



Union Home Minister **Shri P. Chidambaram** launches Certificate Programme in **Anti-Human Trafficking**, jointly offered by **IGNOU** and **Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India**

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## FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

As part of the IGNOU-UNESCO collaboration, the Sir C.V. Raman Chair for Science Education at IGNOU organised a Science Olympiad for students of the 11th and 12th standard from SAARC countries. With an initial participation of around 6,500 students registered online, and after several stages of selection, 41 students were selected for the IGNOU-UNESCO Science Olympiad Medal and 1,000 students were identified for Merit Certificates. The award ceremony of the Science Olympiad coincided with the Silver Jubilee concluding celebrations of IGNOU, the 65th Anniversary of UNESCO, World Science Day and Jawaharlal Nehru's 121st Birth Anniversary. Among the top 41 rankers, 29 were from India and 12 from other SAARC nations — one from Maldives, two from Afghanistan, and three each from Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. The medals were



contributed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, for the cause of promotion of Science. The subject-wise Awards of Excellence, in the form of a 'Notebook' each, were sponsored by the DST, while the awards for Overall Excellence — 'Intel Awards of Excellence' — with a laptop for each winner, were sponsored by Intel-India.

The IGNOU-UNESCO Science Olympiad 2010 brought smaller SAARC nations closer to India in terms of understanding the penetration and depth of science in our country, and also provided a common

platform to share scientific knowledge for mutual benefit. The Science Olympiad will continue to be an annual feature of IGNOU hereafter.

While presenting the IGNOU-UNESCO Science Olympiad medals to the winners, UNESCO President Davidson L. Hepburn, highlighted some of the salient observations from the World Science Report, 2010. This report depicts the evolving status of Science in the last five years. The report particularly shows how, while disparities between countries and regions remain huge, the proliferation of digital information and communication technologies is increasingly changing the global picture. One of the positive findings of the UNESCO Science Report is that Research and Development funding has continued to expand globally, as Governments have been providing greater recognition to the crucial role of Science in socio-economic development. It is clear from the Report that the developing countries that have progressed quickly in recent years are the ones which have adopted policies to promote science, technology and innovation. The UNESCO Science Report also highlights the perceptible changes over the last five years in the Indian Science system. The main challenge facing us will be to improve both the quality and quantity of Science personnel.

In its 2010 report, the Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, headed by Prof. C.N.R Rao, delineates, among other things, some of the priorities in Science education and research of the country in the coming decades. The report emphasises the necessity of enhancing the quality of Science education at all levels, from elementary schools to Post-Graduate institutes. At the early levels of education, the key to excellence in the education system is the teacher. The Chair for Science Education and the Institutes for Competency Advancement of Teachers through Technology (iCAT) at IGNOU are proposing massive continuing education programmes for Science and Mathematics teachers. Through subject-based Information and Communication Technology (ICT) pedagogy and with the help of self-learning and self-training modules, we need to provide capacity-building to a large number of teachers in Science.

V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai

# ‘Enhance F2F component in ODL’

It is imperative to have Face-to-Face (F2F) mode of teaching in order to make education relevant in certain areas, announced IGNOU Vice Chancellor Prof V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai while endorsing the convergence of the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and the F2F learning modes.

Addressing a press conference held on the sidelines of the 6th Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF6) in Kochi, Prof Pillai stressed, “IGNOU has been aggressively promoting Face-to-Face component in all its distance learning programmes. Not only has IGNOU been increasing the Face-to-Face component in whichever programme it has been possible, but also, as Chairman of the Distance Education Council, we have been advising all other Open Universities in the country to go for convergence to provide teacher guidance and hands-on practical knowledge to students.”

Some academics have been opposed to the idea of On-campus, Face-to-Face learning mode being practised by some Open Universities. The Vice Chancellor, however, pointed out that it becomes necessary to have Face-to-Face mode of teaching in certain cases.

“In IGNOU, all the Engineering and

## On-Campus Factfile



- Over 500 On-campus students enrolled in various Face-to-Face Programmes
- On-campus Programmes offered in 22 streams like Performing Arts, Fine Arts, Sign Language, Economics, Foreign Languages, Translation Studies, etc.
- Face-to-Face Programmes developed in collaboration with public/private institutions such as Madras School of Economics, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology, Institute of Biotechnology and Bio-informatics, etc.

Technology and Computer Science programmes have practical, project works and work-integrated learning. All distance education programmes have the required full-time practicals and project work wherever relevant,” he said.

Prof Pillai stressed that several leading Open Universities of the world, such as the UK Open University and the Hong Kong Open University have taken to full-time, residential programmes, either on campus or in collaboration with public/private institutions.

“Without compromising the original objectives and focus of the participating

institutions, and ensuring quality, rigour and standards, new programmes and innovative strategies for providing relevant education and training need to be worked out,” Prof Pillai said. He added that IGNOU is the only Indian university, on the lines of global universities, that conducts a Student Satisfaction Survey.

“A country aspiring to enhance its Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) from 12 to 40 percent in the next five years needs to contextualise such processes and offer best quality education to maximum students through its various Universities,” Prof Pillai said. ■

## Over 60 teams ‘Ignite’ Kochi quiz

Kochi students got a chance to show their general knowledge prowess at IGNITE 2010, a multi-city, inter-school quiz contest organised by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), at its Kochi Regional Centre on November 23.

Tarun Uday and S. Sathyawageeswar of Bhavan’s Vidya Mandir, Girinagar, won the contest, while Aditya Chandralal and Varun Prasad of Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Vaduthala, were the runners-up at the event, attended by over 60 teams representing various Kochi schools.

