

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

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

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Profile of Regional Evaluation Centre (REC) at Regional Centre Campus, Cochin

Regional Evaluation centres notified by the University function under the Student Evaluation Division of the University to cater to activities pertaining to work of evaluation of term end examinations which are conducted twice a year in June and December across the Country and abroad. There are presently six evaluation centres across the Country out of which Regional Evaluation Centre, Cochin is one of them. The Student Evaluation Division provides support to these Regional Evaluation Centres for smooth conduct of evaluation process.

Regional Evaluation Centre, Cochin has been functioning from April, 2017 in the campus of IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin and has currently under its purview fourteen Regional Centres.

Coordinator's Meeting

The 37th Coordinators meeting of IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin was held on 23rd November 2018. In the Keynote address, Dr. J.S Dorothy, Regional Director highlighted the services and academic support rendered by the Coordinators and PICs under Regional Centre Cochin as the backbone for academic transactions at the field level-LSC. The special role of LSC in conduct of promotional activities for the forthcoming admission session to convene promotional meetings either at LSC or the target institution was also discussed. In the technical session by Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, Assistant Regional Director, oriented the Coordinators/PICs regarding academic relevance of projects and internships, courses for which internship and project is integrated as compulsory components, technical modalities of preparation and submission of projects and internships. In the second technical session, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, Assistant Regional Director elaborated the activities of renewal of Part-Time Staff and academic counselors and activation of newly launched programmes of IGNOU at the LSCs.

Dr. S.Vijayaragavan, Assistant Regional Director, took the session on Examination and Assignments, as well as conduct of practical sessions and submission of grades by the Study centres. Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Assistant Director, facilitated a discussion on the already adopted strategies of admission promotion activities at LSCs and emphasized on the need for promotional activities at LSCs for various programmes which have a high demand. She also described various innovative activities in vogue like Unnath Bharath Abhiyan, Village Adoption and Digital literacy Programme under which activities have

to be conducted under each LSC. The Assistant Registrar Mr. K.K. Joseph in his session highlighted the Financial and Administrative procedures to be followed by LSCs. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks delivered by the Assistant Registrar Mr. K.K. Joseph. 28 Learner Support Centres (LSCs) participated in the meeting.



Session during Coordinators' Meeting in Progress L to R, Dr. J. S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD, Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, ARD, Dr. Praseetha U., AD, Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD



Reflections from Coordinator of SC 1407



Reflections from Coordinator, SC 1402

Term End Examinations

Term End Examination December 2018 was conducted at 12 Examination centres in the region. A total of 48022 examinees registered for the examinations under Cochin Region. An orientation programme for the Examination Centre Superintendents was organised by the Regional Centre on 23rd November, 2018. The Regional Director and Academics of the Regional Centre provided vital inputs on various matters pertaining to Dec 2018 Term End Examinations.



Dr.S.Vijayaragavan, ARD addressing Exam Centre Superintendents in the Meeting held on 23rd Nov, 2019

National Education Day

On the occasion of National Education Day on 11th November 2018, the Regional Centre organised an Essay competition for the students attached to Regional Centre campus study centre (14000). The topic for of the Essay competition was “*Higher education in India: Prospects and Challenges.*” The medium of essay competition was in English, Hindi and Malayalam. IGNOU learners of SC14000 participated in the Essay competition.

The Regional Centre also organised a workshop on *e-support services of IGNOU* on the National Education Day. The Resource persons for the Workshop were Dr.Sindhu P Nair, ARD, Dr. V T Jalajakumari, Assistant Regional Director, Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Assistant Director and

Sh. Mohammed Ansar T A, Executive Assistant (DP). Forty three students participated in the Workshop. The Resource persons explained to the learners about the various e-support services in the IGNOU website such as Student Zone, Registration status, downloading assignments, availability of previous question papers, study materials, e-GyanKosh, Gyanvani etc. Demonstration of various e-support services was done and students provided laptops for hands-on experience of e-support services of IGNOU. Sh. K K Joseph, Assistant Registrar proposed the vote of thanks.



