

**NEP 2020  
IMPLEMENTATION  
AT IGNOU  
(NEP CELL: JULY 2023)**

## INTRODUCTION

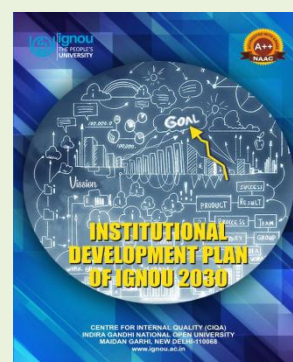
The University has been established by an Act of Parliament in 1985 with the jurisdiction over the whole of India as well as study centres outside India. The mandate of the University is Access, Equity, Quality and Affordability which is in tune with the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020. In compliance with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 the following initiatives have been taken by the University:

## ESTABLISHMENT OF NEP CELL

In order to translate the new framework for higher education as envisaged by the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 into reality, the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has set up the NEP Cell to make the NEP initiatives operational (30<sup>th</sup> November 2021).

## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF IGNOU

The University has developed the Institutional Development Plan (IDP) of the Indira Gandhi National Open University 2030 as per requirement of NEP 2020, which has been approved by the Board of Management. A Monitoring Committee has been constituted for monitoring the implementation of IDP at IGNOU as suggested by the Board of Management (145th BOM held on 25th October 2021 vide resolution BM 145.8.4).



## INCREASE OF GER

To realize the goal of reaching 50% GER by 2035 IGNOU has made concerted efforts to introduce academic programmes offered through ODL and Online modes.

Year	ODL Programmes	Online Programmes
2021-2022	228	32
2022-2023	254	41
2023-2024	284	44

The University's Planning & Development Division has published: The IGNOU Roadmap for Enhancing GER, in 2022.

The University has adopted the UGC Guidelines for pursuing two degree programmes simultaneously; and has notified the guidelines for learners desirous of pursuing two degree programmes (2nd September, 2022).

## MULTIPLE ENTRY AND EXIT

The University has adopted the UGC Guidelines for Multiple Entry and Exit in Academic Programmes offered in HEIs and also notified the modalities for facilitating students in multiple entry and exit (24th August, 2022). Multiple Entry and Exit provisions have been notified for BAG, BSCG, BCOMG and BCA programmes.

### Levels of Multiple Exit and Multiple Entry points

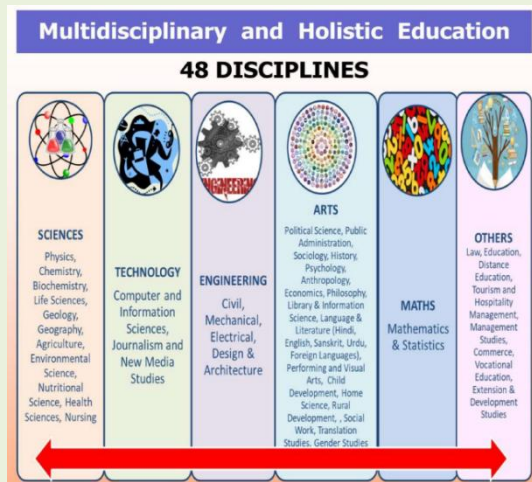
S.No.	Level of the Programme	Exit and Certification
1.	Undergraduate Certificate	The learners successfully completing first year (2 semesters) of study at the undergraduate level will be awarded an Undergraduate Certificate. (Total Credits: 40-44)
2.	Undergraduate Diploma	The learners successfully completing the 2 years (4 semesters) of study at the undergraduate level will be awarded an Undergraduate Diploma. (Total Credits: 80-88)
3.	Undergraduate Degree	The learners successfully completing the 3 years (6 semesters) of study at the undergraduate level will be awarded a general Bachelor's Degree in the disciplines studied. (Total credits: 120-132)

There are also 35 programmes with a facility to pre-exit: 31 Master's degree programmes and four Bachelor's degree programmes (Academic Year 2022-2023). There are 13 Master degree programmes and four Bachelor's degree programmes have the provision for lateral entry.

## MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND HOLISTIC EDUCATION

### The vision/ plan of the University

IGNOU is a multidisciplinary University having 21 Schools of Studies and 48 disciplines representing STEAM (<http://ignou.ac.in/userfiles/STEAM.png>) including a School dedicated to Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies; an Institute (STRIDE); Centres; Chairs; for providing holistic, inclusive, sustainable and multidisciplinary education. As envisaged in NEP 2020, the University developed its own Institutional Development Plan (<http://ignou.ac.in/userfiles/IDP%202030.pdf>) for the next 10 years (2020-30) outlining the short-term goals (5 years) and long-term goals (10 years) towards expanding the canvas of multidisciplinary and holistic nature of the programmes by developing and integrating courses in the areas of waste management, environmental education, climate change, sustainable development, conflict management and peace studies, agriculture, health care, law, etc. in the existing/ new programmes. The course contents will focus on communication, discussion, research, and inculcating teamwork, critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills for enhancing employability.



### Integration of Humanities with STEM

The Bachelor's degree programmes of the University (Bachelor in Arts, Science and Commerce) have adopted a multidisciplinary approach. with the combination of Ability Enhancement Courses in Environment Science and Languages (Hindi or English); skill enhancement courses drawn from courses across the Schools of Studies; other than the discipline-specific Core and Elective Courses.

The learner has the freedom to choose courses from the flexible curricular structures across disciplines (Academic Year 2021-2022 onwards). For example, learners of B.Sc. are provided with an option to choose Courses from multiple disciplines *viz.* Anthropology, Economics, Psychology, Indian and Foreign languages, Gender Studies, Commerce, Agriculture, Fashion Design; Environmental Studies, etc.

Multidisciplinary approach in UG Degree Programmes:

[http://ignou.ac.in/userfiles/Multidisciplinary%20approch%20in%20UG%20programmes\(2\).pdf](http://ignou.ac.in/userfiles/Multidisciplinary%20approch%20in%20UG%20programmes(2).pdf)

A draft document for the implementation of four year undergraduate programme in compliance with the latest UGC Guidelines has been developed by a Committee of the NEP Cell (March, 2023).

### **Credit-based courses to attain holistic and multidisciplinary education**

The learners enrolled in UG/ PG degree programmes offered in disciplines of Management, Sciences, Computer Sciences, Psychology, Library Science, Social Work, Sustainable Development, Public Administration, Counselling and Family Therapy, Food and Nutrition, Anthropology, Education, Health Sciences, Nursing, Gender Studies, Information Security, etc. have credit-based practical/ fieldwork/ internship/ dissertation/ clinical practice/ project work etc. as compulsory component(s) in the areas of skill development, community engagement and service, environmental education, and value-based education.

### **Action Plan**

The University's Planning & Development Division has published: Action Plan for synergizing Delivery of Academic Programs in line with NEP-2020.

The NEP Cell has prepared a Draft Curriculum and Credit Framework for the IGNOU's Undergraduate programmes for implementation of FYUP from January 2024 academic session.

## **FOCUS ON OUTCOME BASED EDUCATION**

The University has made definite efforts for designing and disseminating the Learning Outcome-based Curriculum Framework (LOCF) comprising Programme Outcomes (POs), Programme Specific Outcomes (PSOs) and Course Outcomes (COs) for all academic programmes. The attainment of POs, PSOs, and COs are integrated into the assessment process as outlined in the concept mapping of the PG and UG Degree; PG Diploma; Diploma and Certificate programmes. (<http://www.ignou.ac.in/userfiles/LOCF%20%20document%20%2013th%20Dec%202019.pdf>). As mentioned in the NHEQF document, the LOCF of the University's Degree programmes outlines the expected graduate attributes, PLOs/CLOs on the basis of the curriculum design; and assessment methods/ procedures to assess the achievement of the listed attributes by the learners.

