

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

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IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin

Official YouTube Channel link

<https://www.youtube.com/c/IGNOURegionalCentreCochin>

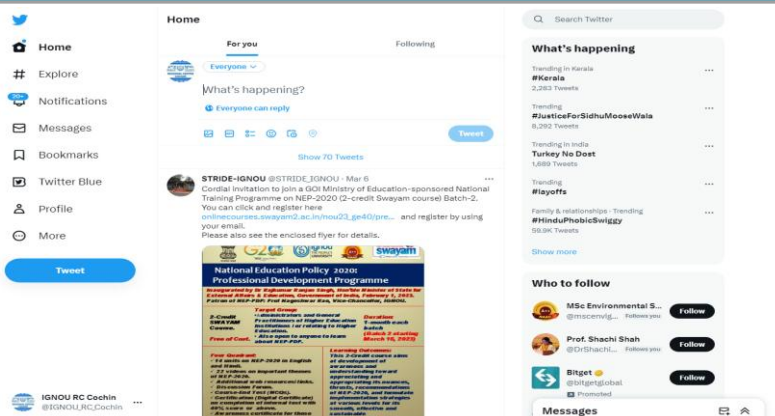
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Twitter Page of IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin



The Official Twitter page of Regional Centre Cochin was created in the month of April, 2020 during the COVID 19 pandemic period for sustenance of support services and to optimise reach to the students enrolled in IGNOU. As on date the account has 592 followers, 64 following and have become a digital news resource to all concerned who have an aspiration for Higher education.

Through the Regional Centre Cochin Twitter page, the link of recorded videos which are made available on Facebook page and YouTube channel of RC Cochin have been shared amongst all interested. Further Admission/Examination notifications, Promotional Materials, Press releases, important news tweeted by IGNOU Head Quarters, Delhi, other events of various Regional Centres across India are being tweeted, retweeted, liked and shared amongst students for a wider reach.

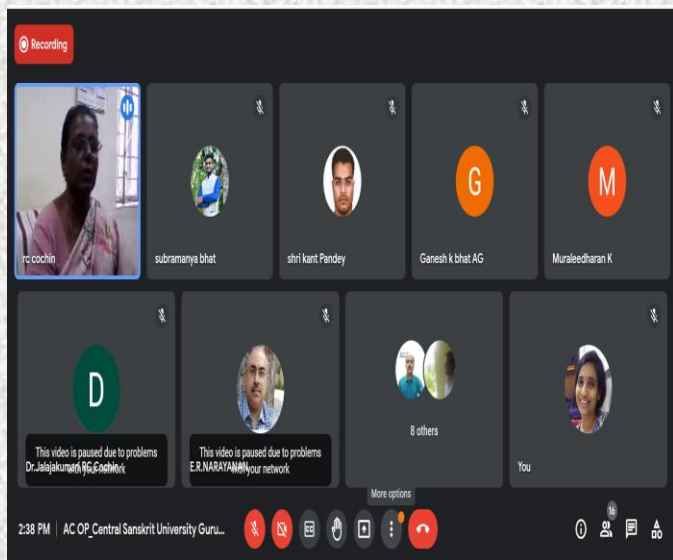
Further the sessions being planned/ conducted by IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin like Induction Meeting, Innovations club sessions, Promotional meetings/other events are being tweeted regularly for reaching out to interested students and public.

The twitter page of RC Cochin can be accessed through the link https://twitter.com/IGNOU_RC_Cochin and can be followed by one and all for latest news and updates about IGNOU and Regional Centre, Cochin activities.

Orientation for the proposed Academic Counselors of Central Sanskrit University Guruvayur

Indira Gandhi National Open University, Regional Centre Cochin (RC 14) conducted a Virtual Orientation Programme on 7th December 2022 for the prospective Academic Counselors of Sanskrit University Guruvayur where process to establish a Learner Support centre at Sanskrit University Guruvayur Campus prevailed. Amongst the 32 participants present, 15 were the faculty members of the University who were willing to be empanelled as academic counselors of IGNOU for MA Sanskrit, MA Jyothish, BA Sanskrit, Saral Sanskrit Bodhan and Certificate Programme in Yoga.

