

IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, COCHIN (RC14)
THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT IGNOU 37TH CONVOCATION
HELD ON 20TH FEBRUARY, 2024

Guest of Honour of the Convocation, Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar, Emeritus Professor, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) distinguished educationalists, academicians, other guests, members from the media, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen and students.

In the 37th Convocation of Indira Gandhi National Open University today Honourable Sh. Jagdeep Dhankhar, Honourable Vice-President of India is the Chief Guest to deliver convocation address at Headquarters on this occasion. The Convocation is webcast from Head quarters and Regional Convocation held at 39 Regional centres. The University takes pride in awarding over 2,59,625 (2.59 lakhs) Degrees, Diplomas, and Certificates to the learners who have successfully completed their respective programmes. Gold medals will also be awarded to meritorious students in this convocation.

It is my privilege to welcome you to the Thirty Seventh Convocation of the Indira Gandhi National Open University. It is a matter of great honour for us that for gracing this occasion to deliver the Regional Convocation address, we have with us Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar, Emeritus Professor, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) as the Guest of Honour.

Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar has completed M.Sc., Ph.D. from CUSAT in 1980-86 and was Faculty at REC Calicut from 1986 to 1988 and at CUSAT from 1988 to 2018. Currently Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar is the Emeritus Professor at CUSAT. Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar was the Regional Coordinator, Indian National Mathematical Olympiad, DAE, GoI from the year 1990 to 2017. Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar was the Vice President of Ramanujan Mathematical Society from March 2019 to 2022. Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar is the President Elect for the Academy of Discrete Mathematics and Its Applications (ADMA) from April 2024 to 2026 Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar is the Mentor for INSPIRE programme of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.

Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar is the Fellow of the Institute of Combinatorics and Applications, Canada 1999 and recipient of Broad Outlook Learner Teacher Award, Air India in the year 2008. The areas of Interest of Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar are Graph Theory, Mathematics popularization, Evolution of Knowledge. Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar have 75 Research publications and have 14 PhDs produced. Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar have H-index is 16. The H-index captures the research output based on the total number of publications

and the total number of citations to those works, providing a focused snapshot of an individual's research performance.

Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar have delivered invited talks in International conferences at Hungary, Spain, Czech Republic, Taiwan, Germany, Canada, Mexico etc. Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar have interacted with Former President and Scientist Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam many times. Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar have written more than 65 articles in both Malayalam and English languages for students.

Dr. Ambat Vijayakumar Technical Consultant of Malayalam Translation published by Kerala Language Institute, of the book, *The Man Who knew infinity, A life of the genius Ramanujan (1991)*.

I most cordially welcome you Sir, to this ceremonial function.

I trust that the gracious presence of such a luminary in this occasion is a source of enormous motivation and encouragement to all of us. I am confident that his convocation address would motivate our new graduates to shape a bright and successful future for them.

We have a very elite group of educationalists, academicians, other guests with us today. I extend a very warm welcome to each of our guests. May I especially welcome the Press/Media fraternity, Police personnel, Fire Safety personnel, Post Office Personnel, Dr. K.S. Divakaran Nair, Former Senior Regional Director, Dr. N V Sreedharan, Former Deputy Registrar, Sh. K.M. Nazaruddin, Former Assistant Registrar, Dr. Manoj Kumar Thakur, Regional Director, NIOS-Kochi, Prof. D.D. Nambudhiri, KUFOS, Ms. Sheena S, PNB Manager, Our Coordinators and Programme-In-charges from various IGNOU Study Centres who are here to grace this important occasion. I welcome everyone of you to this function. It is matter of great pride for me to see our IGNOU students, adorned in the convocation scarves to receive their degrees and diplomas. I welcome all our students to this convocation. I also welcome all other guests present here and everyone gathered here.

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has been a pioneer in the field of Open and Distance Learning for the past few decades. Established by an Act of Parliament in 1985, IGNOU has continuously striven to build an inclusive knowledge society through inclusive education. It has tried to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by offering high-quality teaching through the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I feel privileged in presenting to this august gathering, the Regional Centre report, giving a brief account of some major, new initiatives and achievements of the IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin during the year 2023-24.

