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Vol 8 Issue 3

In this Issue

- Induction Meeting for July 2024
- Innovation Club Activity
- Promotional initiatives
- Other Activities at Regional Centre Cochin
- Know the Coordinator
- Meet an IGNOU Learner
- News at News
- Social Media access to IGNOU RC Cochin

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

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Campaign



IGNOU RC Cochin participates in Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Campaign: Planting a Greener Tomorrow, One Tribute at a Time

On the occasion of World Environment Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, a unique initiative combining environmental responsibility with a heartfelt tribute to mothers. This campaign was inaugurated on **June 5, 2024**, with the planting of a Peepal tree by the Prime Minister at **Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the importance of collective efforts to improve the environment and spoke of India's strides in increasing forest cover over the past decade. This campaign, he said, aligns with the nation's quest for sustainable development!

The essence of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' is a **symbolic gesture**—planting a tree in the name of one's mother. This simple act serves a dual purpose: **honoring the role of mothers in nurturing life and contributing to the health of the planet**. Trees are life-sustaining, and just like a mother, they provide sustenance, protection, and a future for the next generation. Through this initiative, participants can create a lasting memory, planting a tree as a living tribute to their mothers, while also addressing the pressing need for environmental preservation.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change successfully met its ambitious goal of planting **80 crore seedlings** under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign by September 2024. The target was achieved on **25th September 2024**, 5 days ahead of deadline. This achievement was made possible through collaborative efforts from government agencies, local communities, and various stakeholders.

IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin initiated the Plantation campaign by sourcing the Local Saplings for distribution from its own campus and in the adopted village under UBA activities. For details/photographs, please visit page no. 9 of this Newsletter



Induction Meeting for July 2024 admission cycle for Certificate & Semester programmes

Induction Meeting for July 2024 admission cycle for Certificate & Semester programmes

A Live Facebook Online/Virtual Induction Meeting hosted by IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin for learners of Certificate and Semester programmes of July 2024 session was conducted through Google Meet platform on 25th September 2024 from 11.30 am and the session was live streamed through the Official Facebook page of IGNOU. The Coordinators/ staff of various LSC alongwith the staff of Regional Centre, Cochin attended the meeting and the meeting was live streamed on the Facebook page of IGNOU and has received 2.8k views as on 09.10.2024.

The entire virtual event has been recorded and is available in the Facebook page of IGNOU RC Cochin at <https://www.facebook.com/IGNOURegionalCentreCochin/>

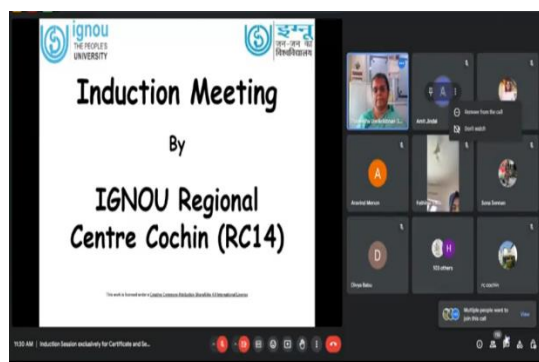
The technical assistance for uploading the recording Shri. Muhammad Ansar, AEDP and Ms. Reshma Suresh.

Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, RC Cochin welcomed all the participants. The importance of Self check questions and use of study materials online was highlighted alongwith 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.

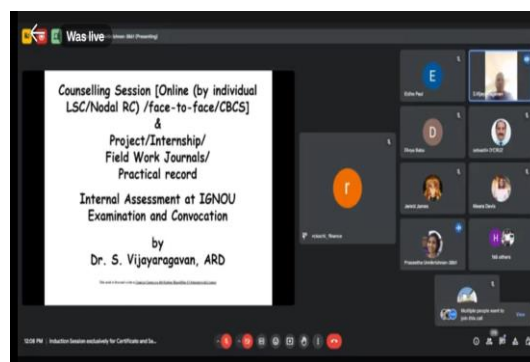
Sh. J Thiru murugan, Deputy Director, REC Cochin delivered a session on how to study with IGNOU. Sh. V Balakrishnan, SO, REC Cochin then explained about the significance of Enrolment Number, the difference between Fresh Admission and Re-registration, Minimum and Maximum period of Study made available at IGNOU.