Kochi was the fifth city where IGNITE 2010 was organised. Before this, the quiz contest was held in Delhi, Kolkata, Guwa-



**Winners of IGNITE 2010 with their trophies at the Kochi Regional Centre.**

hati and Bangalore. IGNITE 2010 will be held in some other cities before the grand finale of the winning teams in Delhi.

Addressing the students, IGNOU Vice Chancellor Prof V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai

said that the University is promoting school education in its Silver Jubilee Year where stress is being given on enhancing teacher training in schools.

IGNOU Kochi Regional Director Dr K.S. Divakaran Nair said, “The idea of such events is to ignite students’ interest in higher education and make them aware of the Open and Distance Learning System.”

The winners received a trophy for their school, individual trophies, book vouchers and a gift hamper each, while the runners-up received individual trophies, book vouchers and gift hampers. An exhibition and a flash presentation were also organised to make the students aware of various programmes being offered by IGNOU. ■



# A Humane Effort

## INFOCUS

**Human trafficking in India needs to be controlled with a more humane and modern approach, said Home Minister P. Chidambaram while launching the Certificate Programme in Anti-Human Trafficking**

**H**uman trafficking in India is a bare, cold fact, which needs to be controlled with a more humane, intelligent and modern approach, said Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram while launching the Certificate in Anti-Human Trafficking, a first-of-its-kind Programme in the country.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, held at the IGNOU Convention Centre on December 10, Chidambaram stressed on the need for all officers in the government, especially those in the police force, to enroll in this unique Programme offered by IGNOU in collaboration with the



**“All officers in the government, especially those in the police force, should enroll in this unique Programme, in order to become effective and sensitive officers.”**

— P. Chidambaram,  
Union Home Minister

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India.

He advised the police force to include more women officers, who can later on specialise in Anti-Human Trafficking.

“All of them must acquire a knowledge base without which it is not possible to get into the shoes of an effective and sensitive officer. This Programme should reach officers at all levels so that the problem can be addressed effectively,” he said.

He also highlighted the efforts of the government in curbing the crime through an Anti-Human Trafficking Cell established in the Ministry of Home Affairs, which runs



From left, SOL Director Prof K. Elumalai, VC Prof Pillai, Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram, B. Bhamathi, Additional Secretary (CS), MHA, and Pro-VC Dr Latha Pillai at the event. (Photo right) Chidambaram presenting Anti-Human Trafficking courseware to a learner.

training programmes for the government.

“India is a signatory to the UN on transnational plans and one of its protocols is to address the suppression. Ratified in the SAARC Convention, India is a major activist in combating trafficking in women and children,” said the minister.

While emphasising on the need to sensitise society towards human trafficking, Chidambaram said that a more humane, intelligent and modern approach should be adopted to tackle the problem.

While announcing the collaboration with MHA, Vice Chancellor Prof V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai said, “We are starting a unique programme on Anti-Human Trafficking on Human Rights Day. Though there are a large number of programmes in the University, this will suit the purpose of people involved in different genres and levels.”

B. Bhamathi, Additional Secretary (CS), MHA, said, “People faced a denial syndrome for this cause for many years. They didn’t acknowledge this as a problem. This gap between problem and responsibility can be bridged with the building of a vast array of human resources

## THE PROGRAMME

The Certificate Programme has four courses with at least four blocks in each course.

COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
Understanding Human Trafficking	4
Law Policies and Institutional Response to Human Trafficking	4
Rehabilitation and Prevention	4
Field-based Project Work	5

### Eligibility:

- Any graduate
- 10+2 with 5 years of experience in a related field
- 10th standard (students will be admitted in this Programme after doing a bridge course from IGNOU)

**Duration:** 6 Months (Maximum 2 years)  
**Fee:** ₹2,000  
**Medium:** English

— both qualitative and quantitative.”

Prof K. Elumalai, Director, School of Law, which is offering the Programme, said, “I am confident that this programme will fulfil its overall objective of preparing well-informed professionals such as police personnel, prosecutors, personnel from social welfare departments and NGOs working in the field of human trafficking, inter-alia, to understand the evils associated with Human Trafficking and the ways and means for prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of human trafficking.”

Dr P.M. Nair, who served the United Nations as the Project Coordinator of the Anti-Human Trafficking project run jointly by the MHA, UNODC, AS(CS) and JS(CS), has conceptualised this Programme.

At a later stage, the Programme is expected to be taken up with the SAARC Secretariat and would be facilitated further to its member-countries as an effort to implement the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution. ■



*From left, A. Kalyani, VC, Tamil Nadu Open University; COL Vice President Prof Asha Kanwar; Pro-VC Prof P.R. Ramanujam; VC Prof V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai; Sir John Daniel, President and CEO, COL; Burchell Whiteman, Chairman, COL Board of Governors, and noted agricultural scientist Dr M.S. Swaminathan, inaugurating the PCF6 at Le Meridien Hotel in Kochi on November 25.*

# Leveraging Access

## SPOTLIGHT

**IGNOU and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) organised the Sixth Pan-Commonwealth Forum in Kochi, Kerala, from November 24 to 28, attended by over 600 delegates from 70 countries**

**M**ore than 600 delegates from 70 countries got together in Kochi, Kerala, to deliberate on 'Access & Success in Learning: Global Development Perspectives' — the theme of the Sixth edition of the Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF6) at the Le Meridien Convention Centre, from November 24 to 28.

"Global Development Perspective can be achieved through navigating via the four broad themes that PCF6 has envisioned — Formal Education at the bottom leading to Knowledge and Skill Development of individuals, and enabling overall Community Development, which will take us to the ultimate goal — Social Justice," announced IGNOU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof P.R. Ramanujam at the opening ceremony.

