

REPORT ON INSTITUTIONAL EFFORTS/INITIATIVES IN PROVIDING AN INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT i.e., TOLERANCE AND HARMONY TOWARDS CULTURAL, REGIONAL, LINGUISTIC, COMMUNAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND OTHER DIVERSITIES.

The University organised various activities and programmes to promote inclusiveness in the functioning of the University. The programmes were organised at the Headquarters as well as at Regional Centres. Some of the prominent initiatives are listed below:

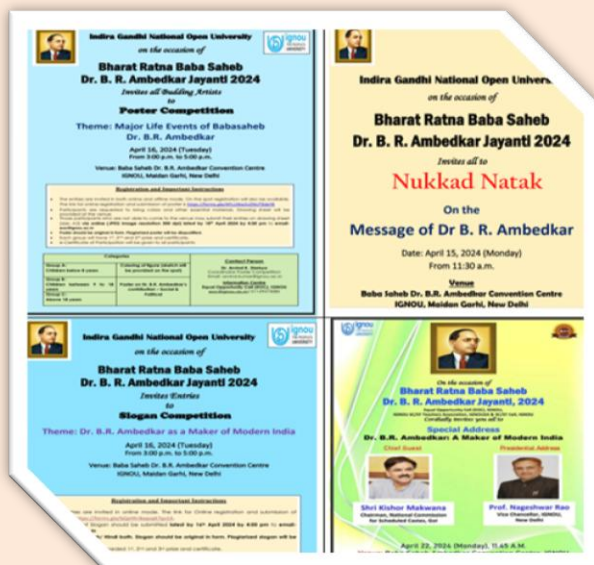
Two day International Translation Day was organised on “Translating from Foreign to Indian languages and Vice Versa: Challenges and Implications” at the Headquarters from 8-9 February 2024. Through the two days, 4 technical sessions in each language were conducted with one Plenary Session with interventions from Prof Christine Raguet from Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris and Dr Oscar Pujol, renowned translator/Sanskritist and Director, Instituto Cervantes, Embassy of Spain in India. Marine Michel, Attaché from the Embassy of France and Guillermo Martin Senderos, Cultural Attaché from the Embassy of Spain in India were also present.



As many as 70 attendees from various parts of the country, including university teachers, researchers, freelance translators, and senior students in French and Spanish languages, registered for the workshop. The event also marked the launch of the Hindi-French Dictionary, developed by the Central Hindi Directorate, Min. of Education. Moreover, the workshop also witnessed the launch of the M.A. Spanish Language program in the Open and Distance Mode, drawing significant interest from participants.

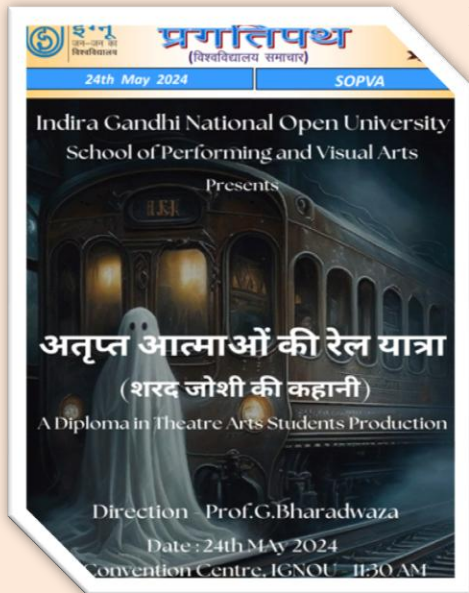
To commemorate the **134th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar**, the **Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)** organized a series of engaging and meaningful activities at its Headquarters and various Regional Centres. These activities aimed to honor the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar and create awareness about his contributions to social justice, equality, and education.

The events fostered a spirit of creativity, learning, and social responsibility among the IGNOU community, reaffirming the university’s dedication to its mission of democratizing education and empowering all sections of society. The celebrations witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and staff across IGNOU’s network. The collaborative efforts demonstrated the university’s commitment to promoting the values of inclusivity and education as championed by Dr. Ambedkar. Special address on “Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:



"A Maker of Modern India" was organised to mark the Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on 14th April 2024.

The School of Performing and Visual Arts, IGNOU, successfully organized a theatrical performance, on **24th May 2024, based on a story by Sharad Joshi**, a renowned literary figure known for his incisive social commentary and wit.



The performance was designed and directed by Prof. Govindaraju Bhardwaza, a faculty member of the School of Performing and Visual Arts. The audience included IGNOU faculty, staff, students, and distinguished guests from various cultural and academic fields.