Workshop on *e-support services of IGNOU* in progress held on 11th November, 2019



Participants having hands-on experience during the e-support workshop

National Unity Day

The Regional Centre, jointly with the Regional Centre Model Study Centre 14000 and Regional Evaluation Centre (REC) celebrated the National Unity Day on 31st October, 2018. A special talk was delivered by Prof. Venugopal B. Menon, former Professor and Head of the Department (History), Cochin College on the topic 'Role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Unifying India'. Students interacted and shared their views during the session. On this occasion, the National Unity pledge was administered to all participants by Sh. Joji S Pattathil, Dy. Registrar, REC. This was followed by presentation of views by the academics and Coordinator of Study centre 14000 on National Unity.



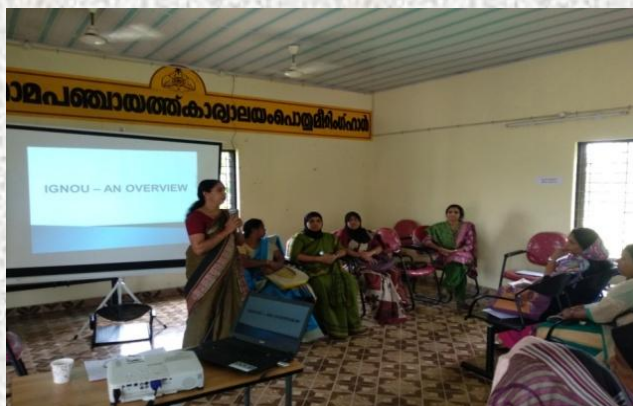
Special Address by Prof. Venugopal B. Menon on National Unity Day on 31st October, 2019



Sh. Joji S Pattathil, Dy. Registrar, REC administering the pledge on the occasion of National Unity Day on 31st October, 2019

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

RC officials, Dr.V.T.Jalajakumari, ARD and Dr.Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD visited Edathala Gram Panchayat and interacted with Panchayat and Kudumbashree members on 29.10.2018 to understand their needs for Higher Education. The programmes of IGNOU and CLP programme in particular was explained to the participants. The pledge as part of the Vigilance awareness week, was also administered to all present there.



IGNOU Awareness Programme under UBA at Edathala Gram Panchayat on 29 Oct 2018



Panchayat and Kudumbashree members taking Vigilance pledge at Edathala Gram Panchayat on 29th Oct 2019

As part of UBA activities for Chendamangalam village, IGNOU Awareness programmes were organised on 20 Dec 2018 for two Handloom Societies, the Bachelors, Masters and Certificate programmes were highlighted with a view to

encourage the wards of the Handloom workers to enroll for these programmes. The Computer Literacy Programme (CLP) was also highlighted to the Weavers. IGNOU officials, Dr.Sindhu P Nair, ARD, Sh.Anilkumar, Ex.Asstt. and Sh.S.K.Dasan were part of the team that conducted the UBA activity.



IGNOU Awareness programmes under UBA conducted for Weavers of Handloom Society at Chendamangalam on 20.12.2018



MeLT Van at venue of UBA programme at Chendamangalam on 20th December 2018

Promotional Activities

Promotional Activities undertaken at various Study Centres and Institutions with a view to promote Admissions for Jan 2019 session.



Promotional meeting amongst College students of St.Michael's College, Cherthala by Dr.Sindhu P Nair, ARD on 21st Nov, 2018



Promotional campaign at SC 14166 Cochin College addressed by Dr.Sindhu P Nair, ARD and Dr.Praseetha Unnikirshnan, AD on 19th Dec 2018



Dr.V.T.Jalajakumari, ARD addressed participants on IGNOU programmes during Akshara Sthree Seminar at Kottayam on 6th Dec 2018



Admission promotion amongst college students of RLV College of Music and Fine Arts, Tripunithura on 5th Dec 2018



Bhajan recital during the Celebrations

150th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Mahatma Gandhi

The Regional Centre organised programmes on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Mahatma Gandhi from 2nd to 9th October, 2018. IGNOU students, Academic Counsellors, staff of IGNOU Regional Centre and Regional Evaluation Centre participated in the programmes. Dr.J.S.Dorothy, Regional Director inaugurated the Celebrations. The programmes on all days started with Introductory talk by an Academic or official of REC to highlight aspects of philosophical, social and educational contributions of Mahatma Gandhi through their presentations, the lighting of lamp and singing of Bhajans.



Dr.J.S.Dorothy, Regional Director inaugurating the Celebrations



Planting of Tree saplings by RC and REC staff at RC Campus as part of the celebration

Vigilance Awareness Week

The Regional Centre jointly with Regional Evaluation Centre, observed Vigilance Awareness Week. As part of the Awareness week activities, the integrity pledge was administered to all participants. A special address was made by Sh.Rajan G.George, IRS on Vigilance and its need in Institutions. The staff of Regional Centre and Regional Evaluation Centre participated in the programme.