Sh. K.J. Joseph, SO welcomed all the participants and Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin gave the introductory remarks for the Virtual Orientation Programme earmarked for sharing the procedure for empanelment as academic counselors of IGNOU. The meeting was administered by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, Asst. Regional Director, IGNOU RC Cochin

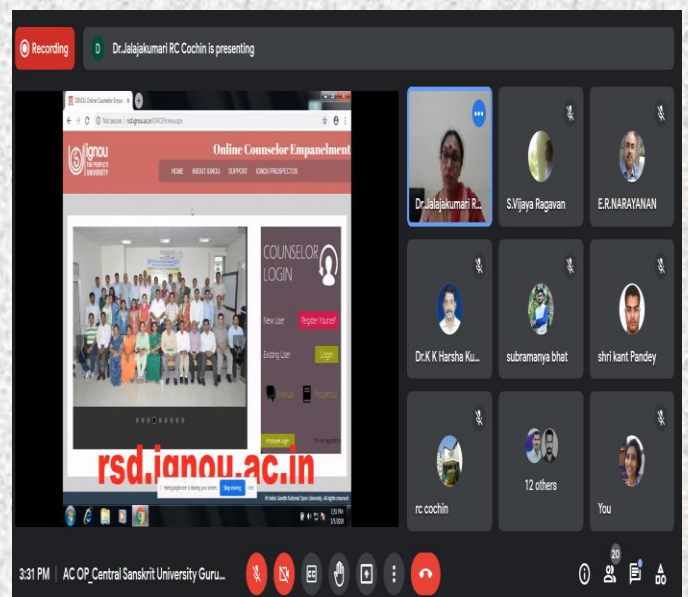


Screenshot of Inaugural address by Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, RC Cochin during the Online/Virtual Academic Counselors Orientation Programme on 07.12.2022

There were four Technical sessions on the topics such as Role of Academic Counselors in Student Support Services discussed by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Asst. Director, IGNOU RC

Cochin; Role of Academic Counselors with special reference to Internal and External Evaluation at IGNOU highlighted by Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, Asst. Regional Director, IGNOU RC Cochin; Empanelment of Academic Counselors through the Online portal for the courses of programmes proposed for activation deliberated by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, Asst. Regional Director, IGNOU RC Cochin.

The Technical session was followed by an open discussion. The Meeting came to an end with vote of thanks by Shri. K. Muraleedharan, SO, IGNOU RC Cochin.



Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD handling technical session during Online/Virtual Academic Counselors Orientation Programme on 07.12.2022

Induction Meeting (July 2022)

Induction Meeting (July 2022) for Semester based programmes

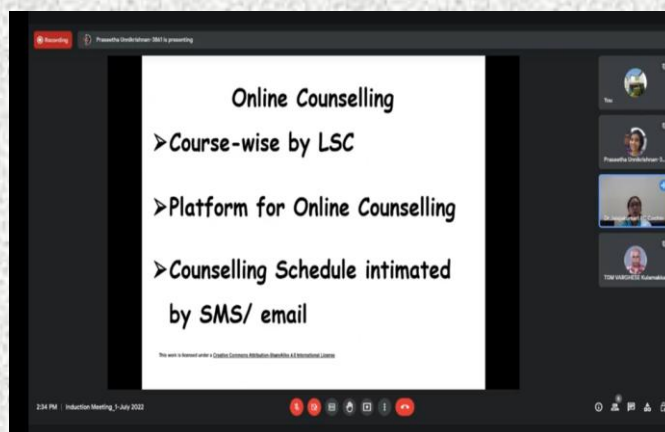
IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin conducted/hosted two Live Facebook Online/Virtual Induction Meetings for the students of Semester based programmes of July, 2022 session through Google Meet platform on 27th October, 2022. The session was live streamed through the Official Facebook page of IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin to optimise reach.

The Agenda/Programme Schedule for virtual induction meeting for July 2022 session held on

27.10.2022 at 2 pm earmarked for Semester based programme has expertised of Dr. Tom Varghese, Coordinator, LSC 1402 SH College, Thevara also, is given below:

S. No	Time	Particulars	Official
1	05 Min	How to Study with IGNOU	Dr.J.S. Dorothy, RD
2	05 Min	Significance of Enrolment Number/Difference between Fresh Admission & Re-registration/ Minimum and Maximum Period of study/ Know the IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin and Facilities at LSC	Ms. Sujini Babu, Assistant
3	05 Min	IGNOU Study Materials and Fee Refund for Special Clientile-Scholarship prerequisites & Multiple Entry and Exit facility for selected Bachelor programmes	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD
4	05 Min	Online Counselling and Project/Internship /Viva-Voce	Dr. V. T. Jalajakumari,ARD
5	05 Min	Internal Assessment at IGNOU & Examination and Convocation	Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD
6	05 Min	Life Skill for a Distance Learner	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD
7	05 Min	Coordinator's presentation	Dr. Tom Varghese, Coordinator, LSC 1402 S H College, Thevara
8	05 Min	Summing up	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, RC Cochin welcomed all the participants and addressed the learners on how to study with IGNOU. The importance of Self check questions and use of study materials online was highlighted along with the importance of life skills for a Distance Learner. It was emphasized that Honesty, Taking one day at a time, Persistence, Expression of Interest, Stead fastness and Peer Interaction are very important life skills for a Distance Learner to enable him/her cope up with the Professional, Social and Educational responsibilities.