Keeping pace with the emerging ethos of institutionalizing an outcome-oriented higher education system and enhancing the employability of graduates, the University constituted a Committee to develop a sample structure for 4-year UG and one-year PG Degree programme in compliance with the latest guidelines of UGC, namely National Higher Education Qualifications Framework (draft) ([https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/2142241\\_NHEQF-Draft.pdf](https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/2142241_NHEQF-Draft.pdf)). The Committee was also entrusted with the task to revise the existing Programme Proposal Form and the Programme Development Form to include the detailed LOCF component as proposed in the aforementioned UGC document. The LOCF of all the UG and PG Degree programmes on offer has been prepared accordingly. Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) on Learning Outcomes based Curriculum Framework are being organized from time to time. The major focus of the feedback tools (<http://ignou.ac.in/ignou/aboutignou/icc/ciqa/forms>) prepared for the academic year 2021-22 was on outcome-based teaching and learning practices developed for major stakeholders namely teachers, learners, subject experts, academic counsellors, alumni and employers. Outcome-based education is also reflected in the feedback reports

(<http://ignou.ac.in/ignou/aboutignou/icc/ciqa/forms>).

The University has developed Programme Learning Outcomes Framework on the lines of the Draft of the National Higher Education Qualifications Framework circulated by the UGC. The Framework addresses different expected outcomes of the academic programmes which include among others development of knowledge, skills and their application; constitutional obligations; promotion of humanistic, ethical and moral values; and enhancement of employability and entrepreneurship skills.

## ACADEMIC BANK OF CREDITS (ABC)

### Initiatives taken by the University

The University has taken several measures for the implementation of ABC. A Committee constituted for the adoption and implementation of ABC has finalized the modalities. The Academic Council in its 77th meeting has adopted the UGC Gazette Notification on ABC and the recommendations of the Committee.

([http://ignou.ac.in/userfiles/Notification%20for%20committee%20constitution%20to%20draft%20a%20comprehensive%20policy%20on%20the%20credit%20transfer\(1\).pdf](http://ignou.ac.in/userfiles/Notification%20for%20committee%20constitution%20to%20draft%20a%20comprehensive%20policy%20on%20the%20credit%20transfer(1).pdf)).

Nodal Officers from the Divisions concerned (SED, SRD, RSD and Computer) have been appointed for implementation of ABC. It has launched a campaign for creating awareness about ABC among learners through its Regional Centres.

([http://www.ignou.ac.in/userfiles/144%20\(Emergent\)%20BOM%20Minutes.pdf](http://www.ignou.ac.in/userfiles/144%20(Emergent)%20BOM%20Minutes.pdf) p.1).

The University has registered on the ABC Portal. ABC IDs for over 20 lakh IGNOU students have been created. The students are encouraged to avail the transfer of credits available in the ABC. For example, the University offers Course-wise Registration and Certification and the credits earned are accumulated in the ABC (<http://www.ignou.ac.in/userfiles/Common-Prospectus-English.pdf> p.22). The credits can be redeemed by the learners for another programme of a similar level. The University has also implemented the Multiple Entry and Exit Scheme of the UGC in different programmes. For example, a learner can take exit from a Master's Degree programme with a PG Diploma and subsequently resume the programme by taking lateral entry.

### Course-wise Registration and Certification Scheme

The University has also launched the Course-wise Registration and Certification Scheme (CRCS) in which a learner can register for a single course or a limited number of courses, subject to a maximum of 16 credits, to encourage credit transfer. (Academic Year 2021-2022 onwards).

## INTERNATIONALIZATION

IGNOU is empowered by its Act to offer its programmes abroad by setting up Overseas Study Centres. Currently, there are 26 Overseas Study Centres with footprints in 15 countries.

The following Overseas Study Centres have been established during last two years (2021 & 2022): Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL); Open Minds International, Singapore; Clascma International Education & Research Centre, PMC Academy Private Limited, Singapore; UniGrad

**INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE**

- Memorandum of Agreement Signed with Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) on October 1, 2021 to Offer ODL and Online Programs to Guyanese Learners under the Government of Guyana Scholarship Scheme with Guyana (829 Learners admitted for 25 Programmes in the July 2021 session)
- Conducting 6 Online Staff Development Programmes related to ODL and Online Education Systems and Processes for the GOAL officials and other functionaries (starting from November 1, 2021)

The infographic features several photographs: a woman in a video call, a man in a video call, a group of people in a meeting, and a group of people in a classroom setting.