"For me, Community Development means participation of members of the society; Social Justice means to provide a wider economic and social system to the people; Skill Development is training millions of people in the informal economic sector and Formal Education means engaging people with content of learning with the help of technology,"

said Sir John Daniel, CEO and President, Commonwealth of Learning (COL), that jointly organised the PCF6 with IGNOU.

Lauding Kerala for its superb performance at achieving all Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Vice Chancellor Prof V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai said the state was an example of how tough goals can be achieved through proper planning and a dynamic vision. "From formal education to Social Justice, from Women Empowerment to Skill Development, whatever parameters we are discussing here have been achieved in Kerala years back," he added.

For the next five days, the ODL leaders attended brainstorming sessions on the four major PCF6 themes, leveraging access and success in learning.

Since all good things have to come to an end, PCF6 ended with a musical evening and a gala dinner. "It is with a sense of sadness that we are concluding PCF6. I hope we will meet again," said Prof Ramanujam at the valedictory session, attended by Dr Burchell Whiteman, Chairperson, COL Board of Governors, and COL Vice President Asha Kanwar. Here are the highlights of PCF6. ■

# Educate the girl child: Tharoor

**M**aking a strong plea for girl education to attain all-round development, former Union Minister and noted writer Dr Shashi Tharoor stressed that if you educate a girl, you educate a family and benefit an entire community.

Delivering the prestigious Asa Briggs lecture at the Sixth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF6) in Kochi on November 27, Dr Tharoor said whenever he was asked to state the single most important thing that can be done to improve the world he would, without hesitation, offer a two-word mantra — “Educate Girls.”

In his 40-minute lecture, Dr Tharoor dwelled upon various issues relating to development in developing countries, particularly India, and quoted various studies and his own experiences to stress the importance of education.

“Of all the many paradoxes with which India abounds, the saddest must be that we are a country where nearly half the population is illiterate but which has produced the world’s second-largest pool of trained scientists and engineers,” he said.

Referring to the reasons for a rather high illiteracy rate despite remarkable progress in many fields in India, Dr Tharoor said: “What is missing is not just financial resources, but a commitment on the part of our society as a whole to tackle the educational tasks that lie ahead.”

It was in this context that he emphasised that scholarly studies and research projects had established what common sense might



*Dr Shashi Tharoor delivering the Asa Briggs lecture at PCF6.*

already have told us — that if you educate a boy, you educate a person, but if you educate a girl, you educate a family and benefit an entire community.

Listing the benefits of girl education, Dr Tharoor said, “Increased schooling of mothers has a measurable impact on the health of their children, on the future schooling of the child, and on the child’s adult productivity. The children of educated mothers consistently outperform children with educated fathers and illiterate mothers.”

Referring to a World Bank study, Dr Tharoor said, “For every four years of education, fertility is reduced by about one birth per mother. The more girls go to

secondary school, the higher the country’s per capita income growth. And when girls work in the fields, as so many have to do across the developing world, their schooling translates directly to increased agricultural productivity.”

Earlier, IGNOU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof P.R. Ramanujam welcomed Dr Tharoor and his wife Sunanda Pushkar Tharoor, and referred to the former minister as a “public intellectual.” IGNOU VC Prof V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Chairman, Commonwealth of Learning (COL) Board of Governors, Burchell Whiteman, and COL President Sir John Daniel also addressed the gathering comprising educationists from the commonwealth countries. ■

## PCF6 IN FRAMES



*From left, Youth demonstrating an aerobic dance form; VC Prof Pillai with ODL Achievers, who were honoured at PCF6 for upgrading their life skills through the ODL mode of education; Atma Group, a dance troupe, performing on the last day of the event.*

# Thrust on nutrition, basic education

**W**hat is needed to conserve the environment is education, social motivation and regulation... Regulation alone will not do the job.

These were the words of renowned agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan, who was the Chief Guest at the PCF6 opening ceremony in Kochi on November 25.

Delivering the keynote address, he stressed on sustainable development and the need to link education with achieving overall happiness. "For me, sustainable development means development at the social, economic and ecological levels. As Chair for Sustainable Development at IGNOU, we have started programmes on Sustainability Science, Climate Change, Population and Sustainable Development, Biodiversity, Wetland Management, Sustainable Management of Ganga, Himalayan Ecosystem and Sustainability Audit," Swaminathan added.

He said that the Wetland Management Programme is devised to help people living along the lakes and seashore preserve the natural resources. "Kerala has wetlands across the state so we have started lake sustainability programmes to train the communities living across the coastline so that they can connect themselves with the mainstream," he added.

"We can't even think of sustainable development without preserving our water, climate and biodiversity," he said, adding that scientists have a great role to play



**Noted agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan addressing the gathering at PCF6.**

here, especially in the use of appropriate technology for enhancing the environment.

Talking about wetland management practices, he said "Fisherwomen are the ones who manage the fishing business — right from the time when the catch reaches the shore to sorting, cleaning, and even marketing. Optimal handling of the day's catch, from the time it is caught to the time it is consumed, is important for not only maintaining hygiene but also minimising wastage for better price realisation. From capture to consumption, we aim to integrate the training and capacity-building for disaster preparedness with sustainable management of natural resources for

developing income-generating livelihoods."

On education, Dr Swaminathan said, "Nutrition and basic education are two legs of a human being — once these two components are in, nutritional security is achieved and this is what I plan to achieve in this Decade of Innovation realising Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)."

