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# प्रगति पथ

विश्वविद्यालय समाचार

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## SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY AND TRANS-DISCIPLINARY STUDIES



The **School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (SOITS)** was established in **2009** to develop academic programmes and courses that address the complex dynamics of multifaceted social issues and processes. SOITS operates with a powerful mandate: to foster 'borderless knowledge'. The School functions as an enabling space for interdisciplinary academic studies and research, drawing upon theoretical, empirical, and methodological resources across disciplinary boundaries. The School promotes interactive academic coexistence among scholars with diverse specializations, facilitating the convergence of disciplines and the mutual exchange of holistic wisdom.

The discipline of Environmental Studies was formally integrated into the School in 2016. Since then, the School has housed two disciplines: Interdisciplinary Studies and Environmental Sciences. The programmes offered by the School are in the areas of Environmental Studies, Philosophy, Folklore and Culture, Sustainability Science, and Diaspora Studies. This comprehensive structure supports a complete Academic Progression Framework, allowing learners to advance from Certificate and Appreciation Programmes to Doctoral Research.

# Vision and Mission

**VISION**

Foster an enabling space for interdisciplinary academic studies and research by drawing on theoretical, empirical and methodological resources across disciplinary boundaries.

**MISSION**

Develop programmes addressing complex social issues; strengthen research and extension; and facilitate issue-based knowledge production through interaction with communities.

## Disciplines & Faculty Members

**Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies**

- Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur
- Prof. Shubhangi Vaidya
- Prof. Sadananda Sahoo
- Dr. Veeramalla Sreesailam, Assistant Professor
- Dr. Abhishek Mishra, Assistant Professor

**Environmental Studies**

- Prof. Boyina Rupini
- Prof. Shachi Shah
- Dr. Sushmitha Baskar, Associate Professor
- Dr. Y.S.C. Khuman, Associate Professor
- Dr. V. Venkat Ramanan, Associate Professor
- Dr. Deeksha Dave, Associate Professor



*A glimpse post School Board meeting at SOITS.*

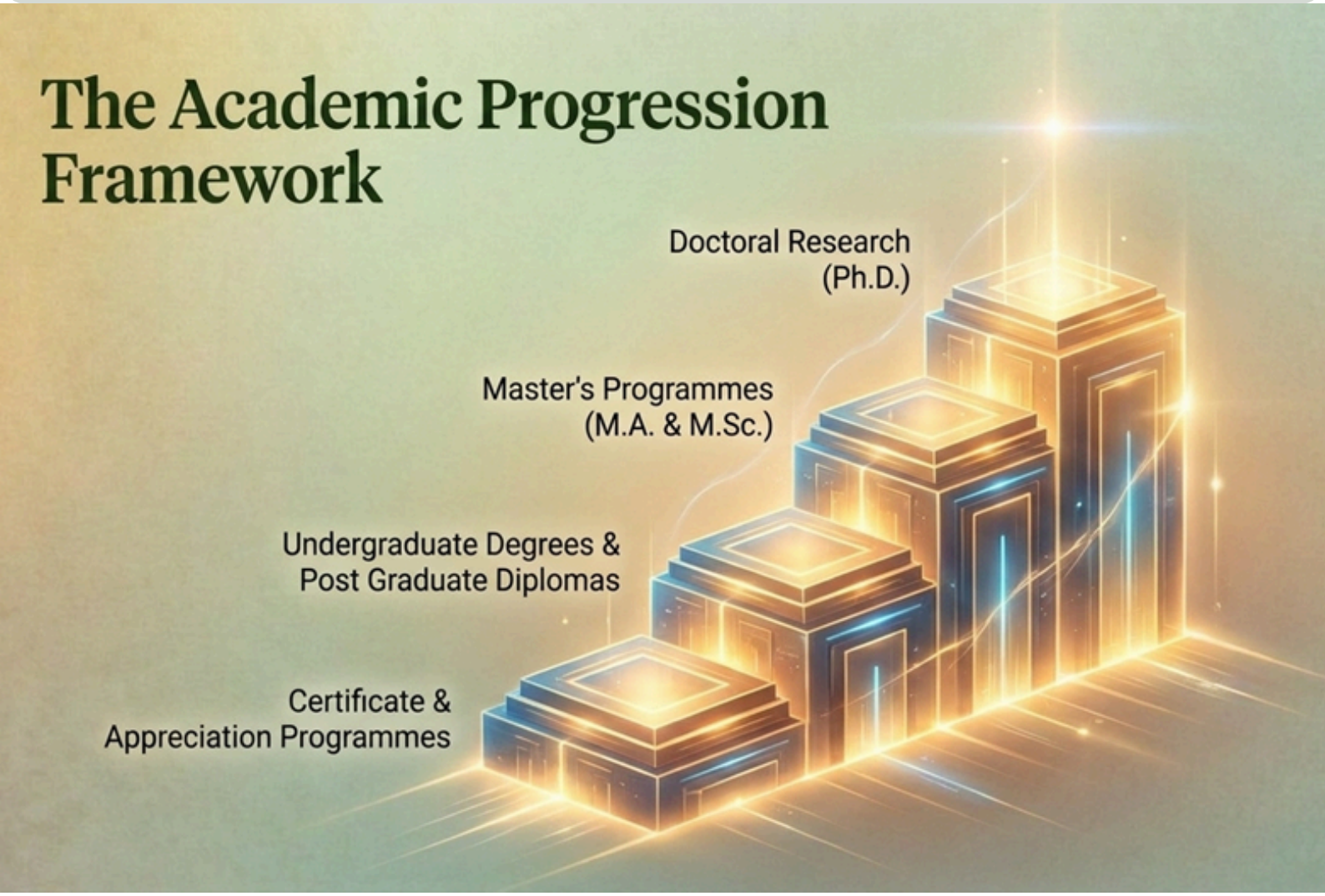
The School comprises 11 faculty members in the disciplines of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies, and Environmental Studies. The School is supported by staff members **Shri Rajesh Mehto** and **Ms. Sonali.** The School regularly convenes School Board meetings to discuss academic matters and review its activities and initiatives.