Sh. K.J. Joseph, Section Officer, introducing the Resource person



Resource person, Sh. Rajan G. George, IRS addressing RC and REC staff members



Integrity pledge administered to RC staff by Sh. K. K. Joseph, AR.

IGNOU Open Session Cum Enrichment Session

An Open Session cum Enrichment session organised at Regional Centre for the benefit of IGNOU learners on 16 October 2018 and 28 November 2018. The topic for the Enrichment sessions conducted were *How to study through MOOCs* and *Skills for Open and Distance Learning*. During the Open Session, the queries

raised by IGNOU learners were addressed by the Academics of the Regional Centre.



Dr. V. T. Jalajakumari, ARD addressing participants in the Open session cum Enrichment session on 16th Oct 2018



Dr. Sindhu P Nair, ARD addressing participants in the Open session cum enrichment session on 28 Nov 2018

'Environment Sustainability' Course (MOOC) on the SWAYAM Platform

The Academics of RC Cochin Dr. M. Rajesh (former RD of RC Cochin and presently RD at RC Vatakara), Dr. Sindhu. P. Nair, ARD, Dr. Jalajakumari VT, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD launched the 'Environment Sustainability' course on the MOOC on Swayam Platform on 1st October, 2019 after obtaining necessary permissions from IGNOU HQ, Delhi. The Certificate Course explores the complex inter relationship of environment with society, economy, education, law and technology. It consists of four independent modules – Environment and Society, Environmental Education and Jurisprudence, Environment

Friendly Technologies and International Conventions on Environment. On successful completion of the programme the learners are expected to digest, synthesize and critically evaluate at an introductory level issues related to environment. The course is a package of 96 tutorials, 41 tests and 23 assignments. The MOOC was scheduled from 1st October 2018 to 15th November 2018 and **2123 students** from all over the country joined the course.

Study Centre Corner

Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur (SC1407) is Regular Study Centre coming under Regional Centre Cochin and established on 11th October, 1990. The founder of Sree Kerala Varma College was Late Sri Kerala Varma XV; Maharaja (King) of Erstwhile Kingdom of Kochi. (1870-1948). The Merry Lodge Palace building which was the residence of Maharaja Late H H Sri Ramavarma, Uncle of Late H H Sri Kerala Varma, the founder of Sree Kerala Varma College is the first building of Sree Kerala Varma College. The building presently houses the Departments of Politics, English and Hindi in addition to the offices of the NCC, NCC as well as the office of the College Students Union besides the IGNOU Study centre SC1407. The golden words inscribed on the 'Merry Lodge Palace' "Pure be my life forever" became the motto of the college to commemorate the principles of the former occupant of the palace. The college got affiliation to the Madras University but is currently affiliated to Calicut University. The College was inaugurated on 11th August 1947. The college celebrated its Silver Jubilee in the Year 1972-73 the Golden Jubilee in the year 1997-98 and the Diamond Jubilee in the year 2007-08. This College is a leading educational institution in Kerala State. There are 16 degree courses and 8 post graduate courses. In 2009 January, the college was awarded the highest grade 'A' by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)



Dr. A K Ravikrishnan, Coordinator of SC 1407 addressing learners during an Induction meeting

IGNOU Study centre SC1407 is functioning from the campus of Sree Kerala Varma College under the leadership of Dr. A K Ravikrishnan, Coordinator.

Meet the IGNOU Learner



The *Meet the IGNOU learner*, series in this issue is about Sh. Lasar Thomas Mani, a student of MAPC programme who shared his profile with Regional Centre Assistant Regional Director-Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, IGNOU for use in Regional Centre Newsletter. He is a retired Professor in Commerce and it was his desire to enroll for a programme in MA Psychology. The opportunity gave him a chance to explore his innate desire to pursue a programme of his passion and could come out successfully. He thanks IGNOU for this Opportunity. IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin appreciates the jest and spirit of the Retired Professor who is exploring his inner passions of higher learning with IGNOU.

The message of lifelong learning through IGNOU is being cherished by learners like Shri. Thomas and Regional Centre, Cochin wishes him all the best in his future endeavors!