Sh. Sebastin D'Cruz, EDP 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, AD further explained about the importance of Study Materials, its structure and how one can download the same from the IGNOU website. Sh. K. Muraleedharan, SO explained about the pre-requisites of Scholarship for special clientele and how one can apply for the same. Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD explained Multiple Entry and Exit facility for selected Bachelor Degree Programmes.



Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, RC Cochin welcoming all the participants during the Induction meeting on 25.09.2024



Participants during the Induction meeting on 25.09.2024

Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD explained the importance of Online Counseling session to the learners was highlighted in which it was mentioned that Online/Virtual platform would be used due to the COVID 19 pandemic situation. The process of intimation of the schedule to Learners by uploading in the Regional centre website and intimation through SMS/email was highlighted. The Learner etiquette needed was also informed to learners. Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD also explained about the preparation and submission requirements for Project/Internship /Viva-Voce.

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 also 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.



Induction Meeting Learner Support Centres for July 2024 Admission cycle

Induction Meeting is an official introductory gathering—held either physically at a Study Centre or virtually—where newly enrolled students are briefed on the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system, the credit-based evaluation process, and the specific requirements for successfully completing their chosen program.

Distance learning has a unique rhythm that is very different from regular college. At the induction, officials explain the **Life Cycle of a Learner**, including:

- **Study Material:** How and when you'll receive your books (physical vs. digital).
- **Assignments:** The weightage they carry (usually 30%) and the strict deadlines for submission.
- **Re-registration:** A unique IGNOU quirk where you often have to register for the next year/semester *before* you even take the exams for the current one.

Induction Meeting at LSC 1406 CMS College, Kottayam

The Coordinator of CMS College, Sh. Johnson M M warmly welcomed the students and gave a brief about the Study Centre activities and emphasized on the importance of self-study. The important do's and don'ts about being an IGNOU student was explained. Thereafter Shri. Sam Raj, Asst. Coordinator of CMS College, Kottayam also addressed the students and highlighted the important points which the students need to remember like submission of assignments, doing Project and related activities. After this brief introduction, the Coordinator invited Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Deputy Director, IGNOU RC Cochin to address the Learners and explained in detail about IGNOU, Regional Centre and Study Centre, their website details; About Induction Guidelines and Programme Guide and how to download the same from website; Downloading of IGNOU ID card; Checking Registration details, verifying name, address and maximum validity period; Downloading of Study materials including Programme Guide from egyptankosh and how to study using the same; How to download soft copy of Assignment questions and how to write and submit the same; Applying of Re-registration; IGNOU Examinations; Convocation and award of degree. The session was very interactive wherein students raised lots of queries and the same was duly addressed by the Resource person. The session ended with vote of thanks by the Coordinator.



Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, DD addressing the participants during the Induction Meeting on 22.08.2024



Participants during the Induction meeting on 22.08.2024

Induction Meeting at LSC 1402 SH College, Thevara

The Coordinator of SH College, Thevara Fr. Nijo Antony and Sh. Shammy Joseph, Asst. Coordinator welcomed the students and gave a brief about the Study Centre activities and emphasized on the importance of self-study after Kulgeet of IGNOU. The important pros and cons about being an IGNOU student was explained. Thereafter Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, Deputy Director addressed the students and highlighted the important points which the students need to remember like submission of assignments, doing Project and related activities.



Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, DD addressing the participants during the Induction Meeting on 29.09.2024



Participants during the Induction meeting on 29.09.2024



Innovation Club Activity

Four Online/Virtual monthly lecture identified as Open cum Enrichment Session was held at the Regional Centre, Cochin during this period on the topics Millets as a source of food in daily diet & What is PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and the same was coordinated/ administered by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD who is also the Nodal Officer for the Innovation club activities at Regional Centre, Cochin.

S. No.	Date	Resource Person	Topic of Presentation
1	30.08.2024	Dr. J S Dorothy, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin	Millets as a source of food in daily diet
2	25.09.2024	Dr. J S Dorothy, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin	What is PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