# Academic Progression Framework






The School's Academic Progression Framework focuses on how concepts, learning outcomes, and research architectures evolve from foundational building blocks to higher-order, complex integration. These concepts apply across academic domains, including Curriculum and Cognitive Progression and Research Design Progression.



# Programmes Offered by the School

In terms of scale and impact, SOITS currently offers a robust portfolio of **53 Academic Programmes** across all categories. At the apex of its framework, SOITS runs **2 Doctoral Programmes.** Furthermore, the School currently offers **9 Master's Degree Programmes** in specialized areas such as Climate Change, Sustainability Science, and Migration, alongside **2 Undergraduate Degrees** and **9 Postgraduate Diplomas.** Recognizing the shift toward digital learning, the School has aggressively expanded alternative pathways, offering **4 fully online programmes, 2 NCVET-approved courses,** an independent FYUP course, and a vast portfolio of **18 MOOCs**, as well as **3 SWAYAM Prabha** courses.

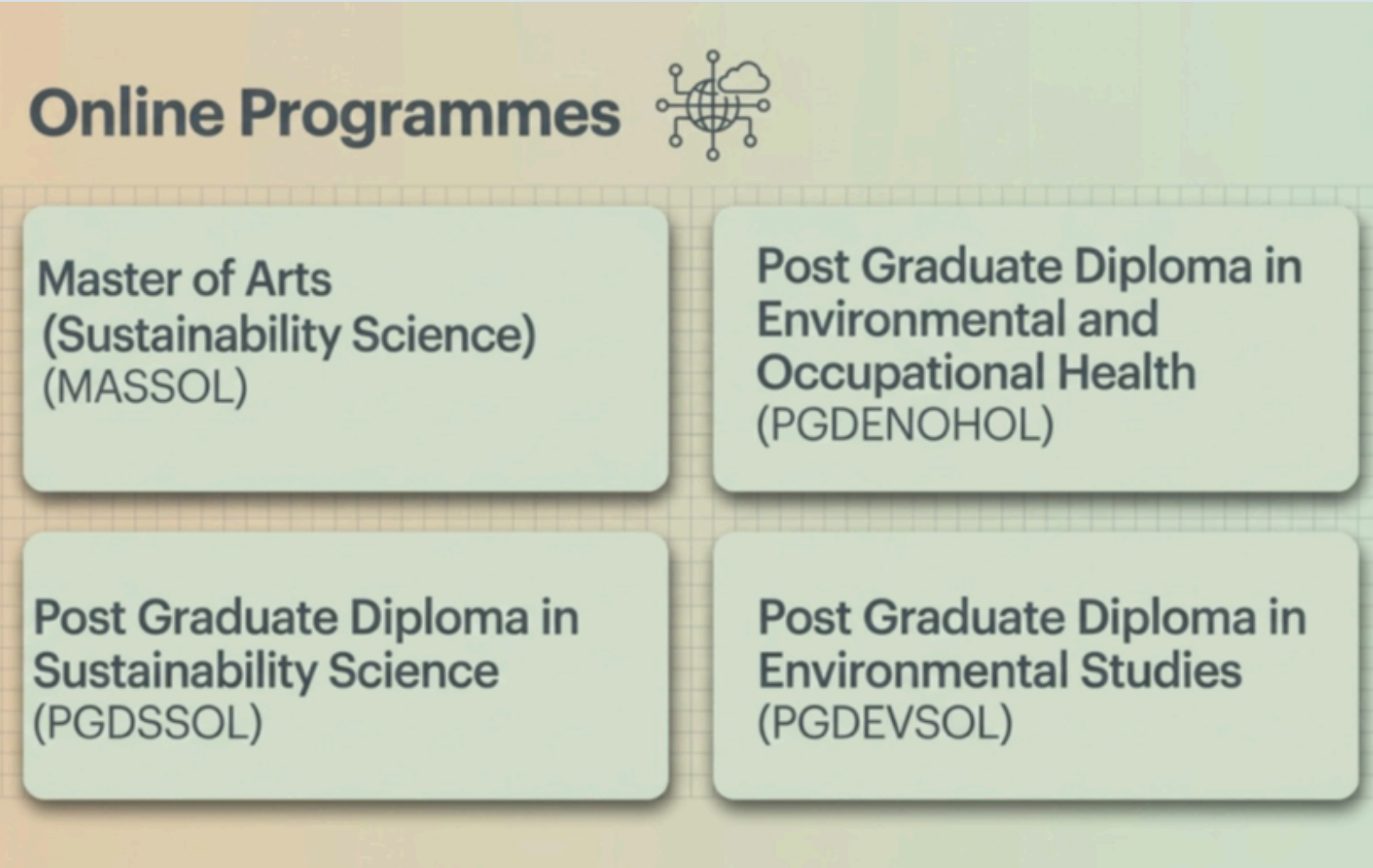



The School continues to expand and strengthen its academic offerings to address emerging educational needs and global challenges. Over the past two years, it has introduced six new programmes. Its portfolio includes nine master's degree programmes: M.Sc. Environmental Science, M.A. Environmental Studies, M.A. Environmental and Occupational Health, M.Sc. Climate Change, M.A. Sustainability Science, M.A. Philosophy, M.A. Migration and Diaspora, M.A. Folklore