Education Center W.L.L., Kingdom of Bahrain; Wisdom Educational Consultant, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The MoAs have been renewed with the following Overseas Study Centres during the period: Gulf Centre for University Education, Kuwait; International Centre for Academics, Kathmandu, Nepal; Nepal Information Technology Pvt. Ltd., Kathmandu Nepal; Glory Institute, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman; Educational Consulting & Guidance Services, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; Educational Consulting & Guidance Services, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Indian Academy W.L.L, Bahrain; St. Mary’s University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Centre for Open and Distance Education, Kenya; Regent International Institute of Higher Education, Sri Lanka (Academic Year 2022-2023).

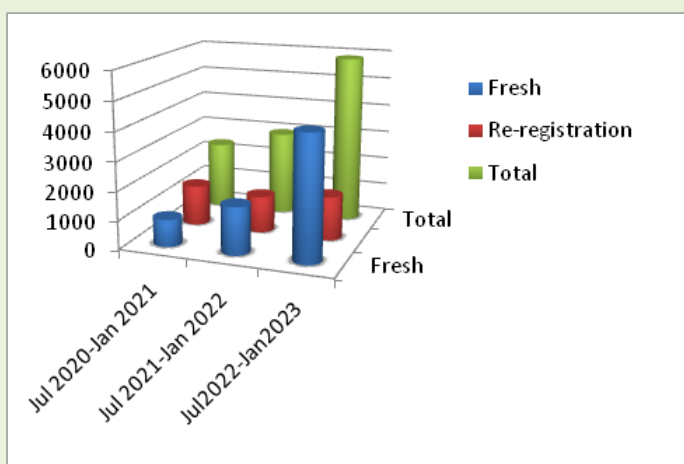
The number of programmes on offer to Overseas Study Centre increased from 55 to 154. Enrollment during the period is 5886. The number of programmes on offer to Foreign Students Residing in India (FSRI) has increased from 59 to 224 (Academic Year 2021-2022).

The University has signed an MoU with TCIL for offering 51 online programmes in 19 African Countries under the e-VidyaBharati and e-Aarogya Bharati(e-VBAB) Network Project of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India on 7th June, 2022.

The University has started offering 38 online programmes overseas. For this purpose, a scheme of Overseas Facilitator for promoting online programmes globally has been developed and 12 existing Overseas Study Centres have given their consent to become Overseas Facilitators (Academic Year 2022-2023).

During the Academic Year 2022-2023 collaboration with ICCR and Central Hindi Directorate for teaching Hindi in 9 countries in the first batch and 29 countries in the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch.

International Enrolments in last 3 Years			
Year	Jul 2020- Jan 2021	Jul 2021- Jan 2022	Jul2022- Jan2023
Fresh	943	1668	4328
Re-registration	1414	1285	1535
Total	2357	2953	5863



## ACCESS, EQUITY & INCLUSION

The University has made efforts to reach out to its learners including the socially and economically disadvantaged groups (SEDGs) through 69 Regional Centres and 2000 plus Learner Support Centres out of which some are located in inaccessible remote areas like Leh (Sub-Regional Centre); Andaman and the Nicobar Islands (Regional Centre); 12 Recognized RCs in Defence premises with 84 LSCs; 9 RCs and 194 LSCs in the North Eastern Region(NER); 340 SLSCs for disadvantaged groups including 163 IGNOU SLSCs in jails across India (Academic Year 2022-2023).

The University has initiated the process of translating IGNOU programmes into regional languages through a MoU with AICTE for utilization of AICTE's Auto Translation Tool for translating IGNOU's SLMs into 11 Regional Languages (Academic Year 2021-2022).