The Regional Centre, Cochin was established in the year 1988 and recall with gratitude the contribution by the founding fathers like Prof.Satyapalan, Founding Regional Director, Late Dr.V.Vasudevan, Former Regional Director and Dr. K.S. Divakaran Nair, Former Regional Director in whose tenure, the Regional Centre moved to the own premises and had its development of buildings large enough to house the Regional Centre, Regional Evaluation Centre and the Study Centre LSC14000. Special efforts of the former Regional Directors Dr B.Sukumar, Dr P Ashok Kumar, Dr M Shanmugham, Dr V. Venugopal Reddy, Dr. M. Rajesh and Dr. Sindhu P Nair in sustaining the vision of the founding fathers and the mission for which the University was created in the year 1985.

The IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin was established on 17th November, 1988 to provide open and distance education in the State of Kerala and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. Over the years, the activities of IGNOU in the region grew and a number of Study Centres were established with substantial student enrolment in various academic programmes of the University. With the establishment of Regional Centre, Trivandrum in the year 2009, jurisdiction of three southern districts of the State viz., Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Thriuvananthapuram districts have been allotted to the Regional Centre, Trivandrum. Later, in 2011, another Regional Centre was established at Vatakara in Kozhikode district, with present jurisdiction of five northern districts - Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Malappuram. Now, the Regional Centre, Cochin caters to six districts of Kerala viz., Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Kottayam, Idukki and Alappuzha. In addition, the Union Territory of Lakshadweep also comes under the jurisdiction of Regional Centre, Cochin.

The University constructed two blocks of building- a four storied building and another six storied building for the Regional Centre at Kaloor, Cochin. The four-storied Regional Centre building has the Regional Centre, the Gyan Vani FM Radio Station, Computer Labs, classrooms, conference rooms and Library. The Six-storied Regional Centre building house the Regional Evaluation Centre, the Study Centre 14000 and the Regional Centre warehouse.

1. Teaching -Learning

The Regional Centre functions through a network of 20 Learner Support Centres (LSC) across the region. As such there are 16 Regular Study Centres, 3 Programme Study Centres, and 1 Special Study Centre in Prison under Cochin Regional Centre.

Of the programme on offer at IGNOU, 98 academic programmes are being activated under the Cochin Region with the assistance of the 20 Learner Support Centres.

At present the Regional Centre Cochin has cumulative strength of around **25820** learners for the July 2023 (Fresh =15435 + RR=10385); **12317** learners

for the January 2023 (Fresh = 7382 + RR= 4935); **9338** learners for the January 2022 (Fresh = 5166 + RR=4172) and **22719** learners for the July 2022 (Fresh = 13942 + RR=8777).

For the previous two sessions vis-a-vis January 2023 and July 2023, the Regional Centre Cochin has cumulative strength of around **38137** learners and January 2022 and July 2022, the Regional Centre Cochin has cumulative strength of around **32057** learners. As such there is **18.96%** increase in 2023 when compared to the earlier two sessions in 2022.

The admission process was in the Online Admission System maintained by the internal IGNOU virtual integration from July, 2015 to January, 2019. With effect from July, 2019 admission cycle the IGNOU Samarth portal has been contributing for the Online Admission process. Samarth is an Open Source available for use of Universities and Higher Education Institutions for automation facilitated by the Ministry of Education, Govt of India. The facility to add offline form submitted by scanning and attaching is also an unique feature of the Samarth portal. Online admissions launched for the first time in January 2022 session with support services through Learner Management System(LMS) was entrusted to Regional Centres from July 2022 sessions.

With effect from the year March 2020, upon the arrival of the pandemic, and the launch of NEP 2020 in July, the University has taken new initiatives of reaching the learners and sustaining the support services through virtual platform. Initially, *Google meet* was used and later *Webex* platform (Courtesy: Dr.B Sukumar, Senior Regional Director, RC Trivandrum) was also used. After 2021 with the resumption of activities face-to-face after the pandemic, the new normal situation of virtual interaction was pre-dominant in post pandemic situation in the Teaching Learning process of IGNOU. In addition, the new norms for academic counselling with augmented charges for facilitating virtual counselling was taken in July 2022 by the University. In January 2022, the policy related to conduct of counselling sessions by a Nodal Regional Centre for learners across Regional Centre was also implemented. Special policy of hybrid mode (*combination of virtual and face-to-face counselling*) to hold counselling session depending upon student strength for a particular programme was also implemented.