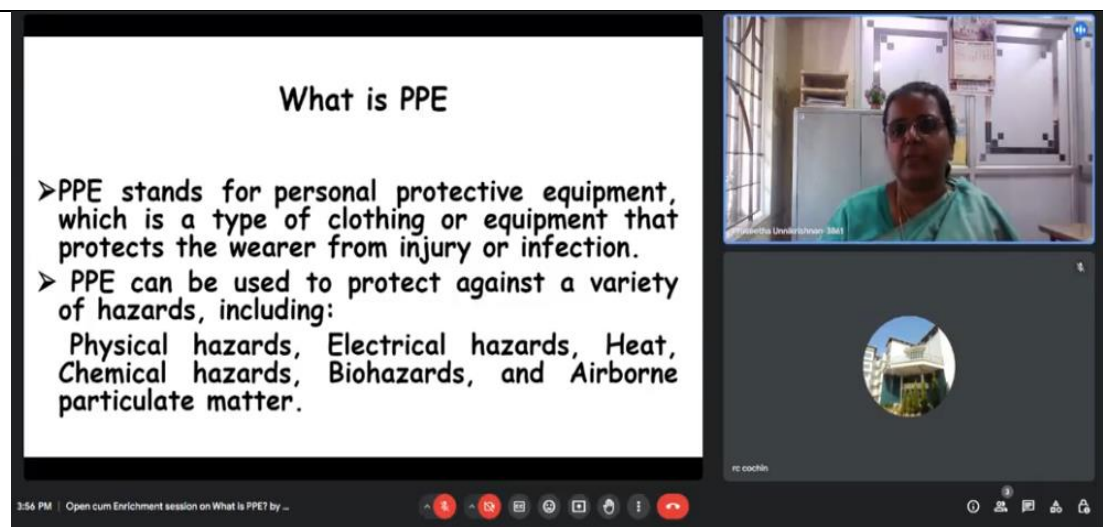
Innovation Club Activity

The recording of the Innovation club Open Session cum 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-du1gIra7HJssHwGoeKPnpZK1YZpMYs>. In all the Innovation club Open Session cum Enrichment Session, highlight about the availability of IGNOU Programme as courses, NEP PDP Programme in the SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) portal and life skills, soft skill education were also a constant event.

The technical assistance for uploading the recording Shri. Muhammad Ansar, AEDP and Ms. Reshma Suresh.



Screenshot of the Virtual/Online Open Session cum Enrichment Session addressed by Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin on the topic Millets as a source of food in daily diet on 30.08.2024



Screenshot of the Virtual/Online Open Session cum Enrichment Session addressed by Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin on the topic What is PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) on 25.09.2024



Promotional initiatives

Online/Virtual Promotional Meetings, Campaigns and Events with a view to enhance the enrolment for January 2024 Admission cycle besides optimizing 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 January 2024.

Promotional initiatives

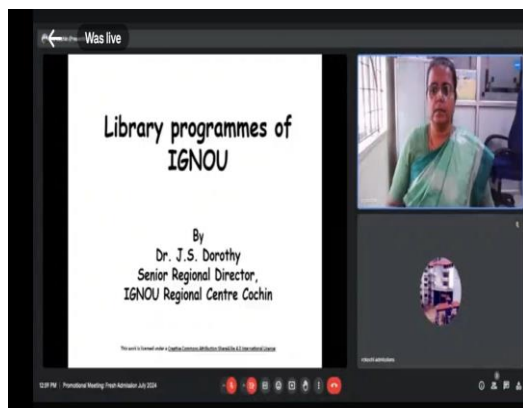
The Live Programmes using Regional Centre Cochin Official Facebook Page was given by the Academics of Regional Centre, Cochin. The Technical support for the Face Book Session Programme was rendered by Sh. Muhammad Ansar T A, AEDP, Regional Centre Cochin and Ms. Reshma Suresh.

The following six promotional sessions were organized by RC Cochin:

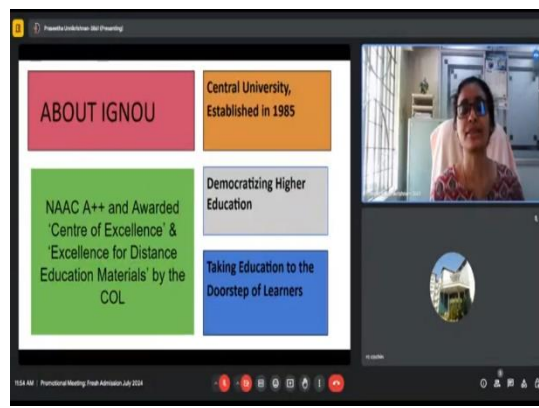
S. No	Date & Time	Meeting organized/ administered by	Participant	Purpose
1	12.07.2024 at 11.30 am	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	The Facebook session has 313 views	Facebook Live Promotional meeting on the topic “ Career Enhancing Certificate and Diploma Programmes of IGNOU” in English Language
2	12.07.2024 at 12 pm	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	The Facebook session has 305 views	Facebook Live Promotional meeting on the topic “ Career Enhancing Certificate and Diploma Programmes of IGNOU” in Malayalam Language
3	15.07.2024 at 11.30 am	Dr. J S Dorothy, Regional Director	The Facebook session has 297 views	Facebook Live Promotional Session on “Library Programmes of IGNOU” in English Language
4	15.07.2024 at 12 pm	Dr. J S Dorothy Regional Director	The Facebook session has 297 views	Facebook Live Promotional Session on “Library Programmes of IGNOU” in Tamil Language
5	19.07.2024 at 11.30 am	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	The Facebook session has 293 views	Facebook Live Promotional Session on ““Empowering Women through IGNOU Programmes” in English Language
6	19.07.2024 at 12 pm	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	The Facebook session has 293 views	Facebook Live Promotional Session on ““Empowering Women through IGNOU Programmes” in Malayalam Language
7	29.07.2024 at 11.30 am	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	The Facebook session has 293 views	Facebook Live Promotional Session on “FYUP Programmes of IGNOU” in English Language
8	05.08.2024 at 11.45 am	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	The Facebook session has 293 views	Facebook Live Promotional Session on “FYUP Programmes of IGNOU” in English Language
9	22.08.2024	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD	Face-to-Face Promotional Sessions at CMS College, Kottayam	Face to face Promotional meetings for the students if various Departments at CMS College, Kottayam



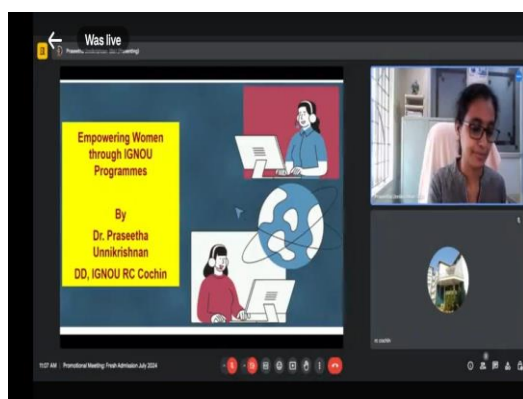
Promotional initiatives



Facebook Live Promotional Session on “Library Programmes of IGNOU” in English Language by Dr. J S Dorothy, Regional Director on 15.07.2024



Facebook Live Promotional Session on “Four Year Undergraduate (FYUP) Programmes of IGNOU” in Malayalam Language by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD on 05.08.2024



Facebook Live Promotional Session on “Empowering Women through IGNOU Programmes” in English Language by 19.07.2024 at 11.30 am



Face to Face promotional Session for the students of CMS College. Kottayam on 22.08.2024



Face to Face promotional Session for the students of CMS College. Kottayam on 22.08.2024



Face to Face promotional Session for the students of CMS College. Kottayam on 22.08.2024



Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign from 13th August – 15th August 2024

The IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin Campus house three Offices namely the IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin, the Regional Evaluation Centre, Cochin and the Learner Support Centre 14000. As such the Regional Centre campus is a home to these three Office Staff members.

Other Activities at Regional Centre Cochin

1. Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign from 13th to 15th August 2025

Har Ghar Tiranga' is a campaign under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to encourage people to bring the Tiranga home and to hoist it on the eve India's independence day. "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign was first launched to encourage people to bring the Tiranga home and hoist it to celebrate 75 years (1947-2022) of India's Independence. Bringing the flag home collectively as a nation in the 75th year of independence thus becomes symbolic of not only an act of personal connection to the Tiranga but also an embodiment of our commitment to nation-building. The idea behind the initiative is to invoke the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of the people and to promote awareness about the Indian National Flag (<https://amritmahotsav.nic.in/har-ghar...>) The Ministry of Culture is the nodal ministry for Har Ghar Tiranga.