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

For the training of faculty, IGNOU has an exclusive institute namely the Staff Training and Research in Distance Education (STRIDE). STRIDE has been entrusted with the task of training 15 lakh Faculty Members in HEIs on NEP 2020 (December 2022). STRIDE has conducted 16 NEP-FDP for 55616 teachers of the country and 29428 have completed the programme successfully (Academic Year 2022-2023).

The UGC has approved the refresher programmes and short term professional development programmes of STRIDE-IGNOU as equivalent to UGC-HRDC for all purposes including API and CAS (March 2022).

The National Programme on NEP 2020 for administrators and general practitioners of HEIs commenced from 1st February 2023. More than 4000 registered in the programme. The programme was conducted in 4 batches, with 1869 participants successfully completing the programme.

The School of Education of the University has developed a certificate course on the professional development of teachers of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti to train 10,000 teachers as per MoU.

An MoU was signed on 24th April, 2023 between the University and Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) for promotion of Special Education and Disability Rehabilitation programmes through ODL mode. A total of 18 programmes including M.E.d Spl Ed and B.Ed. Spl.Ed in different areas; besides PG Diplomas and Certificates and Awareness training programmes. Three Schools of Studies namely: School of Education, School of Continuing Education, and School of Social Sciences have been entrusted with the process for implementation.

School of Education has been identified by NCTE for offering of ITEP programme through face to face mode from July 2023 session onwards.

## **VOCATIONAL AND SKILL-BASED EDUCATION**

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (GOI) has identified IGNOU as a partner institute for the implementation of the Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) project. IGNOU has given the opportunity to use the ITI labs for its learners for their skill development and to provide vertical mobility to the ITI learners with 10+2 qualifications into IGNOU degree programmes. ITIs, Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) etc. have been identified and 602 MSDE IGNOU extension centres have been set up in ITIs, JSS, and PMKK in 29 states to provide opportunities for higher education to the students enrolled in such institutions, without disrupting their professional training (Academic Year 2022-2023).

The University has initiated the integration of vocational education into higher education in sync with the NHEQF. The University's proposal for Dual Recognition of IGNOU as an Assessor and an awarding body for all skill-based programmes/courses with NCVET, has been approved. The Agnipath Scheme of IGNOU for offering Skill-based Bachelor Degree programmes for Defence Forces personnel has been approved by the three regulatory bodies, viz. UGC, AICTE and NCVET.

The University will offer a specially designed 120-credit skill-based Bachelor's Degree Programme for the Agniveers of Defence Forces with a provision of giving up to 50% credit to the skill education/training (both technical and non- technical) imparted to them during service. The three year degree programme will comprise 60 credits of IGNOU courses and 60 credits of NCVET approved skill components of level 4.5 and above. The degrees awarded will be BA (Applied Skills), BCOM (Applied Skills), BSC (Applied Skills), BA (Applied Skills) Tourism Management, and BA (Applied Skills) MSME (Academic Year 2023-2024).

IGNOU has signed an MoU with Dattopant Thengdi National Board of Workers for Education and Development for the skilling, upskilling, reskilling of the workers engaged in the organized and unorganized sectors of the country (2023).

Also the University has signed MoU/ MoC/ MoAs with various Ministries/Government Organizations/Industry/Skill Councils (ASCI, FICSI) for the development and delivery of programmes. IGNOU has a dedicated School of Vocational Education and Training which aims to meet the vocational and technical requirements of learners at different levels. The University through its Schools of Studies is offering Certificate/Diploma programmes in different vocational areas.

The University has taken the initiative to introduce BA (Applied Sanskrit); BA (Applied Hindi), BA (Applied Urdu) programmes of 120 credits each, consisting of 90 credits knowledge based courses and 30 credits skill based courses or NSDC skill-based courses/ internship/ apprenticeship (Academic 2023-2024).

## **RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

The University undertakes both discipline-based and systemic research in collaboration with ICSSR, UGC, DST etc. focusing on emerging societal issues. In its IDP, the University envisages promoting strong research culture. National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE) is nurturing the learners to develop a prototype on clean/alternate energy, waste management, health care, smart transportation etc.