"If we are talking about food security, we must look at the physical, social and economic access to a balanced diet, which includes micronutrients, vitamins, clean drinking water and primary health care."

"The country needs to focus on nutrition, food security and education, the rest of the things will automatically fall into place," he added. ■

## ODL: WHAT IS OPEN? WHAT IS DISTANCE?



**Pro-VC Prof P.R. Ramanujam.**

**T**here is a lot of misunderstanding about 'Openness' and 'Distance' when people talk about Open and Distance Learning (ODL). That includes leaders of ODL with long and varied experiences and otherwise good knowledge about the ODL systems at different levels. 'Openness' is a philosophy, an approach that aims to remove the constraints of the Conventional, Face-to-Face, classroom teaching at all levels. If the conventional educational institutions can remove the constraints, they too become 'Open'.

'Openness' encourages experiments and innovations. Open Universities are mandated to expand the opportunities to as many learners as possible through different modes like distance mode, online mode, and also Face-to-Face arrangements. It is scaling up with quality that places Open Universities on a different pedestal as compared to conventional universities.

This is true of all the Open Universities in the world, including British Open University, which has a large number of students, as well as IGNOU. Numbers, relevance, time and resources available are the major factors that determine the models and policies adopted by different Open Universities across the world. There are 110 Open Universities now. There are many hundreds of other ODL institutions that operate under different names. The large numbers don't, in themselves, dilute quality. Student Support Services are also arranged depending on the material as well as human resources available to them.

Therefore, there can't be any one model that can fit the variety of situations that exist in India and other developing nations. Admittedly, Student Support Services pose a major challenge in situations where ODL programmes are offered in multi-cultural and multilingual settings and programmes are offered mostly in



# 'Blended delivery, wider access and equity in higher education'

**D**r Caroline Seelig, Chief Executive of the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand, advocated a system of blended delivery — a mix of the Open and Distance Learning and Face-to-Face mode — to provide employable skills to learners. Delivering the Keynote address on Skills Development, Dr Seelig said ODL had played an important role in skills development networks and collaborations world-over.

She pointed out that distance delivering traditionally works best for self-directed, self-motivated learners within mature institutional systems of learning support and quality assurance — conditions that do not apply to vast number of people and contexts requiring improved access to skills development.

Conversely, said Dr Seelig, traditional Face-to-Face teaching setting simply cannot meet the scale of demand we now face for education and training. She emphasised that “Blended delivery brings together — potentially at least — the best of ODL and Face-to-Face teaching and instruction.”

Opening the PCF6 proceedings on the third day, Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Anuwar Ali, President and Vice Chancellor of Open University, Malaysia, stressed that the main role of higher education was to assure continuity for people with basic



*Dr Caroline Seelig.*



*Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Anuwar Ali.*

education, generate knowledge to drive and transform the community, widen access and create equity in higher education. “Today, communities need universities and higher education more than ever before. Universities serve the people; they advise governments in policymaking decisions; they help develop skills, create knowledge and train leaders,” said Prof Ali. ■

English. This itself is a great challenge to learners whose competence in using English is not sufficient or is poor. We have to address this issue first, before we talk about quality, completion rate, standards, etc.

Any assumption that the Face-to-Face offering of Programmes by Open Universities is perilous is disapproved by about 29,000 students of the UK Open University, 50 percent of classroom teaching students of the Hong Kong Open University and other Universities. In Australia, eight distance education centres located in eight Universities have been practicing Dual Mode approach for over four decades.

All this proves that there is nothing philosophically and pedagogically perilous in this approach. In fact, this should increase, if 'blended learning' has any meaning, because the increasing application of ICTs make the classical models of Open Universities inappropriate. It is a rather mechanical and traditional thinking, out of touch with the changing scenario of educational models.

Coming to Open Schooling, it is this sector that suffers most because of poor quality material, untrained managers and low level of student support. UK and other developed Western countries don't have Open Schools or mega Open Schools, because they believe the tender age of schoolgoing children needs a lot of socialisation through Face-to-Face meetings with teachers and peer groups, in order to complete school education and then prepare themselves for college/university education.

In countries like India, open schools have been established because of poor and limited provision of quality school education. In fact, the practices of Open Schools need immediate review, focusing on academic achievements or failures of thousands of school learners.

It's here that organisations like COL should adopt realistic policies to strengthen Student Support Services for successful academic performance of under-privileged children whose numbers are in millions. In fact, here too, numbers have nothing to do with dilution of quality, if the

## FIRSTPERSON

**T**he PCF Forum maintains a balance of representation, so that the sessions are not dominated by a few wealthy organisations. Well done, COL and IGNOU for continuing to achieve that... Perhaps PCF7 should start next week, online, so that we can learn from each other and sustain our friendships.



*Brian Sayer, UK*

**K**ochi is great! I enjoyed shopping for spices, saffron, pepper seeds, pickles, etc, etc. So much so that I ran out of money! says **Dr Rae**.

Hear **Blythe McKay**: “I had a great time. Sessions, particularly on Community Development, were well-organised.”



*Dr Jan Rae, UK*

**T**he Forum, I found, is actually a thriving community — ‘open and inclusive’ that seems to effortlessly bridge vast distances, providing a unique opportunity for learning and sharing. As promised, the sessions were deeply satisfying.



*Dr Pushpesh Pant, Delhi*

**P**CF is not simply a conference of Open Universities but also a meeting point for those who are interested in distance education... PCFs are like “a sweet song sung in chorus by the ODL leaders.”