Screenshot of the Live Facebook Online/Virtual Induction Meeting through Google Meet platform live streamed through the Official Facebook page of IGNOU on 27.10.2022

Ms. Sujini Babu, Assistant, Regional Centre, Cochin then explained about the significance of Enrolment Number, the difference between Fresh Admission and Re-registration, Minimum and Maximum period of Study made available at IGNOU. She also elaborated on the facilities available at Regional Centre, Cochin for the Learners in which the facilities available for students including the location, timings, accessibility to Regional centre were highlighted. The IGNOU website and Regional Centre, Cochin website was elaborated upon so that learners can avail the support services by checking the same on a regular basis.

Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, ARD further explained about the importance of Study Materials, its structure and how one can download the same from the IGNOU website. Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, ARD explained about the pre-requisites of Scholarship for special clientele and how one can apply for the same. The importance of Online Counseling session to the learners was highlighted by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD in which the new norms pertaining to Counseling was highlighted. Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD explained about the Internal Assessment at IGNOU specifically emphasizing on modalities of writing and submitting assignments. The online method of downloading of Assignment questions was explained. Examination and Convocation to the students in which online submission of Examination form was highlighted. The Convocation being held once in a year was also informed to the Learners.

Dr. Praseetha then summarized the session by covering the main points as a Checklist starting from downloading of ID card to receiving of Certificate from IGNOU, so as to enable the Learners to successfully complete their programme from IGNOU.

The Online/Virtual Live session for students of July, 2022 learners was well received by one and all. The programme was coordinated/administered by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD and technical assistance for the same was provided by Shri. Muhammad Ansar, AEDP. The recorded video has been uploaded in the Regional Centre Official You Tube Channel accessible at the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rH1t9dbhX8Q&list=PL-du1gIra7HISqowc-BYmFAHpiuycJ2Aw&index=2> to facilitate/ revisit the session and to enable the learners who missed the live session to access the deliberations.

Induction Meeting (July 2022) for Annual programmes

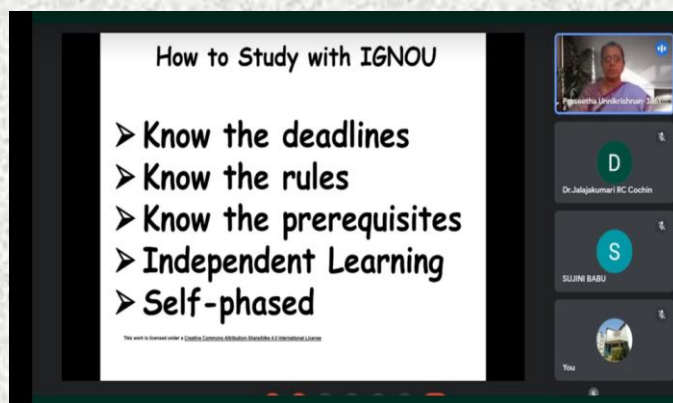
IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin conducted/hosted two Live Facebook Online/Virtual Induction Meetings for the students of Annual Programmes of July, 2022 session through *Google Meet* platform 30th November 2022. The session was live streamed through the Official Facebook page of IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin to optimize reach.

The Agenda/Programme Schedule for virtual induction meeting for July 2022 session held on 30.11.2022 at 2 pm earmarked for Annual programme has the expertise of four IGNOU officials, is given below:

S. No	Time	Particulars	Official
1	05 Min	How to Study with IGNOU	Dr.J.S. Dorothy, RD
2	05 Min	Significance of Enrolment Number/Difference between Fresh Admission & Re-registration/ Minimum and Maximum Period of study & Know the IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin and Facilities at LSC	Ms. Sujini Babu, Assistant

S. No	Time	Particulars	Official
3	05 Min	IGNOU Study Materials and Fee Refund for Special Clientile- Scholarship prerequisites & Multiple Entry and Exit facility for selected Bachelor Degree programmes	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD
4	05 Min	Online Counselling Session, Internal and External Assessment at IGNOU Examination and Convocation	Dr. V. T. Jalajakumari, ARD
5	05 Min	Life Skill for a Distance Learner	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD
6	05 Min	Summing up	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, RC Cochin welcomed all the participants and addressed the learners on how to study with IGNOU. The importance of Self check questions and use of study materials online was highlighted along with the importance of life skills for a Distance Learner. It was emphasized that Honesty, Taking one day at a time, Persistence, Expression of Interest, Stead fastness and Peer Interaction are very important life skills for a Distance Learner to enable him/her cope up with the Professional, Social and Educational responsibilities.