NCIDE organizes weekly one-hour Facebook Live Session on Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Startup for IGNOU students and faculty. 49 weekly sessions have been conducted. The facilities of Innovation Club, Institution Innovation Council, IdeaBank@IGNOU, Ideas to Startup Scheme, Student Empowerment for Entrepreneurial Development (SEED), etc are available for IGNOU learners (Academic Year 2021-2022 onwards).

An edited book has been published in 2021 titled: Innovations in Open and Distance Learning for Quality Education.

In 2023 the University figures in the NIRF Innovation Ranking 2023 among the top ten centrally funded institutions, with an overall rank in the band 151-300 among the HEIs.

IGNOU has been ranked first under the category CFIs (Non- Technical) for Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIA) (December 2021).

The University has been ranked with the Four Star rating as one of the top performers in the field of Innovation and Start-ups by Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell for the year 2020-21.

IGNOU has been awarded Five Star rating for Innovation and Start-ups by Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell for the year 2019-2020 (October 2020).

## **PROMOTION OF INDIAN LANGUAGES, ARTS AND CULTURE (INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM)**

IGNOU has launched academic programmes for promoting the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) such as MA (Jyotish; Folklore and Cultural Studies; Vedic Studies; Sanskrit; Hindi; Urdu; Drawing and Painting), Diplomas/ Certificates (Tribal Studies; Yoga; Theatre Arts; Hindustani Music; Karnatak Music; Bharatanatyam; and Folklore and Cultural Studies) and Stand-alone courses (Kashmiri, Nepali and Meitei Lon). Indian language courses in Hindi, Sanskrit, English, Urdu, Malayalam, Gujarati, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Bhojpuri, Kashmiri, Nepali and Meitei Lon (Manipuri) are available to UG students. Centre for Modern Indian Languages promotes Indian Languages through different activities (webinars, books, journals, translation of SLMs etc.). A Sindhi Chair in collaboration with the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCP SL) has been established for study and research in Sindhi Language and Culture. Employment-orientated programmes are offered in regional languages in addition to English and Hindi such as Certificate in Food and Nutrition (Assamese, Punjabi, Gujarati, Marathi, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu and Urdu); Diploma in Early Childhood Education (Tamil); Diploma in Dairy Technology (Telugu); Certificate in Poultry Farming (Mizo and Telugu); Saral Sanskrit Bodh course - ODL and online (Hindi, Sanskrit, English) (Academic Year 2021-2022 onwards).

A Centre for Modern Indian Languages has been established for promoting Indian Languages. The University has launched Stand-alone courses in Kashmiri, Nepali and Meitei Lon (Manipuri) to promote Indian languages, arts and culture. Programmes in foreign languages viz. French, Spanish, Arabic, Persian, Russian, German, Japanese, Korean, and Mandarin, are also on offer. Indian language courses in Hindi, Sanskrit, English, Urdu, Malayalam, Gujarati, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Bhojpuri, Kashmiri, Nepali and Meitei Lon (Manipuri) are available to UG students (Academic Year 2021-2022 onwards).

A committee has been constituted to enhance interaction and promote mutual understanding between people of different States/ UTs for the promotion of Indian culture and tradition: "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" programme (January 2022). A course has been conceived on the Idea of Bharat for UG learners (2023).

Recently MA in Journalism and Mass Communication has been introduced in the Tamil language (Academic Year 2022-2023) and Master of Arts (Bhagavadgita Studies) in the academic year 2024-25. Efforts are



being made for the introduction of MA (Sindhi Studies) in order to preserve its heritage and culture.