2.Orientation Programmes for Academic Counselors

A Total number of 118 Academic Counselors have been Oriented in the three Orientation Programmes organised between 1st Jan 2023 to 31st Dec 2023. All Three academics of the Regional Centre - Dr.V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD, Dr.S. Vijayaraghavan, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnanan, AD served as the Resource Persons at the Orientation Programmes for Academic Counselors. Generally, the University also

facilitated Centralised Orientation programme for individual Programmes on offer. The Schedule, conduct and Report of the Orientation Programmes for Academic Counselors held at IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin was undertaken by Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD.

3.Meeting of LSC functionaries

Both Coordinators' Meeting and Part-Time Staff meeting (also referred to as Orientation Programme for LSC Functionaries) was held to trickle down the policy initiatives like online empanelment of Academic counsellors, Online payment of the remuneration/honorarium, introduction of the Choice Based Credit System, Open and Distance learning system, Tutor comments, Online entry of Awards. Generally all three academics of the Regional Centre - Dr.V.T.Jalajakumari, ARD, Dr. S. Vijayaraghavan, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnanan, AD serve as the Resource Persons at the Orientation Programmes for LSC functionaries.

The Regional Centre Cochin has conducted one meeting for LSC functionaries (Part-Time Staff -Assistant Coordinators / Assistant) between 1st Jan 2023 to 31st Dec 2023. The Schedule, conduct and Report of the Meeting for LSC Functionaries held at IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin is under the portfolio of Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD .

4.Extension Activities under Unnat Bharath Abhiyan (UBA)

Special Campaign 3.0 open avenues for taking Coastal cleaning as an extension activity in collaboration with BHUMI NGO.

The guidance from the Regional Services Division (RSD), provided guidelines for the Regional Centres located in coastal areas to have initiatives for cleanliness activities on the sea beach with emphasis on sustenance of the activity under UBA.

The Coastal cleaning by Regional Centre Cochin is at Vasco Square_Fort Kochi beach with the help of NGO 'BHUMI' . The staff of Regional Centre , Regional Evaluation Centre and LSC 14000 volunteer to join the cleanliness activities at Fort Kochi (Vasco Square) beach. Ms. Sujini Babu , Assistant was the coordinating official for this activity.

5.Contributors for the Online Programme in the SWAYAM Portal

Under the leadership of the former Regional Director Dr. M.Rajesh, currently Regional Director, Regional Centre, Trivandrum , Three of the academics namely Dr.Sindhu P.Nair, Dr.V.T.Jalajakumari and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan academics of the Regional Centre till 31.07. 2021, two Academics upon transfer of Dr. Sindhu P. Nair, DD to head Regional Evaluation Centre (REC), Cochin and later

one Academic Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD upon the move of Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD to Aizwal, were instrumental to launch the Certificate Programme on Environment Sustainability under the leadership of Former Regional Director, Cochin Dr. M Rajesh (First launched in 2018 as a Non-credit Programme and running as a Diploma programme at its 13th revision now) in the SWAYAM Portal. As such, one of the Academics of Regional Centre Cochin is the National Faculty for MOOCs of SWAYAM under MHRD.

6. Collaborations Organised

The pandemic and the post pandemic created the teaching learning situation which has become the new normal and provided new opportunities for virtual collaboration of being a resource person, drawing resource person from other institutions in different geographical terrain but did prevent face-to-face interaction for collaboration. Certain field activities with Block Development Office, District Collectors, use of MeLT Van for UBA activities were not held.

6.1. Promotional Initiatives: Promotional Meetings were held by IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin in the year 2023 focusing on creating awareness about IGNOU Programmes by both face-to-face and virtual means after the pandemic situation. In the year 2023, 25 promotional meetings were conducted by Regional Centre Cochin focussing on various target groups like, Students of B.Ed/Under-Graduate students/ITI ;Teachers/College Faculties; Police officials ; Men/Women Jail Inmates; Kudumbashree workers; Resident Welfare Association; TOLIC Officials.