*Dr Pankaj Khare, IGNOU*

practitioners as well as advocates know what they should be doing. The adult learners and the school leavers, who are usually above the age of 17, become students of Open Universities and have a better judgement about their choices of courses/programmes at the higher education level. Any misinterpretation or misguidance in this context will unnecessarily divert the focus of our work, which has been yielding good results, as shown by the first-ever Student Satisfaction Survey in India, conducted by IGNOU.

Such surveys should be followed up by other universities and open schools, in order to provide better Student Support Services in different situations.

Lack of clarity on part of the ODL advocates and practitioners will lead to confusion and futile arguments. Argumentative Indians should educate themselves for an informed debate on the above issues and stop misleading well-meaning ODL leaders, both in India and abroad, while presenting information and facts to them.

— **Pro-VC Prof P.R. Ramanujam**

# ‘Parity, not charity for the disabled’



*Students of IGNOU's B.A. in Applied Sign Language Studies (BAASLS) Programme performing an Indian classical dance at the function.*

**T**he approach of charity towards the differently-abled should be replaced with sensitivity. This was the crux of the function marking the World Disability Day 2010, organised at IGNOU Headquarters in New Delhi on December 3.

The event saw the presence of dignitaries like Zamir Dhale, the National Trust Board member and an advocacy officer with the Sense International India and Dr G.N. Karna, President, Society for Disability and Rehabilitation Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), among others.

Dhale, who trained actors Amitabh Bachchan and Rani Mukherjee for the well-acclaimed movie 'Black,' that focussed on people with disabilities, sought to include hearing-impaired people in a separate category in the Census 2011.

“My interpreter and I travel to different countries and interact with several people, NGOs, parents and understand their problems to support persons with disabilities and make them independent,” stressed the hearing-impaired man, with his interpreter translating his words using the Tactile Signage.

“The World War II left several soldiers and civilians disabled. The developed community responded to their needs and advocated the cause. From the days of advocacy and implementation, it took them six decades to come out with something relevant for persons with disabilities. Though the western countries enacted laws way before, India enacted the Persons With Disability (PWD) Act on January 1, 1996, whose presence is now felt everywhere,” said Pro-VC Prof P.R. Ramanujam, who presided over the function.

According to Dr Karna, “The key is to generate awareness about the rights and dignity of people with disabilities in a society occupied by dogmas and prejudices. The approach of charity should be replaced with sensitivity. Ask for parity and not charity for them.”

The function began with a cultural performance by students of IGNOU's B.A. Applied Sign Language Studies (BAASLS) Programme.

Others present at the event were Dr Arun Banik, Director, National Centre for Disability Studies; Dr Uma Alladi, IGNOU Professor for Indian Writing in English; and Parag Namdeo, Network Manager, Sense International. ■



*From left, Parag Namdeo, Dr Uma Alladi, Dr G.N. Karna, Prof P.R. Ramanujam and Dr Arun Banik.*

## NEWSUPDATES

# IGNOU inks MoU for French Programmes

IGNOU, French Embassy and University Stendhal, Grenoble III, France, have signed an MoU to start Teaching of French as a Methodology Course in the B.Ed. Programme of IGNOU.

The MoU was signed between U.S. Tolia, Registrar (Admin), IGNOU, Daniel Rignault, Attaché for Cooperation in Education, French Embassy, and Mme Dumasy, Hon'ble VC, University Stendhal, Grenoble III, in New Delhi on December 6.

The main objective of this MoU is to design and develop the following academic programmes for the development of human resources: Teaching of French as a Methodology Course in the B.Ed. Programme of IGNOU; Certificat d'Enseignement de Français Langue Etrangère [CEFLE] and Diplôme d'Enseignement de Français Langue Etrangère [DEFLE].

French Embassy will fund the Orientation Programme for the course writers for developing Self-Learning Material.

IGNOU would conduct Expert Committee meetings for the French methodology course in the B.Ed. Programme, CEFLE and DEFLE Programmes in collaboration with the French Embassy.

IGNOU will have complete copyright over



**U.S. Tolia, IGNOU Registrar (Administration) and Mme Dumasy, VC, University Stendhal, Grenoble III, exchanging the MoU in New Delhi on December 6.**

all pedagogical study material produced for B.Ed. programme, CEFLE and DEFLE programmes (Print, Audio, Audio Visual etc.) for use in India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Malaysia,

Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar.

The programmes aim to enhance knowledge and skill among the students in the field of French language, literature and culture studies. ■

## ADMISSIONNOTIFICATION

### Special Education

IGNOU has announced admissions to Degree Programmes in Special Education. The programmes are: M.Ed. Special Education in Hearing Impairment (MEDSEHM), Learning Disability (MEDSELD), Visual Impairment (MEDSEVI) and Mental Retardation (MEDSEMR); and B.Ed. Special Education in Hearing Impairment; Visual Impairment; and Mental Retardation.

Eligibility for admission to M.Ed. Special Education is B.Ed. Special Education, while for B.Ed. Special Education is Bachelor's degree from any recognised University. The medium of instruction is English and there is no age bar for any of the Programmes.

Selection will be done on the basis of an entrance test and weightage as applicable.

For details, please visit [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in) ■

### Management and Dental

IGNOU has begun admission process for Management and Dental programmes.

The Management programmes are Master of Business Administration (MBA), Diploma in Management (DIM), PG Diploma in Management (PGDIM), PG Diploma in Human Resource Management (PGDHRM), PG Diploma in Financial Management (PGDFM), PG Diploma in Operations Management (PGDOM) and PG Diploma in Marketing Management (PGDMM).

IGNOU has also announced admission to PG Certificate in Oral Implantology (PGCOI) and PG Certificate in Endodontics (PGCE). IGNOU, in collaboration with the Dental Council of India, has developed two Post-Graduate Certificate Programmes for BDS Graduates.