The majority of IGNOU's Programmes are offered in English and Hindi. Learners are allowed to write their examinations in Hindi and regional languages. Online Live classes are conducted in 13 Indian languages (Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu) on SWAYAM PRABHA Channels (Academic Year: 2021-2022: from January 2022 onwards). The programmes offered on Indian ancient traditional knowledge

### Degree Programmes:

- (Academic Year: 2020-2021 onwards): MA (Sanskrit); MA (Folklore and Cultural Studies)
- (Academic Year: 2021-2022 onwards): MA (Jyotish); MA (Drawing and Painting); BA (Hons.) (Performing Arts - Hindustani Music); BA (Hons.) (Sanskrit)
- (Academic Year: 2022-2023 onwards) : MA (Vedic Studies); MA (Hindi Vyavsayik Lekhan)
- Academic Year: 2023-2024 onwards): MA (Hindu Studies)

**PG Diplomas:** Vastu Shastra; Sanskrit Sahitya mein Vigyan

**Diplomas/ Certificates** Programmes are offered in Bharatiya Ka Ganana; Tribal Studies; Theatre Arts; Hindustani Music; Karnatak Music; Bharatnatyam; Folklore and Cultural Studies ; and Yoga.

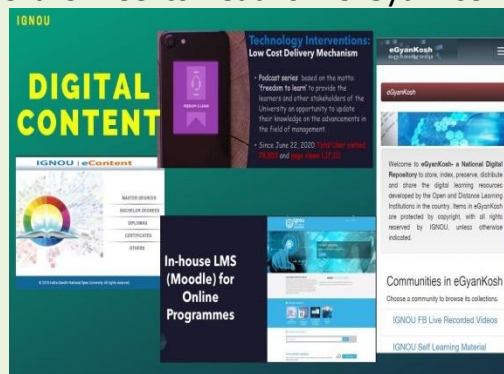
Kal Ganana Panchang has been developed by the School of Humanities.

## ONLINE AND DIGITAL EDUCATION

### Digitization of Study Materials

The University has digitized the Self Learning Materials (SLMs) of all the programmes which are available to the learners on its web based repository: e-Gyankosh, which has more than 15 million users. The learning resources are free to read on e-Gyankosh. This repository provides access to 45000 SLMs of more than 371 ODL programmes (including archived programmes) offered by IGNOU. eGyankosh also hosts videos, archived Facebook live sessions and SWAYAM course content. A provision of 15% fee refund is provided to the learners opting for the digital SLMs in place of the printed SLMs.

SLM in digital format is also available to the learners through the IGNOU e-Content App available on the Google Play store. More than 10 lakh users have installed the App.



## **Online programmes and MOOCs**

IGNOU is presently offering 44 online programmes are offered through the dedicated IGNOU-Learning Management System (LMS). These online programmes are designed following the four quadrant approach (Academic Year 2023-2024).

IGNOU is the National Coordinator of SWAYAM and is currently offering 221 massive open online courses (MOOCs) in different disciplines on the SWAYAM platform (Academic Year 2023-2024). IGNOU MOOCs have been adopted by other higher education institutions like IIM Bangalore, University of Hyderabad, Pondicherry University, Tezpur University, and many other public and private universities in the country for credit transfer. To be precise total 126 courses have been adopted by other institutions. Translation of IGNOU MOOCs into 8 regional languages has also been initiated by the University (Academic Year 2021-2022 onwards).

## **Audio-video digitized content**

There are 4711 audio and 6007 video programmes of various disciplines and subjects available on YouTube (e-Gyankosh) for the convenient viewing of learners and the public at large. Also, IGNOU has its own dedicated GyanDarshan education TV Channel which telecasts educational programmes and conducts live teleconferencing sessions. GyanDarshan conducts two hours of live sessions every day in interactive mode to build interactivity in the teaching-learning process. There is a dedicated FM radio channel GyanVani which broadcast programmes for 12 hours a day. Interactive Radio Counselling (IRC) facilities are provided through GyanVani stations to enable students (across the country/overseas) to interact with the Faculty, Academic counsellors and Student Support Staff. GyanDhara, an web-based counselling service is offered by IGNOU to internet users across the globe. Learners can interact with the teachers and experts through telephone, email and chat mode.

IGNOU is one of the national coordinators for SWAYAMPURABHA, and is running four channels. From January 2022 live classes of popular BA courses in 13 regional languages are being conducted on SWAYAMPURABHA channels with the help of IGNOU Regional Centres. (Academic Year 2022-2023 onwards).

IGNOU has launched a podcast series based on the motto: "freedom to learn". 23 audio lectures by eminent scholars, industrialists and policymakers on various themes have been posted on it. A total of 1.75 lakh users' visits have been recorded.

