Newsletter of IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin by Dr. Aiswarya S. Babu, Coordinator of SC 1407, Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur.

Sh. Dilraj Gopi has been training in music for over 14 years and he was a Runner up in Amrita TV Superstar 2014 music reality show.

Sh. Dilraj Gopi achieved success in many State, National and Inter-University level competitions and contests.

Presently working as a freelance sound engineer & music producer, he has also worked in numerous short films and web series' as score composer and sound engineer. Sh. Dilraj Gopi is also a musician active as a vocalist & a guitarist for live events.

By enrolling in a Master's degree in IGNOU he has successfully been able to present himself as a serious professional in his field. With a better understanding of

English literature and philosophy has helped him grow as a student of IGNOU and in the process enhanced his skills and qualifications thereby enhancing his portfolio.

IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin salutes his spirit, enthusiasm and is proud of his achievements and wishes him all the best in all his future endeavors!