For details, please visit [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in) ■

### Corporate Governance

IGNOU has announced the launch of MBA programme in Corporate Governance. The first batch will commence in the January 2011 academic session.

The two-year programme offers 30 seats and will be divided into four semesters. The fee for each semester is ₹50,000.

The programme aims to create professionals with a profound knowledge of management principles, governance processes and other important aspects of corporate governance.

Developed by IGNOU's Centre for Corporate Education, Training & Consultancy (CCETC), the programme will offer the learners an opportunity to work in the corporate sector at various levels and foster better understanding through case studies. For details, please visit [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in) ■

# 'India leads in human values'



**Renowned spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar delivering the special lecture at the IGNOU Convention Centre on December 1. From left are VC Prof Pillai, Prof A.K. Agarwal from School of Health Sciences and Pro-VC Prof K.R. Srivathsan.**

**A** complete human being is the one who adopts teamwork from Japanese, precision from Germans, marketing techniques from Americans and human values from Indians, said renowned spiritual leader and founder of the Art of Living Foundation Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, while delivering a special lecture, titled 'Human Values: A Necessity for Sustainable Development.'

The lecture, held at the IGNOU Convention Centre on December 1, underlined the significance of human values in Indian society.

"Go to any small village in India and you will find human values embedded deep inside every nerve of the rural country," he said.

The spiritual leader began the lecture by emphasising on the needs and responsibilities of human beings. While differentiating it from animals, he said that animals have needs sans responsibility. "Your quality of life depends upon the proportion maintained between your responsibility and needs. You lead a good life if your needs are less than your responsibilities," he said.

Recapturing the period from the

Gandhian era, he said that our needs have multiplied manifold since then, which has resulted into scams and slums.

"In either case, the responsibility factor is missing. Those involved in scams shoulder nil responsibility, while those living in slums play the blame game. The attitude, 'I am poor because you are rich' prevails throughout due to which India can be summarised into scam India and slum India," he remarked.

"Human values can take you from a state of dependency to total responsibility and carve out a responsible citizen in you. When you shoulder responsibility, your needs will automatically be met," he added.

Motivating everyone towards a more humane system, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar emphasised upon the need to uphold a strong set of values, consisting of love, passion and dignity. "It is necessary to preserve these values, which are slowly evaporating from urban India. There can be no development until and unless certain values are restored," he added.

"If we do not stand up for the cause, how can the change happen? It is necessary to increase accountability for a sustainable development of human values."

The lecture was presided over by VC Prof V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Pro-VCs Dr Latha Pillai and Prof K.R. Srivathsan and Prof A.K. Agarwal from School of Health Sciences. ■

## NEWSSCAN

### TEE evaluation process

IGNOU has passed an Ordinance to declare the results of students within 45 days of completion of the Term End Examination (TEE), VC Prof V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai has announced.

The University has decided to extend the Scheme of Spot Evaluation to the Evaluation Centres in Delhi, Lucknow, Patna, Pune, Chennai, Guwahati and Kolkata.

The spot evaluation of answer scripts at the Evaluation Centres will be monitored by the Examination Committee/Standing Committee on Evaluation in order to ensure declaration of TEE results within 45 days. ■

### Open House Meeting

In order to create awareness about the various Programmes offered by IGNOU, the University's City Centre, in collaboration with the School of Extension and Development Studies (SOEDS), organised an Open House Meeting at the City Centre in New Delhi on November 2.

The event was inaugurated by Pro-VC Prof P.R. Ramanujam.

Dr Jayashree Kurup, Director, Student Service Centre and all the Regional Directors of NCR and Delhi region, besides a large number of students from Delhi University and its various constituent colleges attended the meeting. ■

### Research Papers

N.Venkateshwarlu, Dr Ashish Agarwal and Dr Manoj Kulshreshtha of School of Engineering & Technology have presented the following research papers in 2009-2010: Role of Leadership and Top Management: A TQM Strategy; Continuous Improvement: A critical success factor (CSF) of Total Quality Management (TQM); TQM factors and its effectiveness on the organisational performance; A self-Organised Neuro-Fuzzy and AIS based Approach for Design of Manufacturing System; and Customer Satisfaction Through best practices of Total Quality Management (TQM), among others. ■

# Thrust on quality education: VC

Highlighting the major academic steps that IGNOU has taken in 2010, Vice Chancellor Prof V.N Rajasekharan Pillai said the University does not have to be dependent on government funding for running educational programmes as it has successfully signed several MoUs with the public and private institutions in past months and is looking for educational opportunities outside the formal educational structure.

“We intend to further harness technology for expansion of our clientele and pave the way in the Open and Distance Learning arena,” added Prof Pillai in the latest edition of ‘Learning at its Best.’

A major quality intervention that IGNOU achieved this year is the introduction of the Student/Learner Satisfaction Survey, which was implemented with the objectives of gathering inputs from each and every learner about the performance of the University and the benefits they received from IGNOU System.

“This initiative is a first-of-its-kind in the country and includes specific questions relating to employment opportunities, quality of content for learning, and educational outcomes. The feedback has helped us initiate refinements and corrections in the courseware,” he said.

“Secondly, the concept of Community College was also introduced by IGNOU, and



*One of the major academic initiatives taken up by IGNOU in 2010 is making research studies an intrinsic part of the University. Seen in the photo are some of the On-campus Research and Teaching Assistants (RTAs) of IGNOU.*

the year witnessed the consolidation of the concept through a diverse range of activities. The participation from civil societies in the Community College movement has been immense.”