In the last two years, Har Ghar Tiranga has grown to be a people's movement. People across the country, belonging to different segments of society have embraced the idea and infused it with their warmth and support via participation in online and offline programmes and events <https://harghartiranga.com/about>

On 13.08.2024, there was in total participation of 25, a representation of six from RC, twelve from REC, four outsourced security personnel and seven students from LSC. Shri. K. Muraleedharan, SO Regional Centre, Cochin hoisted the Flag under the Har Ghar Tiranga Event on 13.08.2024. On 14.08.2024, there was in total participation of 30, a representation of Eight from RC, fourteen from REC, two staff from LSC, four outsourced security personnel and six students from LSC. Shri. S. Thiru murugan, DR, Regional Evaluation Centre, Cochin hoisted the Flag under the Har Ghar Tiranga Event on 14.08.2024. On 15.08.2024, there was in total participation of 25, a representation of 10 from RC, 6 from REC, one Academic Counselor, one retired staff of IGNOU, one family member and six outsourced security personnel. Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, RC Cochin hoisted the Flag under the Har Ghar Tiranga Event on 15.08.2024.

The photograph of staff of RC, REC and LSC 14000 was also posted under Har Ghar Tiranga Event under the campaign on the website of Ministry of Culture and also received certificate of IGNOU RC Cochin. The entire virtual event has been recorded and is available in the YouTube channel of Regional Centre Cochin under the Playlist "Har Ghar Tiranga" which is available for public viewing.



Participants on 13.08.2024



Participants on 14.08.2024



Participants on 15.08.2024



Digital Certificate obtained after uploading the photograph with flag hoisted on 13.08.2024



Commemoration of Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi declared 14th August to be celebrated annually as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day to remind the nation of the sacrifices of Indians during the partition in 1947.

As a part of the Remembrance Day, the following two Facebook Live sessions were conducted by the Academics of IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin.

Other Activities at Regional Centre Cochin

2. Commemoration of Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

The day 14th August remembers the sufferings of many Indians during the partition. Numerous families were displaced and many lost their lives in the partition. It aims to remind Indians the need to remove social divisions, disharmony and to further strengthen the spirit of oneness, social harmony and human empowerment.

Facebook Live session on the 'Partition of India' by Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, RC Cochin

The session on 'Partition of India' by Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, IGNOU RC Cochin on 13.08.2024 highlighted the events of Partition of India wherein it was highlighted that the partition left an indelible mark on the national consciousness of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, and its legacy continues to influence the countries 'citizens to this day. Information was also provided about the Partition Museum, situated in Old Delhi just 10 minutes from Chandni Chowk, which is a remarkable People's Museum created through donations and personal stories. It was also emphasized that anyone who is interested in history, may also visit the Museum situated in Delhi. The Resources from Wikipedia and Britannia were the base for dissemination of information and for further reference. The recording of the session is also available on the IGNOU RC Cochin Youtube channel, facebook page of IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin. for public viewing.



Session on 'Partition of India' by Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, IGNOU RC Cochin on 13.08.2024



Session on the 'Importance of Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, DD, RC Cochin on 14.08.2024

Facebook Live session on the "Importance of Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, DD, RC Cochin

The session on the 'Importance of Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, DD, RC Cochin on 14.08.2024 at 10.45 AM highlighted the need to work upon social divisions, disharmony and further strengthen the spirit of oneness, social harmony and human empowerment. The Remembrance Day fosters a climate of empathy and understanding, ensuring that the human aspect of the events which unfolded after Partition is not lost amidst the historical narrative was emphasized. The increased public awareness and discussions spurred by this observance may influence government policies pertaining to historical preservation, interfaith relations, and the commemoration of significant events was shared. Furthermore, the transgenerational impact of the Remembrance Day was highlighted to be important as families and communities are prompted to share their personal stories of the Partition with younger generations. The Resources from 'The Voice of the Nation Organizer' was the base for dissemination of information and for further reference. The recording of the session is also available on the IGNOU RC Cochin Youtube channel, facebook page of IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin. for public viewing



Other Activities at Regional Centre Cochin

3. 'Plant for Mother' campaign or 'Ek ped Ma ke Naam' campaign

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has launched 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign on the occasion of World Environment Day. Shri Modi's planted a Peepal tree at Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi. He has also urged all to contribute in making our planet better and informed that in the last decade, India has undertaken numerous collective efforts which have led to increased forest cover across the nation.

'Ek ped Ma ke Naam' campaign

The 'Plant for Mother' campaign or 'Ek ped Ma ke Naam' campaign aims at inspiring people to plant trees as a tribute to mothers and contribute towards environmental preservation and ecological balance.