Of the Promotional meeting (*Online/Virtual Promotional Meetings - 20: Face to Face Promotional Meeting - 05*) held, the Awareness Programme done in non-LSC Educational Institution (*Out of 25 Promotional Meetings held in 2023, 16 were School-wise Programme specified Promotional sessions live streamed through Facebook page*) indicate collaboration with wide array of institutions to promote IGNOU Programmes. It is also pertinent to mention that the role of the Principal and Coordinator of the Host Institution housing the LSC of IGNOU enabled the conduct of the promotional meeting in the host institution at the time of their admission, through IQAC wing, which not only augmented the enrolment at the LSC but also paved way for add on qualification in the learners which would augment their profile while entering into the employment market. All four academics of the Regional Centre - Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD, Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD, Dr. S. Vijayaraghavan, ARD and Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnanan, AD served as the Resource Persons at the Promotional meetings. The coordination for the conduct of the Promotional Meetings held by IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin was undertaken by Dr.Praseetha Unnikrishnanan, AD.

6.2 Resource Person for Open cum Enrichment Sessions under Innovation Club held along with Grievance and Redressal session: Besides the Four Academics at the Regional Centre, the Resource Person for Open cum Enrichment Sessions under Innovation Club in the year 2023 were from the various Institutions and Departments. IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin facilitated the mobilisation of external resource persons for the Open cum Enrichment Sessions under Innovation Club from the year 2020 through virtual mode and the recording uploaded in the You Tube channel of the Regional Centre, Cochin. The reporting of the proceedings of the Open cum Enrichment Sessions under Innovation Club held along with Grievance and Redressal session. Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD is the Nodal Officer for the Innovation Club Activity at Regional Centre Cochin.

IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin has organized 10 Open cum Enrichment Sessions using virtual platform (all of which have been recorded and uploaded in the YouTube channel of Regional Centre Cochin) under Innovation Club held along with Grievance and Redressal session on the Topics mentioned below in the year 2023.

7. Continuing Education Opportunities for Academics

The University has been generous in rendering on duty leave to ensure the Continuing Education Opportunities for Academics. Academics have also been encouraged to participate at their preference beyond their on duty provision by availing of Leave to attend the Refresher/Faculty Development Programme/Seminars, Conferences. However, from the pandemic period till now even in the new normal situation prevalent in the post pandemic scenario, the Refresher/Faculty Development Programme/Short Term Training Programme/Workshop/Seminars, Conferences were made virtual and hence, have given opportunity for the Academics to upgrade themselves. Hence, the new norm of 'couple work with Continuing Education' became a reality.

8. Resource/knowledge sharing by Academics

The Academics of Regional Centre, Cochin has been the sharing the Resource of their knowledge by being the Resource Person for academic activities in other Institutions, for preparation of videos on the NEP and certain special topics needed for execution of tasks in the new normal situation.

Knowledge sharing by means of publications was also evident in Regional Centre Cochin. Dr. J.S. Dorothy, RD has published two papers and has presented paper in a Webinar.

9. Official Language related activities Seminar / Meeting Participation

The Regional Centre Cochin is part of the meetings, workshop organized by the Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) for promotion of Hindi as Official Language.

The Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) official meeting has been shifted from Face to face mode to virtual mode. All Officials have represented IGNOU during the virtual TOLIC meetings. Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD is the coordinating official for TOLIC related meetings.

10. International Year of Millet events

The year 2023 is being celebrated as the International Year of Millets since the declaration by the United Nations General Assembly in its 75th session in March, 2021.

In an effort to create domestic and global demand and to provide nutritional food to the people, Government of India had proposed to the United Nations for declaring 2023 as International Year of Millets (IYoM-2023). The proposal of India was supported by 72 countries and United Nation's General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as International Year of Millets on 5th March, 2021. This led to the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister of India to make a Budget announcement on 1st February 2022: to announce the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin celebrated 'International Year of Millets, 2023' in various ways by organizing informative talk Sessions with renowned experts on Millets, creating 26 YouTube videos explaining the importance of Millets and creating videos about the News articles published in various Newspapers explaining the nutritional benefits of Millets.