“Thirdly, we have been systematically and seriously looking into aspects that promote research studies at IGNOU. Previously, research was not an intrinsic part of the University. We have now started rigorous research-oriented activities. The Research and Teaching Assistantship

programme has been developed in order to encourage bright post graduates to pursue research, and simultaneously also assist in teaching. They are paid almost equivalent to any lecturer of the University,” he added.

The University has provided leadership to projects on financial inclusion, Public Health Services, Defence and Security, Capacity Building, Banking & Finance, Rural Development and Empowerment, Policy Research and Development, Textiles, Disaster Management. ■

## IGNOU Study Centre at Tihar Jail gets BIS certification

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Govt. of India, has given the IGNOU Study Centre at Tihar Jail in New Delhi a license for Quality Management Systems certification.

“The license is valid for three years till October 12, 2013 and may be renewed as prescribed in the regulations,” said a BIS communique.

IGNOU Study Centre, as well as the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) at the Tihar Jail, serves the needs of nearly 2,640 and 1,900 jail inmates, respectively, enrolled in various programmes.

Many new Programmes like Bachelor of Arts/Commerce/Preparatory Programme, Diploma in

Creative Writing in Hindi/English, Certificate in Human Rights, Masters in Tourism/Management/Computers PG Diploma in Distance Education are popular among jail inmates.

The inmates also have the facility to study Gandhian Philosophy with the help of over 500 books that are available at the Tihar Study Centre. ■



**IGNOU Special Study Centre in Bhalessa, J&K, has launched the ‘Effective Classroom through Tele-Media’ initiative and will establish a tele-educational terminal to provide e-classes to militancy-prone youth in the area.**

# Tagore Chair for Literature inaugurated

There is a need for a balanced reappraisal of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. This was the uniform call made by leading scholars at the inauguration of the Indira Gandhi National Open University's (IGNOU) Tagore Chair for Indian Literature in Bangalore on November 20. Jnanpeeth awardee and renowned Kannada writer Prof U.R. Ananthamurthy will head the Chair, set up at the Kannada and Culture Department's Kannada Bhavan Building in the city.

"We are happy that an eminent literary personality like Prof Ananthamurthy has accepted the invitation to head IGNOU's Tagore Chair for Indian Literature, especially at a time when most of the universities in the country are facing a dearth of competent teachers in Indian languages," said VC Prof V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai.

The main speakers at the event included Prof Udaya Narayan Singh, Tagore Professor, Vishwa Bharati University, Kolkata; Prof Ashish Nandy, renowned social psychologist and political thinker; IGNOU Pro-VC Dr Latha Pillai; Prof K. Satchidanandan, Director, School of Translation Studies and Training, IGNOU;



VC Prof V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai inaugurating the IGNOU Tagore Chair for Indian Literature in Bangalore.

Prof Rita Rani Paliwal, Director, School of Humanities, IGNOU; Dr B.S. Sudhindra, Regional Director, Bangalore Regional Centre, IGNOU; and Manu Baligar, Director, Kannada and Culture Department.

Endorsing the call for an honest reappraisal of Tagore, Prof Pillai supported Prof Singh and Prof Nandy's suggestion of translating Tagore's famous novel *Gora*, into

all major Indian languages, and hold seminars and debates on the same.

The Tagore Chair has been established to organise symposia, seminars and undertake research studies on Indian literature. The activities of the Chair also include the editing of a bilingual (English and Hindi) Journal on Literature, Language and Culture Studies. ■

## IGNOU remembers Fr. Camille Bulcke

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), in association with the Institute for Socialist Education, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and the Institute for Media Communication, organised a National Seminar to celebrate the birth centenary of Padma Bhushan Fr. Camille Bulcke, a Belgian Jesuit missionary in India, who attained pre-eminence in the Hindi language.

While inaugurating the seminar, held at the University's Convention Centre on November 27, Oscar Fernandes, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, appreciated the spirit and contribution of Fr. Bulcke.

"By bridging the Christian thought and practice with Hinduism and by writing *Ram Katha Utpatti Aur Vikas* and *Angrezi Hindi Shabd-kosh*, Fr. Bulcke brought all languages together," Fernandes said.

Fr. Bulcke is remembered as a saintly scholar, who was amiable and unassuming in nature and provided selfless service to the followers of all faiths, said Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo, the Chief Guest at the function.

The function was presided over by freedom fighter Shashi



Oscar Fernandes, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, speaking at the national seminar held at IGNOU Headquarters in New Delhi on November 27.

Bhushan. Others present included Fr. Christopher Lakra, Executive Director, Indian Social Institute (ISI), Dr M.D. Thomas, Director, C.H.R., Prof K. Bijay Kumar, Prof Ajay Tiwari, Dr Francis Gonsalves and Dr Ram Pravesh Sharma. ■

## REGIONAL ROUNDUP

# IGNOU-IDBI Career Development Initiative

IGNOU Institute for Vocational Education and Training (IIVET), Shillong, and IDBI Mutual Fund jointly conducted a Career Counselling Camp for school and college students in Guwahati on December 12.

The camp, called the IDBI-IGNOU Career Development Initiative (IICDI), saw around 82 students take an aptitude test, which gave the learners a clear idea about their personality traits and career options.

IICDI is a first-of-its-kind initiative by an asset management company in the career counselling and investor education space. It is supported by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

Speaking at the event, Arun Singh, Executive Director, IDBI Asset Management Ltd, remarked, "Through this initiative, IDBI Mutual Fund aims to assist parents plan their investments in

direct correlation to the career choices of their children."