Screenshot of the Live Facebook Online/Virtual Induction Meeting through Google Meet platform live streamed through the Official Facebook page of IGNOU on 30.11.2022

Ms. Sujini Babu, Assistant, Regional Centre, Cochin then explained about the significance of Enrolment Number, the difference between Fresh Admission and Re-registration, Minimum and Maximum period of Study made available at IGNOU; who also

elaborated on the facilities available at Regional Centre, Cochin for the Learners in which the facilities available for students including the location, timings, accessibility to Regional centre was highlighted. The IGNOU website and Regional Centre, Cochin website was elaborated upon so that learners can avail the support services by checking the same on a regular basis.

Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, ARD further explained about the importance of Study Materials, its structure and how one can download the same from the IGNOU website. Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD explained about the pre-requisites of Scholarship for special clientele and how one can apply for the same. The importance of Online Counseling session to the learners was highlighted by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD in which the new norms pertaining to Counseling was deliberated. Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD also explained about the Internal Assessment at IGNOU specifically emphasizing on modalities of writing and submitting assignments. The online method of downloading of Assignment questions was explained. Examination and Convocation to the students in which online submission of Examination form was highlighted. The Convocation being held once in a year was also informed to the Learners.

Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD summarized the session by covering the main points as a Checklist starting from downloading of ID card to receiving of Certificate from IGNOU, so as to enable the Learners to successfully complete their programme from IGNOU.

The Online/Virtual Live session for students of January, 2022 learners was well received by one and all. The programme was coordinated/administered by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD and technical assistance for the same was provided by Shri. Muhammad Ansar, AEDP. The recorded video has been uploaded in the Regional Centre Official YouTube Channel accessible at the link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeRKya36_oI&list=PL-du1glra7HISqowc-BYmFAHpiuycJ2Aw&index=1 to facilitate/ revisit the session and to enable the learners who missed the live session to access the deliberations.

Exam Centre Superintendents Meeting

The Exam Centres Superintendent Meeting for December 2022 TEE was held on 30.11.2022 by IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin through *Google Meet* platform. The meeting was coordinated by Sh. Muhammed Ansar T.A., AEDP who was also the Nodal officer for December Term End Examination, 2022 at Regional Centre Cochin. Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, delivered the Welcome address and emphasized about the important pre Examination activities at Regional Centre besides conveying gratitude to the management of the Host Institution housing LSC for smooth conduct of Term end Examination December 2022 under Regional Centre Cochin.



Participants of Online/Virtual Exam Superintendent Meeting on 30.11.2022

Sh. Muhammed Ansar T.A., AEDP highlighted the mode of Observer deputation to the Examination Centres and methods of online question paper delivery system for smooth conduction of TEE December 2022 Examination. Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD deliberated about help desk activities during Examination with special reference to Differently abled learners in integrated Examination hall.

Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD, Regional Evaluation Centre Cochin highlighted about the information regarding the jurisdiction for sending Answer script to Regional Evaluation Centre Cochin. The meeting was interactive and came to an end with vote of thanks by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD.

Term End Examination (December 2022)

The December 2022 Term End Examination was held from 2nd December 2022 to 9th January 2023. The Examinations were conducted at 14 Examination Centres under the region at Ernakulam, Kottayam, Idukki, Thrissur and Union Territory of Lakshadweep with 82004 registered examinees. The Vice-Chancellor was kind enough to send a letter to Chief Secretary seeking support to hold Examinations of IGNOU smoothly in all Districts under Regional Centre Cochin. The Study Centre SC 14000 functioning from Regional centre Campus also served as the Examination Centre. Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD served as the Exam Centre Supt. for the Dec, 2022 TEE conducted at LSC14000. Sh. Muhammed Ansar T A, AEDP served as the Nodal Officer for Term End Examination for December 2022 session.

Grievance Redressal Campaign

Two Grievance Redressal sessions, one for Admission (Coordinated by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD) and another for Internal and External Assessment (Examination and Assignment Related Aspects – Coordinated by Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD) were held online using Google Meet on 01.11.2022 and 11.11.2022 respectively. Keeping in view the new normal situation and to facilitate the aspirants to redress while on move/on job/ while on other commitments, Virtual Grievance Redressal session was resorted. The information about the Redressal programmes was disseminated by SMS, tweet and Facebook.