The recording of the sessions and the videos prepared are available in IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin YouTube channel under playlist "International Year of Millet 2023" at the link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-du1gIra7HIw8g4uV6d6xREWypuMJ4Uq>

11. Channel Based Counselling Session (CBCS)

The Indira Gandhi National Open University has been identified as one of the National Coordinators for SWAYAMPRAKASH DTH Channels 17, 18, 19 and 20. The University has decided to conduct LIVE Online Academic Counselling sessions in Regional Languages from 12.01.2022 involving various Regional Centres. The Regional Centre Cochin is the Nodal Office for the three Regional Centres-Trivandrum, Vatakara and Cochin- for conducting LIVE Channel Based Counselling Session in Malayalam Language for the courses of Programmes under CBCS (Choice Based Credit System). Thus, the Regional Centre Cochin is providing sessions for courses of BAG Programme.

The Nodal Officer for CBCS (Channel Based Counselling Session) till 31.01.2024 was Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD and thereafter Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD. The technical expertise is being rendered by Sh. Muhammad Ansar T.A, AEDP and Ms. Sujini Babu, Assistant. Regional Centre Cochin conducted 213 Channel Based Counselling Sessions in Malayalam language from 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023.

12. Term End Examination conducted

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

IGNOU conducted two Term End Examination (TEE) in the year 2023. The sessions covered were June 2023 (0623) and TEE December 2023 (1223).

The June 2023 (0623) was held from 01.06.2023 to 07.07.2023; December 2023 (1223) was held from 01.12.2023 to 09.01.2023.

The number of Exam Centres for June 2023 (0623) were 14; June 2022 (0622) were 17; and TEE December 2023 (1223) were 14.

Of the Exam Centres for TEE, one Exam Centre is in the Regional Centre campus Study Centre 14000. The Academics of Regional Centre served as Exam Centre Superintendent at 14000. The Exam Centre Superintendent for TEE June 2023 (0623) was Dr. V.T. Jalajakumari, ARD.

The Exam Centre Superintendent meeting for TEE June 2023 (0623) was held on 24.05.2023 and TEE December 2023 (1223) on 29.11.2023.

The number of Examinees at Regional Centre Cochin for TEE June 2023 (0623) were 122324; and TEE December 2023 (1223) were 115696.

Observers for the Term End Examination (TEE) June 2023 (0623) and December 2023 (1223) Term End Examination (TEE) were 22 and 25 respectively.

The total number of assignment awards transmitted to IGNOU headquarters from the Cochin for the Term End Examination (TEE) of June 2023 (0623) and December 2023 (1223) Term End Examination (TEE) were 79758 and 9047 respectively.

Keeping in view with the inclusive education of the Indian subcontinent, special assistance to the differently abled by means of the amanuensis were rendered in June 2023 (0623) and December 2023 (1223) Term End Examination (TEE) were 19 and 16 respectively.

13. Project Reports/Internship Reports Evaluated at the Regional Centre, Cochin

For the Term End Examination (TEE) of June 2023(0623) Regional centre had evaluated 02 (PGDEMA), 35 (BCA), 121 (MCA), 33 (PGDFSQM) , 08 (MAEDU), 148 (MAPC), 06 (MSCCFT) . Thus, a total number of 353 Project Reports have been evaluated respectively.

A total of 892 Project proposals of MAPC, MAEDU, MBA, MCOM, PGDFSQM, BCA and MCA were evaluated for June 2024 session .

The internship records of BBARL, MAPC and BAPC programmes evaluated for the June 2023 (0623) Term End Examination (TEE) were 214(MAPC), 10 (BAPC), 3(BBARL) . Thus, a total number of 227 internship records has been evaluated respectively.

14. New Initiatives of the University

IGNOU has moved to provide Teaching-Learning situation through virtual mode in the year 2021- which was initiated in the year 2020. Keeping in view the new normal situation prevalent in the post pandemic period, the University has facilitated new norms for integrating face-to-face counselling session with virtual counselling session based on student strength. All the virtually held counselling session has been recorded and uploaded in the YouTube channel of IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin to facilitate the learners who has already attended to re-visit again for re-learning what was learnt and for the missed learners to learn at their will.