and Culture Studies, and M.A. Human Values and Ethics. The School also offers nine postgraduate diploma programmes in Environmental and Occupational Health, Environmental Management and Law, Environmental Studies, Waste Management, Climate Change, Migration and Diaspora, Folklore and Culture Studies, and Human Values and Ethics.

# Programmes Offered by the School

The School offers two undergraduate programmes, namely B.A. Philosophy and B.A. (General) Philosophy. In addition, it offers certificate programmes in Climate Change, Solid Waste Management, and Population and Sustainable Development. The School also offers four online programmes in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science.

These academic offerings are supported by rigorous academic governance, as reflected in nine recent School Board meetings and two Expert Committee meetings, alongside significant scholarly contributions from the faculty.




A new initiative undertaken by the School offers **NCVET-approved** courses pertaining to Plastic Waste Management and Environmental Ethics. The School also offers a standalone interdisciplinary course on Disability, Society and Culture, drawing on Disability Studies, Sociology, Cultural Studies, and Social Work.

# Programmes Offered by the School

## MOOCs

The School offers **18** Massive Open Online Courses in several areas, including Environmental Health, Biodiversity, Sustainable Development, Waste Management, Applied Ethics, Biotechnology, Environmental Toxicology, Environmental Impact Assessment, and Indian Knowledge Systems.