'Ek ped Ma ke Naam' campaign at LSC 14000 RC Campus

IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin initiated the Plantation campaign by sourcing the Local Saplings for distribution from its own campus which can be handed over to Students/Employees. Facebook Live session on the 'Partition of India' by Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, RC Cochin

The Plantation Event was held at 11.00 pm wherein the importance of the event was highlighted by Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, RC Cochin and the locally saplings were distributed amongst MAPC students of IGNOU RC Cochin. The LSC staff, Academic Counselors alongwith Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, DD, besides RC Staff joined students for the occasion for Photographs and video which was taken with the expertise of Shri. Muhammad Ansar, AEDP, RC Cochin. The video taken is available in the YouTube Channel of IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin for public viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/@IGNOURegionalCentreCochin/featured>.



Participants of Ek ped Ma ke Naam' campaign on 14.08.2024



Participants of Ek ped Ma ke Naam' campaign at the adopted village Edathala on 21.08.2024

'Ek ped Ma ke Naam' campaign at the adopted village Edathala

As per the guidance given by IGNOU Head Quarters for conducting the 'Ek ped Ma ke Naam' and Plant for Mother campaign in the adopted village under UBA activities, the Coordinator of Study Centre 14184 Al-Ameen College, Edathala, Aluva Sh. Viju was contacted to conduct 'Ek ped Ma ke Naam' and Plant for Mother campaign at Edathala village located in Aluva Taluk in Ernakulam District which is the adopted village under UBA activity. Mr.K Muraleedharan (SO) and Ms. Sujini Babu (ASO) made the pre-arrangement of collection seedlings and identifying the location with the help of the Coordinator 14184 Sh. Viju. The Nodal Officer of UBA Activity Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD and the outsourced staff Sh. Vijayakumar T N joined Mr. K Muraleedharan (SO) and Ms. Sujini Babu (ASO), Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan DD in planting the seedlings at Al-Ameen College campus on 21.08.2024



Other Activities at Regional Centre Cochin

4. Swachhata Pakhwada

Swachhata Pakhwada is an initiative by the Indian government to promote cleanliness and sanitation across various sectors of society. Launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission, this fortnight-long(1st Sept 2024 to 15th Sept 2024) campaign is observed by different ministries, departments, and organizations across India to emphasize the importance of cleanliness.

Swachhata Pakhwada (1-15 September 2024)

As part of the celebrations of **Swachhata Pakhwada** various webinars/sessions on **various topics** to spread awareness about cleanliness and hygiene practices. The details of the Webinars/Sessions was conducted through Google Meet platform and the sessions were live streamed through the Official Facebook page of IGNOU RC Cochin at <https://www.facebook.com/IGNOURegionalCentreCochin/>. The technical assistance for the event has been rendered by Shri. Muhammad Ansar, AEDP and Ms. Reshma Suresh.

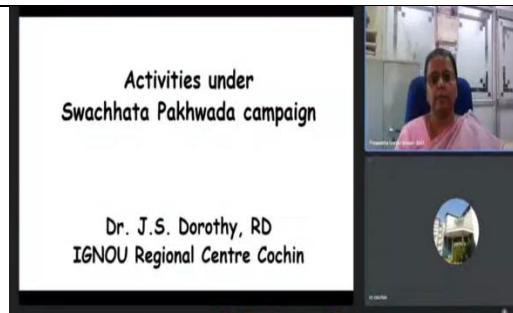
S. No	Date	Resource Person	Topic of Presentation
1.	06.09.2024	Dr. S Vijayaragavan, ARD, RC Cochin	Facebook Live Session on the topic "Prevention on Environmental Pollution"
2.	09.09.2024	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, DD, RC Cochin	Facebook Live Session on the topic " Green Environment"
3.	10.09.2024	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, RC Cochin	Facebook Live Session on the topic "Activities under Swachhata Pakwada Campaign"
4.	11.09.2024	Sh. J Thiru murugan, DR, REC Cochin	Facebook Live Session on the topic " Record Management "
5.	26.09.2024	Sh. J Thiru murugan, DR, REC Cochin	Facebook Live Session on the topic " Socially Excluded Groups "
6.	30.09.2024	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, DD, RC Cochin	Facebook Live Session on the topic " Public Partnership, Advocacy and Awareness in sustaining Cleanliness "