The University has taken the initiative to offer its courses through audio books apart from the SLMs starting with Management courses uploaded on e-Gyankosh.

## **Web-based support**

A web-based facility, Web-Enabled Academic Support (WEAS) Portal has been created by the University with the aim to provide an interactive one-stop programme portal for IGNOU learners. At present WEAS interface has been created in 45 courses/35 programmes.

The Library of IGNOU has got the core membership of the Shodhganga Consortium through which access is provided to an estimated 7,900 e-journals and 1711 e-books through 9 databases.

The University has also collaborated with the National Digital Library, a project of MOE, which creates a knowledge base for learners belonging to all areas and ages to access digitized education content on a common platform.

### **Digital Degrees**

The process of digitalization of Academic Certificate and Digital distribution of Degree/Diploma /Certificate has been initiated. With the assistance of IIT Kanpur, the University awarded digital degrees and certificates based on Blockchain for the first time alongside traditional certificates and degrees to students who enrolled for the 35th Convocation. The digital degrees were digitally signed, unchangeable, globally verifiable, and accessible through the learners' own wallets.

In the 36th Convocation held in April 2023, more than 60,000 graduating learners, registered in the previous Convocation and more than 2 lakh learners were awarded Blockchain-based digital degrees.

The Student Evaluation Division has sent the data of total 31,78,289 Certificates of all the learners of Master & Bachelor Degree Programmes; Certificate Programmes; Diploma Programmes; PhD and MPhil Degree Programmes; awarded from 20th Convocation to 35th Convocation for uploading on the Govt. Digilocker: NAD (National Academic Depository)(Academic Year 2021-2022).

### **Use of Social Media**

Social Media official channels of the University, namely: Facebook (@OfficialPageIGNOU) with 368000 followers and 215000 likes; 170000 on Twitter (@OfficialIGNOU), and 280000 on Instagram (@Officialpageignou) respectively are also maintained and populated with relevant content (related to events, live coverage of events, student's related information, Live Lecture Sessions by IGNOU Faculty, etc.) for dissemination to larger audience.

The Twitter Handle of the University (@OfficialIGNOU) is on top in terms of followers vis-à-vis the other Central Universities. The University organizes live counseling and academic sessions on cloud-based platforms like Google Meet, Zoom, Facebook Live, etc.

### **Automation of Question Papers, Printing & Delivery**

The University has developed an in-house application for the Automation of Question Paper Bank, Printing, and Delivery of Question Papers (QPs) at the IGNOU Examination Centres.

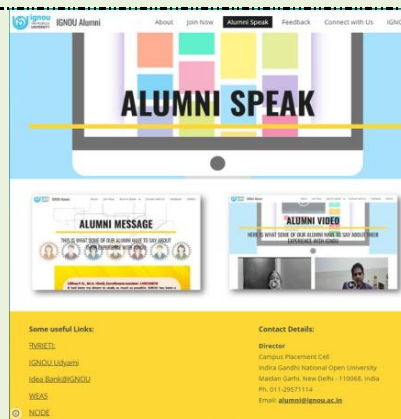
### **Online Evaluation Processes**

The University is conducting Online Practical exams. Online Assignment Monitoring System (OAMS) has been expedited for all the programmes. Viva-voce in the project/

dissertation courses of ODL programmes; pre-submission, credit seminar and viva-voce in research degree programmes are being conducted through online mode.

### Online Alumni Portal

The University has created an online Alumni portal which has more than 52000 active passed-out learners who are involved in Regional Alumni Meets held every Sunday (Academic Year 2021-2022 onwards).



## INTRODUCTION OF PG DIPLOMA IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

The School of Social Sciences is developing a PG Diploma in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management as per the UGC directive to all HEIs in order to make the nation more safer and resilient to disaster by 2030. The model curriculum has been developed by the National Institute of Disaster Management as per NEP 2020, to which IGNOU faculty has also contributed (September, 2022; PB 50.11.1).

\*\*\*\*\*