### MOOCs offered by the School

- **Sustainable Management of Biodiversity**
- MSD-011: **Sustainability Science**
- MSD-012: **Ecosystem and Natural Resources**
- MSD-016: **Strategies and Models for Sustainability**
- MSD 017 : **Challenges to Sustainable Development**
- MSD 019: **Global Strategies to Sustainable Development**
- MEV-002: **Environmental and Occupational Hazards**
- MEVE-001: **Environmental Impact Assessment for Environmental Health**
- **Ethics: Theories and Applications**
- BPYI-101: **Applied Ethics**
- MEVE-013: **Environmental Biotechnology**
- MEVE 019 **Environmental Issues**
- **Introduction to Indian Knowledge System**
- MGPE-015 **Introduction to Research Methods**
- MEV 021 **Introduction to Climate Change**
- MEVE-004: **Industrial Sector**
- MEV-004: **Environmental Toxicology**
- MEV-051: **Overview of Waste Management**

## SWAYAM PRABHA COURSES

### SWAYAMPRABHA COURSES

| MDI-001 | MDI-002 | MEV 051 |
|---|---|---|
| Migration and Diaspora: Theory and Methodology | Transnationalism, Diaspora and Citizenship | Overview of Waste Management |

# Research Publications



During the reporting period (2024–2026), faculty members published **10 books, 29 book chapters,** and **65 research papers,** wrote **72 IGNOU units,** and edited **141 IGNOU units.** They also submitted major research projects and participated in funded research projects with the **Indian Council of Social Science Research** (ICSSR).

Their research and supervision cover Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies, encompassing Sociology, Philosophy, Ancient History, Human Values and Ethics, and Disability Studies; and Environmental Science, encompassing Green Chemistry, Geomicrobiology, Bioremediation, Climate Change, Ethnobotanical Studies, Waste Management, and Sustainability Science. Faculty members have also published key texts on sustainable health and environmental innovations.

## Books Published by the Faculty in the last two years



# Conferences and Seminars







SOITS regularly hosts national and international seminars, conferences, and workshops focused on cross-cutting themes, interdisciplinary dialogue, and knowledge-sharing across various fields. These events bring together researchers, academicians, and policymakers to bridge disciplines and address complex social, environmental, and cultural challenges through shared research and extension activities. The discussions and findings from interdisciplinary conferences expose faculty members to emerging research, enabling them to regularly update course content and study materials. Direct interactions with field experts also help the School identify emerging industry requirements and develop programmes that address evolving professional and employment needs.


















# Activities, Meetings, and Events Organized









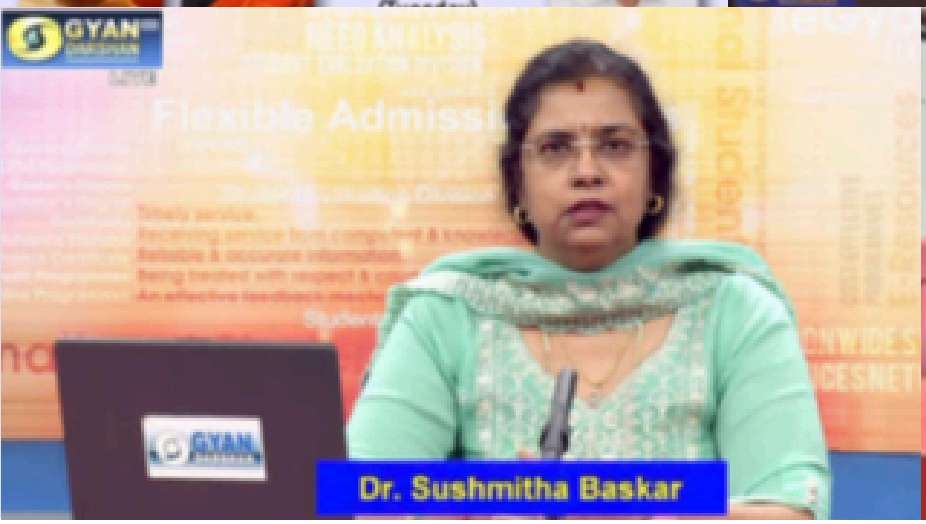
# Student Support Through Various Media

All SOITS faculty members are involved in student support, which is delivered through a multichannel media ecosystem, including:

- Broadcast Media (Radio and TV): Interactive radio counselling sessions via **Gyan Vani** (FM stations) and educational television broadcasts through **Gyan Darshan** channels and Swayam Prabha DTH networks.
- Digital and Web-Based Media: Online learning portals such as **eGyanKosh** (a digital repository of self-learning materials), the SWAYAM platform for MOOCs, and mobile applications for course access.
- Audio-Visual Resources: Prerecorded lectures, video tutorials, podcasts, and webcasts available on official YouTube channels or web portals.
- Teleconferencing and Virtual Classrooms: Live web conferencing, web-based interactive sessions, and virtual counselling classes that bridge the gap between instructors and distance learners.
- Print and Electronic Self-Learning Materials (SLM): Digital study materials (e-books/PDFs) alongside traditional printed course modules.
- Communication and Support Portals: Web portals for student queries, automated SMS updates, email support, and dedicated grievance redressal systems such as IGNOU's iGRAM.