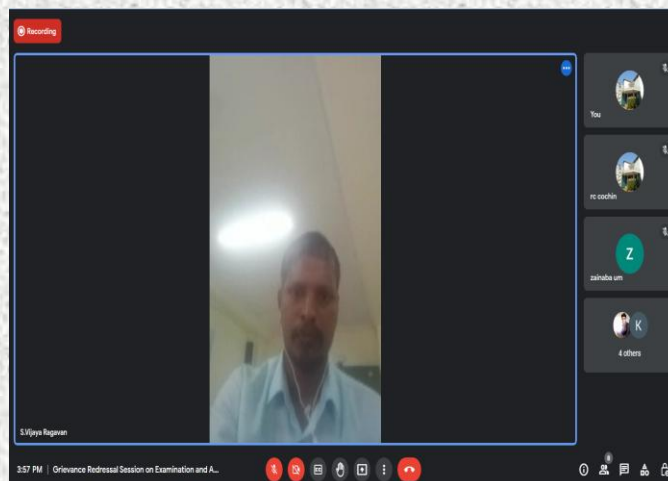
Because the sessions were online, even aspirants of IGNOU programmes belonging to neighboring Regional Centres logged in- and even their queries were redressed.

The recorded videos of the Grievance Redressal sessions are available in YouTube channel of Regional Centre Cochin for Admission at the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiXpbKs7mpM&list=PL-du1gIra7HJUeO1tp7IZJqxBk8QiU9lk&index=1> and for Internal and External Assessment at the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ECtR3cG9Fs>

&list=PL-du1gIra7HJUeO1tp7IZJqxBk8QiU9lk& index=2&t=1171 S.



Screenshot of Online/Virtual Grievance Redressal session for Admission by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD on 01.11.2022



Screenshot of Online/Virtual Grievance Redressal session on Internal and External Assessment (Examination and Assignment Related Aspects) by Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD on 11.11.2022

Innovation Club Activity

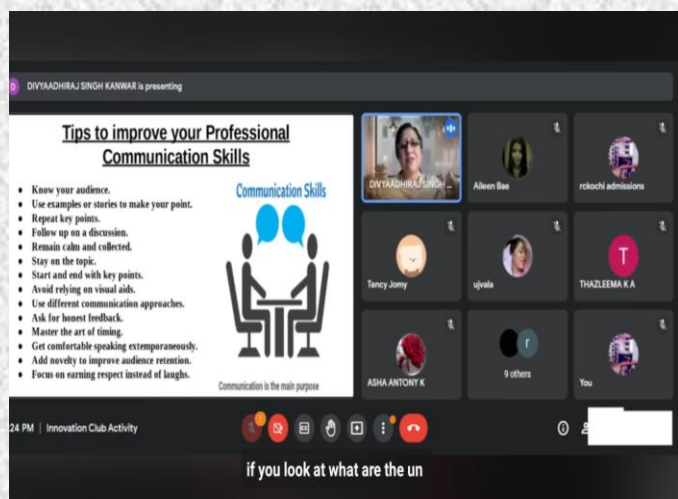
The Innovation Club at Regional Centre, Cochin was initiated under the encouragement of the National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE) of IGNOU. The sessions are being held at Regional Centre, Cochin with an objective to enrich and generate awareness amongst the learners of IGNOU on a wide range of topics ranging from *Career Management* to *Understanding Human Rights in Contemporary Society* 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.

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

The recording of the Innovation club enrichment session is available in IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin official YouTube channel under playlist "The Innovation Club- monthly lecture identified as 'Open Session cum Enrichment Session'" at the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qQbtyYPZB8&list=PL-du1gIra7HjssHwGoeKPnpjZK1YZpMYs>

S. No	Date	Resource Person	Topic of Presentation
1	31.10.2022	Prof. Tushti B, BR Ambedhkar College, University of Delhi	Understanding Human Rights in Contemporary Society



Screenshot of the Virtual/Online Open Session cum Enrichment Session addressed by Prof. Tusti B, B.R. Ambedhkar College, University of Delhi on 31.10.2022

Promotional initiatives

Online/Virtual Promotional Meetings, Campaigns and Events with a view to enhance the enrolment for July 2022 and January 2023 Admission cycle besides optimising the awareness about IGNOU programmes were organized by Regional Centre, Cochin through

various Study Centres and other Institutions to promote IGNOU programmes by reaching out to the unreached. Integrated mode of reach blending Face-to-face meetings and virtual meetings were utilized to promote/create awareness about IGNOU Programmes. 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 2022 and January 2023.

The Live Programmes using Regional Centre Cochin Official Facebook Page was given by the Academics of Regional Centre, Cochin. The Technical support for the Face Book Session Programme was provided by Sh. Muhammad Ansar T A, AEDP, Regional Centre Cochin.