A.S. Guha, OSD, IIVET, said, "We are proud to be associated with IDBI Asset Management Ltd in the Career Development Initiative. IGNOU has contributed significantly to the field of education through its Distance Learning programmes. IDBI Mutual Fund's efforts are in tandem with IGNOU's mission." ■



Prof Shatrughna Kumar (Right), Co-ordinator of Bhojpuri Courses at IGNOU, receiving an award for his contribution to the Bhojpuri language. Also seen in the photo is Prof Ripusudan Sriwastav, VC, B.N. Mandal University, Madhepura, who presented the award to Prof Kumar.

## Training on Plastics Processing Technology

IGNOU Institute for Vocational Education and Training (IIVET), Shillong, in association with the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET), Guwahati, conducted a Skill Development Programme on 'Plastics Processing Technology' in Guwahati recently.

The programme is part of a Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC),

signed between IIVET and CIPET on October 29, 2009, for organising both short-term and long-term training programmes for the benefit of unemployed youth in the North East.

The programme was held in two batches, each of three week's duration. Participants for the programme were selected from Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura. ■

## IGNOU student gets top IT award

Pravakar Kumar, a student of IGNOU's Master's in Computer Application (MCA)

Programme has been awarded the Next100 Chief Information Officers (CIOs) Award, an initiative of 9.9 Mediaworx (9.9 Media), to identify future CIOs who are collectively called the NEXT100.

Kumar completed his Bachelor's in Computer Application (BCA) from IGNOU in 2006 and is now pursuing his MCA from the University.

Kumar, who is presently working as a Manager (IT) in one of the leading MNCs, was selected for the award from a pool of 72,000 IT managers.

"They recognise me as a potential future IT leader/CIO of India. This award has been possible due to the skills and training I acquired at IGNOU," Kumar said.

The winners were recognised and honoured at a special award ceremony at Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad recently. ■



Pravakar Kumar.

## factoids



IGNOU will set up a National ODL Centre for Local Governance with the objectives of conducting research on problems and issues of local self-government institutions and developing training courses for them.

## Candlelight march for 26/11 victims



*Pro-VC Dr Latha Pillai, Vijay Kapoor, Advisor to VC (Special Projects), and On-Campus students participating in the candlelight procession at the IGNOU Headquarters on November 26.*

Over 200 On-Campus students of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) took out a candlelight procession in memory of the victims of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks on November 26 at the IGNOU Headquarters.

Organised by the IGNOU Student Association, the march covered about 1.5 km from the Academic Block to the main gate of the University, where learners placed candles near the statue of Smt Indira Gandhi.

Pro-VC Dr Latha Pillai and Vijay Kapoor, Advisor to VC (Special Projects), also participated in the event.

“This move sends out the message to youngsters that they should not forget any such tragedy that resulted in the loss of innocent lives,” Dr Pillai said.

“We must have an empathetic attitude towards the victims and should walk shoulder-to-shoulder for bringing justice to them,” said Vijay Kapoor. ■

## Gyan Darshan III

### Induction Programme

**January 2003:** IGNOU holds a two-day nationwide induction programme for its learners through teleconferencing.

- Union HRD Minister Dr Murlu Manohar Joshi inaugurates Gyan Darshan III, India's first technology channel.

**February 2003:** Sir John Daniel, Assistant Director General, UNESCO, addresses the 14th Convocation of IGNOU in New Delhi.

**March 2003:** IGNOU establishes School of Agriculture.

**April 2003:** Rajasthan Governor Anshuman Singh inaugurates Teleconferencing Facility for 'Sarva Shiksha.'

**June 2003:** Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, visits the University.

## Upcoming Events

**Orientation Programme for Gurus – January 17-19:** The Educational Development of North East Region Unit (EDNERU), IGNOU, will organise an Orientation Programme for Gurus under the North East Zonal Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Ministry of Culture's Guru-Shishya Parampara Scheme from January 17-19 in New Delhi.



**GYAN  
DARSHAN**

## HIGHLIGHTS DEC 2010 - JAN 2011

### Disha – 3: Journalism

Journalism is concerned with the collection and dissemination of news through the print, electronic and web media. It involves various areas of works like reporting, writing, editing, etc.



### Gambhira - The Festival With Mask Dance

Gambhira, a popular annual festival of Malda District in West Bengal, comprises songs and dances closely related to agriculture and mythology. Colourful masks representing Gods and Goddesses are the speciality of the dance.



### Cartoonists – Shankar's Weekly

Shankar's Weekly, a magazine devoted to cartoons and humour, was founded by India's famous cartoonist Shankar in 1948. The magazine also produced cartoonists like Abu Abraham, Ranga and Kutty.



### Kangla: Documentary on Manipur

'Kangla' is the most important historical site of Manipur. The kingdom of Manipur was established at Kangla. Other historical places in Manipur are Langthabal, Bishnupur, Moirang, Khongjom and Koubra Leikha.



### Subhadra Kumari Chauhan

Subhadra Kumari Chauhan was known for her emotionally charged Hindi poems. Her most famous composition is *Jhansi Ki Rani*, describing the life of Rani Lakshmi Bai. Most of her poems openly talk about the freedom movement.



### Ocean Waves: Currents and Tides

Waves are among the most familiar features in the ocean. They transport energy over vast distances. The biggest waves in our oceans are the tides. These are caused by the gravitational forces between the earth, the sun and the moon.

### Orchids of India - Blue Vanda

Blue vanda, botanically known as *Vanda coerulea*, is also famous as Autumn Lady's Tresses orchid. Native to north east India, it is a highly sought after orchid due to its beautiful bluish purple flowers.



For a complete schedule, log on to [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in)