Facebook Live Session on the topic "Prevention on Environmental Pollution" by Dr. S Vijayaragavan, ARD, RC Cochin on 06.09.2024



Facebook Live Session on the topic " Green Environment" by Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, DD, RC Cochin on 09.09.2024



Facebook Live Session on the topic "Activities under Swachhata Pakwada Campaign" by Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, RC Cochin on 10.09.2024



Facebook Live Session on the topic " Record Management " by Sh. J Thiru murugan, DR, REC Cochin on 11.09.2024

Regional Centre Cochin conducted community clean-up drives in the premises of the institution and Pledge of Swachhata Pakhwada Recorded 11.09.2024 using the expertise of Sh. Muhammed Ansar T A, EDP and Ms. Reshma Suresh - in English – Sh. J. Thiru murugan, DR/ Hindi –Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, DD/Malayalam – could not be done /Tamil – Sh. R. Chinniah, ASO. Recorded videos uploaded in the YouTube channel of Regional Centre Cochin <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-du1gra7HLsXx4-gzftMY8sYfjpSvai>



Know Your Coordinator

In this edition of Newsletter, we introduce a new segment called 'Know Your Coordinator' in which we give a brief about the Professional journey of the Coordinator/Programme In-Charge of various Study Centres under IGNOU RC Cochin.

To begin with we introduce you to

Dr. Sheeja O K Coordinator

Sree Kerala Varma College,
Thrissur (LSC 1407)



Meet an IGNOU Learner



Mr. P Jagadeesan

Know Your Coordinator and Meet an IGNOU Learner

Dr. Sheeja O K, Coordinator, Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur (2023 onwards)

Dr. Sheeja O K has been working since 2019 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur.

Dr. Sheeja O K started as academic counselor in 2021 and took charge as Assistant Coordinator of IGNOU Learner Support Centre 1407 in 2022 and elevated to Coordinator in 2023. Brings 6+ years of teaching experience and 2+ years of leadership in open and distance learning administration.

IGNOU Study Centre SC 1407 is functioning from the campus of Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur. It is a Regular Study Centre established under Regional Centre Cochin in the year 1990 and has presently grown to 3681 IGNOU students as on July, 2024. There are 30 IGNOU programmes activated at this Study Centre which include Masters, Bachelors, PG Diploma, Diploma and Certificate level programmes. Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur is also serving as an Examination Centre for IGNOU under the able Mentorship of Dr. Sheeja O K.

IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin appreciates Dr. Sheeja O K for her professional achievements and wishes him the very best in all his endeavors!

Mr. P Jagadeesan, IGNOU Alumni

In this edition of "Meet an IGNOU Learner", we introduce you to Mr. P Jagadeesan who is an Alumni of IGNOU. Mr. P Jagadeesan has completed various programmes of IGNOU starting from B.A. (Sociology), M.A. (Sociology), M.A. (Public Administration.), M.A. (History).

In the words of Ms. Jagadeesan, "I would like to place on record my sincere and wholehearted thanks to our Professors for their valuable guidance, encouragement and support during our study. I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to IGNOU, NEW DELHI. I could complete B.A. (Sociology), M.A. (Sociology), M.A. (Public Administration.), M.A. (History) in IGNOU and scored well in my degrees during 2009 - 2021".

IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin appreciates his enthusiastic zest for education and wishes Mr. P Jagadeesan the best in life and in all his future endeavors!



News at News

Zoologists find Kallar dancing frog in Ranni forest division

It is the first time that this unique dancing frog, known for foot-flagging behaviour, has been seen in the northern side of Shencottah Gap

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PALAKKAD

A team of zoologists from the State have found the presence of Kallar dancing frog (*Micrixalus herrei*) in the Ranni forest division. It is the first time that this unique dancing frog has been seen in the northern side of Shencottah Gap.

Also called Kallar Torrent frog, *M. herrei* got its name as it was first found at Kallar, and its presence was limited to the south of the Shencottah Gap.

The zoologists' team comprising Priya Thomas from BCM College, Kottayam; Gigi K. Joseph from Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha; and Sujith V. Gopalan from



Kallar dancing frog.

University College, Thiruvananthapuram, documented Kallar dancing frogs at Narananthodu, Erumeli, in the Ranni forest division

in June 2023. They said a substantial population of Kallar dancing frogs was present in the forest streams of Ranni and Goodirad ranges.