S. No	Date & Time	Meeting organized/ administered by	Participant	Purpose
1	07.10.2022	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	Faculty of Central Sanskrit University, Guruvayoor	Face-to-face Introductory session on 'NEP-PDP programmes and various Academic Programmes of IGNOU' was delivered
2	19.10.2022	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	The Facebook session has 480 views	Facebook Live Promotional Session on 'Bachelors Level Programmes of IGNOU'
3	20.10.2022	Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD	The Facebook session has 480 views	Facebook Live Promotional meeting on the topic 'An overview of IGNOU' Bachelors and Masters Programmes'
4	09.11.2022	Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD	Students and Faculty	Face-to-face with Indira Gandhi College of Teacher Education, Nellikuzhy, Kothamangalam

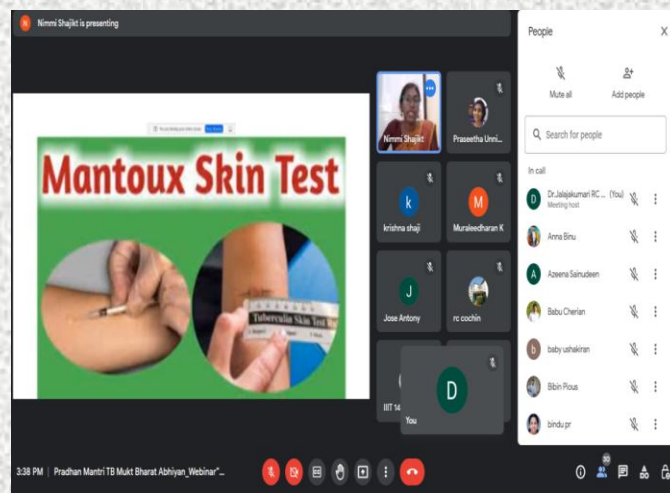
Other Activities at Regional Centre Cochin

TB Mukth Bharath Abhiyan

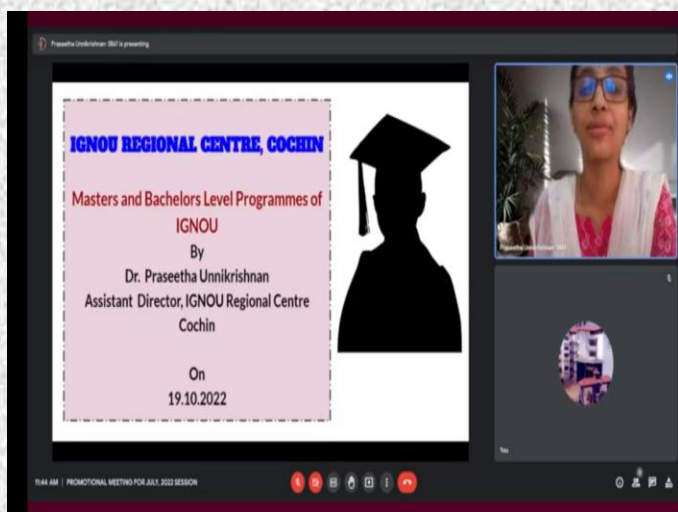
IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin celebrated the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukth Bharat Abhiyan at RC Cochin .by organizing two events namely Lecture webinar and Awareness programme at LSC1453 MES Training College, Edathala through Poster competition and Speech by Students of the Host Institution. The events at LSC 1453 were coordinated by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD, RC Cochin with Dr. Bindu P, PIC , Coordinator, LSC 1453 with the support of Dr. Omana T.P., Principal, MES Training College, Edathala.

Webinar on 'TB Mukth Bharath': The webinar on 'TB Mukth Bharath' was conducted using *Google Meet* which was also live streamed Facebook live session in Regional Language Malayalam on the topic “ക്ഷയരോഗ വിമുക്ത ഭാരതം” (TB Mukth Bharath) on 10.11.2022 from 3pm to 4.30pm. at IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin.

Dr. Sheeja Beevi S, Medical Officer, Government Ayurveda College Hospital for Women and Children Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram was the resource person. There were 65 participants in the virtual programme including Dr. M. Rajesh, RD, RC Vatakara and many medical doctors from Allopathy and Ayurveda in addition to IGNOU learners and RC Cochin staff.



The resource person presentation on the Topic TB Mukth Bharath



Screenshot of Presentation presented by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD during the FB Live session on 19.10.2022



Promotional Meeting by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD at Indira Gandhi College of Teacher Education, Kothamangalam on 09.11.2022

The recording of the Promotional Meetings are available in IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin official YouTube channel under playlist “Promotional Meeting” at the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cd2cmYLz9To&list=PLu1gIra7HK5K37AdAJ0j61aQRo93F0m>

In the webinar Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, Regional Centre Cochin welcomed the Resource Person and the participants. Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Assistant Director gave a brief introduction about the Programme with a special reference to Pradhan Mantri TB Mukth Bharat Abhiyan.