The event was a resounding success, demonstrating IGNOU's commitment to promoting arts and culture as integral components of education. It served as an inspiring example of how literature and performing arts can provide meaningful insights into societal issues while fostering creativity and collaboration.

The play captivated the audience with its compelling script, exceptional acting, and innovative direction. The cast, comprising IGNOU students and faculty members, delivered an outstanding performance, seamlessly portraying the

characters and themes of Joshi's narrative. The production's use of minimalist yet impactful stage design and lighting added depth to the storytelling, creating a memorable experience for the attendees.

To mark Hindi Diwas, IGNOU organized **Hindi Pakhwada from 19th to 29th September 2023**, promoting the use and significance of Hindi in education, administration, and cultural discourse. The event commenced with an opening ceremony, graced by Shushri Chitra Mudgal, renowned Sahitya Akademi Award winner and the first Indian woman to receive the prestigious Vyas Samman. In her address, she highlighted the richness of Hindi literature.

Key activities during the Pakhwada included essay writing, debates, poetry recitation, and workshops, engaging participants in creative and intellectual pursuits. The celebration concluded with a valedictory ceremony, where winners of various competitions were felicitated. Enthusiastic participation from students and staff underscored IGNOU's commitment to promoting Hindi as a vital part of India's linguistic and cultural heritage. It witnessed enthusiastic participation from IGNOU staff and students, reflecting their commitment to celebrating Hindi as an integral part of India's linguistic heritage. The celebration concluded with a valedictory ceremony, where participants were awarded for their contributions.



A National **Webinar on the theme "Record Management Practices in Government of India Offices"** under Special Campaign 3.0 was organized by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) on 6th October 2023. The event aimed to highlight the significance of effective record management in ensuring transparency, efficiency, and compliance within government offices.

The webinar was attended by distinguished speakers, professionals from record management, academicians, and administrative personnel from HQ and across Regional Centre. Sh.Syed Farid Ahmad (Deputy Director, National Archives of India, New Delhi) was the Resource Person. Participants actively engaged in discussions, posing questions and sharing experiences, which enriched the deliberations.



This was an online National Webinar on 06.10.2023 at 11.30 am through GoogleMeet for all the Officers and Officials of the IGNOU Regional Centres, LSCs, Directors and Faculty Members of Schools, Colleagues at various Divisions, Institutes, Centres, Cells, and Units of the University.

The **World Mental Health Day** was celebrated by the School of Social Sciences on 10 October 2023 on the theme “Mental health and well Being of Children and Adolescents in the Digital Era”. The talk was delivered by the invited expert Prof. Rachna Bhargava, Professor of Clinical Psychology, Department of Psychiatry & National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, AllMS, New Delhi on 10th October 2023 at 11a.m. in the conference hall, Radhakrishnan Block, IGNOU.



Chief Guest of the occasion, Prof. Rachna Bhargava highlighted the increasing usage of internet among the young generation which leads to various mental health issues. She pointed that we need to reflect on ourselves and the system itself, and bringin changes in our interaction pattern to create more quality time with our children and adolescents.

On 9 October 2023, IGNOU celebrated National Education Day to mark the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. A lecture on “Building a Knowledge Economy: Lessons from India’s History” was delivered by Padma Shri Prof. Dinesh Singh, former Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University. Prof. Singh emphasized the need to build an Indian knowledge system rooted in the nation’s culture and ethos.

The session was graced by the presence of Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU, who provided valuable insights into the theme. Prof. (Dr.) C. B. Sharma, Director of



IGNOU, and other dignitaries also attended the event, enriching the discussions with their perspectives.

The lecture underscored the significance of aligning India's educational advancements with its cultural legacy and the need for a comprehensive approach to knowledge-building. The celebration served as a tribute to the visionary leadership of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and his contributions to education in India.

On 21st November 2023, the School of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies, IGNOU, organized a national webinar to celebrate **World Philosophy Day**, introduced by UNESCO in 2002 and observed annually on the third Thursday of November.

The webinar, presided over by Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, featured eminent philosophers Prof. Mrinal Miri (Padma Bhushan) and Prof. V. N. Jha. Prof. Mrinal Miri contrasted Western moral philosophy, rooted in reason, with the context-sensitive dharmic worldview central to Indian ethics. He highlighted Gandhi's ethical thought as a profound modern expression of the dharmic tradition.

The theme, "Indian Knowledge Tradition(s): Reflections on Sat, Dharma, and Moksa," explored the foundational Indian philosophical concepts of truth (Sat), duty (Dharma), and liberation (Moksa). Discussions highlighted how these interconnected ideas shape epistemological and metaphysical perspectives across Indian philosophical schools, emphasizing the relevance of righteousness for ultimate liberation.

The event served as a platform for rich discussions and further exploration into Indian knowledge traditions.