The finding was published as "A New Record of the Kallar Torrent Frog, *Micrixalus herrei* Myers 1942, from the Ranni Forest Division, Kerala, India" in the latest issue of the international open-access journal named Reptiles & Amphibians.

"The Shencottah Gap (9° N) acts as a biogeographic barrier and plays a substantial role in the region's speciation," said Dr. Gopalan.

Foot-flagging behaviour
Frogs belonging to this genus are known for their unique foot-flagging behaviour, which gives them the common name dancing frogs. The tadpoles of these frogs live under the gravel beds of

streams, making them elusive.

According to the findings of the Global Amphibian Assessment 2022, *Micrixalus* is one of the most threatened genera of all Indo-Malayan genera and the fifth most threatened genus in the world, with 92% of its species in the threatened category.

This discovery underscores the importance of continued research and exploration in these biologically rich areas. "The finding not only adds to the known range of *M. herrei* but also highlights the unique biodiversity of the Ranni forest division," said Ms. Thomas.

Dr. Joseph emphasised the importance of this

discovery for conservation efforts. "Identifying and documenting species in various regions is crucial for developing effective conservation strategies. Each new record helps build a more comprehensive understanding of our ecosystem," he said.

Dr. Gopalan noted the significance of the finding in the context of previous research. "The fact that *M. herrei* was only known from the south of the Shencottah Gap prior to this discovery highlights the potential for undiscovered biodiversity in other regions. The work demonstrates that there is much more to learn about the range and distribution of amphibian diversity in Kerala," he said.

The Hindu- 11 August 2024

End of an era: Kochi's Paradesi Jewish legacy fades as Queenie Hallegua passes away at 89

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Queenie Hallegua, the last of the Paradesi (foreign) Jewish women in Kochi, passed away on Sunday at the age of 89. Her death leaves her nephew, Keith Hallegua, as the only surviving Paradesi Jew in Kochi.

Queenie was the daughter of Satto Koder and married into the Hallegua family of Jew Town. Her grandfather, Shabdai Samuel Koder, was an Iraqi immigrant who settled in Kochi and established the Koder House, a historic three-story Jewish bungalow now functioning as a four-star hotel. Queenie's two children,



Queenie Hallegua's grandfather, Shabdai Samuel Koder, was an Iraqi immigrant who established the Koder House in Kochi

both residing in the US, were with her when she passed away at around 6.30am. As per traditions, 10 Jewish men are

needed to be present at the funeral to say the prayer. Her funeral was held at the Jewish cemetery near the 456-year-old Paradesi Synagogue, attended by 14 male individuals, including her son, Malabari Jews, and three Jewish tourists from Israel.

Queenie was the warden and managing trustee of the Paradesi Synagogue from 2102 to 2018. She was also managing partner of S Koder Pvt Ltd until 2011. Her nephew Keith was employed at a firm in Pallimukku and now resides in Jew Town.

K J Sohan, former Kochi mayor, said the Cochin Electric Company, which was re-

sponsible for distributing electricity in the Cochin area at the time, was owned by Samuel Koder. "The Koder family also managed a boat service to Mattancherry, a textile business, and various other enterprises in Cochin. Samuel Koder was a prominent leader within the Jewish community," he added.

"European Jews in Kochi trace their origins to Baghdad, the Netherlands, Babylon, and Spain. Over the past few decades, all Jews from these regions have left Kochi, leaving only Keith as the last remaining member of this community," says K J Joy, caretaker of Paradesi synagogue in

Mattancherry. The Koder House, renowned for its Portuguese architecture, faces Nehru Park in Fort Kochi. Originally reconstructed from a 19th-century Portuguese mansion, the building is famous for its windows made of Belgian-imported glass. Queenie sold the property to the hotel's current owners about 15 years ago, and it remains a popular spot for tourists.

According to a 1911 census of the Cochin area, there were seven synagogues and the Jewish population exceeded 1,000. At that time, the Jewish community was actively involved in industrial and commercial enterprises.

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Golden time



Morning calm: Golden reflections of the early morning sun illuminate the catchment area of Malampuzha Dam in Palakkad where fishers are engaging in their daily catch on Sunday. The monsoon has been playing hide and seek over the past week, bringing a mixture of sunshine and rain to the State. K.K. MUSTAFAH

The Hindu- 30 september 2024

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