The resource person highlighted the vigilance to be taken by the public on the pertinent fact of increasing growth rate of TB in India in recent years and the precautions to be taken, Symptoms of TB, Medication and other health care habits to be followed in individual daily life, the measures to be taken to resist spread of TB.

Dr. M. Rajesh, Regional Director of RC Vatakara remarked the relevance of the programme and shared a Plan of Action on the spot to conduct such programmes further in a wide manner through local self Governments by creating a digital repository on TB Mukth Bharat Abhiyan using available Medical resources and other activities. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, Asst. Regional Director, RC Cochin. The technical expertise for the conduct of the webinar which was made as Facebook live was rendered by Sh. Mohammed Ansar (AEDP). Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD identified the Resource Person Dr. Sheeja Beevi S, Medical Officer, Government Ayurveda College Hospital for this webinar.

Awareness programme at LSC: An Awareness at LSC 1453 through poster competition and Speech by Students of the Host Institution (MES College of Education, Edathala) was the second event conducted at Regional Centre Cochin.



Students arrange the posters displayed in the Campus



Student speak on the topic TB Mukth Bharath

Dr. Bindu P, PIC of the Programme Study Centre of RC Cochin, 1453P, MES Training College, Edathala coordinated the Awareness Programme at LSC 1453 through poster competition and Speech by Students of the Host Institution on the theme 'TB Mukth Bharath' on 14th November 2022.

The webinar and the recording of the event at LSC 1453 are available in the IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin YouTube channel at the link <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-du1gIra7HlyksU9ZqA9WNGXwNAAzrkT>.

Participation in Online/Virtual Workshops/Conference/Webinars

- Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD (from 07-15 October, 2022) and Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD (27 Oct - 5 Nov 2022) participated and successfully completed the Professional Development Programme on 'Implementation of NEP2020 for University and College Teachers' (Chronologically arranged).
- Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD participated and successfully completed the Short Term Professional Development Programme on 'Artificial Intelligence in ICT Application in Education and Research' held from 16-23 November 2022.
- Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD attended a one day Workshop on 'Translation Tools- Kanthast' Workshop under 'Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Kochi, Kerala on 27.10.2022.

Study Centre Corner

St. Antony's College, Peruvanthanam, Idukki (LSC 14186)



St Antony's College, Peruvanthanam, founded by Rev. Dr Antony Nirappel, is affiliated to M.G. University and approved by the Government of Kerala was established in the year 2013 and started functioning from 24 July 2013.

St Antony's College, Peruvanthanam is located in Idukki District in the State of Kerala. As per Wikipedia, the Idukki District is one of the 14 districts in the Indian state of Kerala, which lies amid the Cardamom Hills of Western Ghats in Kerala. It is the second-largest district in the region in terms of area and has the lowest population density among the districts of Kerala. Located on the highest point of elevation on the Peninsular India. The Idukki district forms a high altitude plateau with rugged mountainous terrain, several river valleys and deep gorges. The entire northern part of the district forms a sub plateau higher than the rest of the district having the tallest peaks.

The district was constituted on 26 January 1972, by taking Peerumade, Udumbanchola, Devikulam taluks of the former High Range division from Kottayam district and the Thodupuzha taluk from Ernakulam district. Its division was previously headquartered at Kottayam city. The two official administrative languages in the district and Malayalam and English. Tamil is the second most spoken language in Idukki after Malayalam.

The formal inauguration of the construction of college building was done by the honourable Chief Minister Shri. Oommen Chandy in the presence of Shri.

P J Joseph (Minister for Water Resources) Mrs. E S Bijimol MLA and Shri. M T Thomas (District Panchayath President) and the foundation stone was blessed by Rev Dr Antony Nirappel, the Founder and Director on 9 May 2014. The mission of the college is to provide innovative educational environments, opportunities and experiences that enable individuals, communities and regions especially Idukki, Pathanamthitta and Kottayam districts to grow, thrive and prosper.

The college is situated in a terrain capping Peruvanthanam hillock which is set in the entrance to the High ranges at Kodikuthy. The college campus is spread on 7 acres of lush verdant backdrop at Peruvanthanam in Idukki District.

The College provides the perfect setting for producing educated citizens by providing both infrastructure and instructional facilities in eight programmes in the fields of Commerce, Management, Literature and Computer Applications. Digital Library, Smart Classrooms, Cloud Campus, Green campus are the salient features of the College.

St. Antony's college aims to impart value-based education to produce intellectually well developed, morally upright, socially matched and spiritually enlightened citizens who could be pivots of various professions in the globalized village. The college has sufficient instructional facilities and amenities for academic, administrative and extracurricular activities that serve as lab and land for education.