15. Online application for the Empanelment of Academic counsellors/Evaluators

IGNOU depends on the Part-Time Faculty empanelled as Academic counsellors for the Academic Transactions at the Learner Support Centres and Evaluators for evaluation of the Term End Examination Answer Scripts. In order to facilitate the empanelment of the Academic Counsellors/ Evaluators, Online application for the Empanelment of Academic counsellors/ Evaluators has been initiated in the year 2018 to link the various approving authority at the Learner Support Centre, Regional centre, Head Quarters As on 28.03.2023 there are a total of 2040 number of Empanelled Academic Counselors of whom 73 were empanelled afresh in 2023.

16. Social Media Platform of IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin

The Social Media Platform of IGNOU Regional Centre, Cochin is indicated below:

- Digital Media Platforms used by the Regional Centre/LSC for Online Meetings & Academic Counselling: Facebook, Youtube, Twitter
- Link of the RC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/IGNOURegionalCentreCochin/> opened in the year 2013
- RC X (Formerly Twitter) Handle: @IGNOU_RC_Cochin opened in the year 2020
- Link of the RC Twitter Account: https://www.twitter.com/ignou_rc_cochin
- Link of the RC YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ignouregionalcentrecochin> opened in the year March 2020
- Regional Centre Cochin Instagram Page https://www.instagram.com/ignou_rc_cochin/ opened in the year 2022

We are extremely happy that there are 7198 (as per Vice-Chancellor Report) learners being conferred Degrees/ Diplomas/Certificates in this 37th Convocation under the Cochin Regional Centre of whom 1188 have opted to receive in person and other 6010 in absentia.

The Gold medallist present in person at Cochin for 37th Convocation is

S.No	Prog	Enrolment No	Name (Mr/Ms)	RC
1	BSW	2001906776	TONY STANLEY	Cochin

The Gold medallist have secured the highest marks in all India level in the first attempt and have completed the programme of Study in the minimum prescribed duration. I congratulate him on behalf of IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin and my own. We are proud that he secured the Gold Medal and eventhough has opted to receive the Gold Medal from Regional Centre Cochin. He express inability to join at Cochin as he is in Student Visa in UK.

This Convocation is also special in that one of the employees of IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin Sh. Muhammed Ansar T A, Executive Data Processing Assistant has successfully completed Master of Arts in Distance Education (MADE) and is receiving his Degree in this Convocation. Sh. Muhammed Ansar T A is also an Examiner for the practicals of Diploma in Modern Office Practice (DMOP) on offer by School of Vocational Education and Training (SOVET).

I do not want the recipients of all the Degrees and Diplomas to end the studies here. Please make this a beginning. I encourage you to continue to study as long as you can study either from any of the Distance Teaching Institutions or through the SWAYAM portal which currently covers the Programmes offered through the NPTEL Portal. Please remember that continuing education has spin-off benefits. After this Convocation, all of you are entering into a new phase of your life. Your current education will definitely help you all to get suitable placement opportunities. The alumni Association Registration is available in the link <https://ignoualumni.samarth.edu.in/index.php/alumni/registration/register> accessible through the Website of IGNOU Head Quarters. Kindly fill in the same and be the part of the Alma mater. If you have a recording of your experience of studying with IGNOU kindly send it for uploading in the YouTube channel of Regional Centre by email to rccochin@ignou.ac.in.

I congratulate all the new passed out who have undergone the mandatory components of the Study prescribed for the Programme for which they have gained access and have ensured to fulfil the regulations so that they are successfully completed the programme of study and wish them the very best in their future endeavours and wish every success in all walks of their life.

Acknowledgment for preparation of the report:

S.No.	Particulars	Official involved
1.	Coordination for Inputs for 16	Sh. Muhammed Ansar T.A., AEDP
2.	Inputs for 1, 5,6,7,8,9,10, 11,15	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, AD Ms. Reshma Suresh, Outsourced staff
3.	Inputs for 2,3,4,11,12,13,14	Dr. S. Vijayaragavan, ARD Sh. Muhammed Ansar T.A., AEDP Ms. Sujini Babu, Assistant Sh. N G Sabu, Assistant
4.	Public availability of Bio-data from the Guest of Honour	Sh. K.J. Joseph, SO Sh. Muhammed Ansar T.A., AEDP
5.	Type setting and coordination among officers for input	Ms. Reshma Suresh, Outsourced staff
6.	Report lay-out and preparation by	Dr. J.S. Dorothy, Senior Regional Director, RC Cochin (RC14)