Study Centre Office at St. Antony's College, Peruvanthanam, Idukki

The proposal for establishment of IGNOU Study Centre was facilitated by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD in the year 2018 during the tenure of Dr. J.S. Dorothy as Regional Director. The notification for establishment of IGNOU at St Antony's College, Peruvanthanam was received in 2019 dated 18.01.2019. With the initial 22 students, the LSC has presently grown to 165 students as on July, 2022. There are 10 programmes of Maters/Bachelors/Diploma/ Certificate level activated at this Study Centre.

IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin express gratitude to Dr. Antony Joseph, Principal of the Host Institution St. Antony's College, Idukki for providing inputs for this issuance of Newsletter.

Meet an IGNOU Learner



In this edition of "Meet an IGNOU Learner", we introduce you to Sh. Manoj Kumar C G. who is an Alumni of Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) programme of IGNOU. Sh. Manoj is currently a Faculty member of Life Skills and Soft Skills in the CIR (Corporate Industrial Relation) Department at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Amritapuri Campus, Kollam, Kerala. His profile was shared to Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Asst. Director for use in the Newsletter of IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin.

Sh. Manoj with history roots in Kerala, was born and brought up in Ooty, Tamil Nadu, and completed his schooling at Breeks Memorial Angelo Indian Higher Secondary School. After completing schooling, Sh. Manoj joined JSS Law College in Mysore for higher studies but discontinued to join an NGO called Mata Amratatmanandamay Math in Kerala as a full-time

volunteer. Sh. Manoj served the organization for a long period of 19 years. Because of interest in social work Sh. Manoj pursued his Bachelor's degree in Social Work from IGNOU.

In the words of Sh. Manoj, *"I thank the wonderful learning experience provided by IGNOU and the support of faculty members, including Dr. Xavier Vinayaraj N V and Dr. Sherin Paul, as well as the supporting staff of Study Centre DePaul Campus, Angamaly. I highly recommend IGNOU to anyone who, like me, has missed out on completing their graduation due to different circumstances. I am proud to have successfully completed my graduation from IGNOU, which also led to a promotion and an increment in my salary. I sincerely thank the IGNOU family for the success I have achieved in my life"*.

IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin appreciates his efforts, jest for life, commitment for the job in the same Institution and wishes Sh. Manoj the best in life and in all his future endeavors!

News at News

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'Gandhimavu' set for a big journey

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an indigenous mango tree. The fruits are really sweet," he said.

The college authorities will also explore tissue culture propagation of the 'Gandhimavu' by induction of polyembryony under in vitro conditions. This method will also be adopted once mature seeds are available this season.

There are also plans to showcase the mangoes of 'Gandhimavu' at National Herbarium of Cultivated Plants of Indian Council for Agricultural Research and National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources in New Delhi.

"The college authorities have already preserved three mangoes using formalin acetic acid (FAA) solution. They will soon hand it over to us. I have already discussed the matter with NGPGR authorities in New Delhi. They have given their nod for it," Joseph John K, former principal scientist, who recently superannuated from the regional centre of NBPGR at Mannuthy, said.

Kochi: Saplings of a mango tree planted by Mahatma Gandhi on the premises of the Union Christian College (UC College) in Aluva in 1925 will soon travel across the country and even outside it.

As part of the centenary celebrations of the college, 100 saplings of the mango tree will be prepared to be given to those 'who are genuinely interested' in growing them, the college authorities said.

"It was during his visit to Aluva on March 18, 1925, that Gandhiji planted the sapling. Now, it is a 96-year-old tree. As part of our college's centenary celebrations, we decided to graft 100 saplings of 'Gandhimavu' (as it is called). We want to plant those saplings in places where the names of Gandhiji and UC College fit well," said M I Punnoose, principal, UC College, Aluva.

The college's botany department has started grafting of the mango tree. "We did 25 grafting in the first phase. Now, the saplings are growing in our greenhouse. The grafting was done under the guidance of Aneesh N V, grafting specialist, Agriculture Research Station, Mannuthy in Thrissur. We plan to achieve the target of 100 saplings within six months," said Anil Kumar M, head of botany department.

"Each plant will be given a unique barcode after genomic analysis. This is to ensure that the saplings are not being sold or misused," he said.

The plan is to release the first sapling at a public meeting on November 12 as part of the college's centenary celebrations at which Gandhiji's grandson Thushar Gandhi will be the chief guest.

"The alumni of the college all across the world have already requested us to give them a sapling," Anil Kumar said. It is through organic methods that the grand old tree has been protected. "It is

As many as 100 saplings of the mango tree planted by Gandhi on the premises of UC College in 1925 will be grafted by the authorities