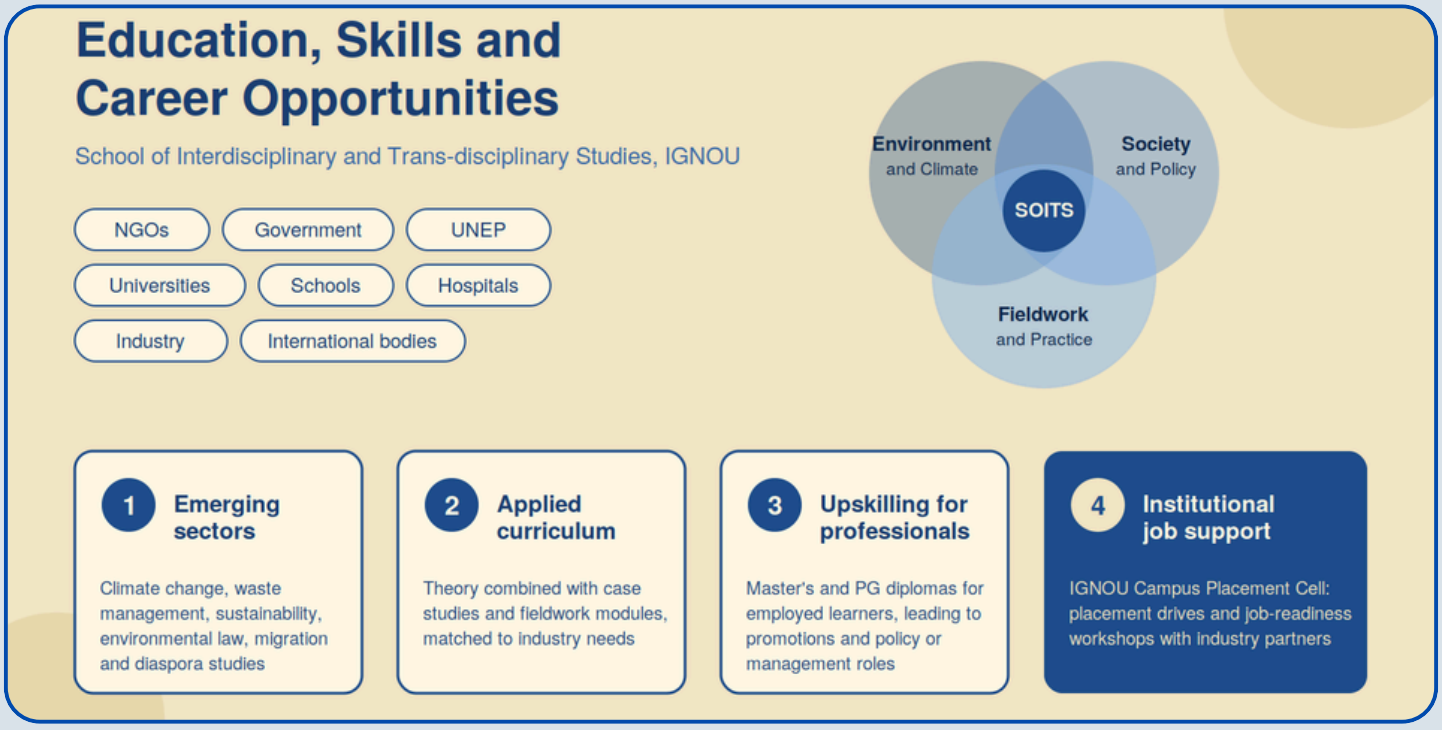






# Education, Skills, and Career Opportunities

The link between education and employment at the School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (SOITS) at IGNOU revolves around equipping learners with practical, cross-domain skills for emerging job sectors. Learners work in non-governmental organizations, government sectors, international organizations, universities, colleges, schools, hospitals, industries, UNEP, and other prominent organizations. Addressing modern and emerging sectors, SOITS' programmes focus on high-demand fields such as Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, Climate Change, Sustainability, Waste Management, Environmental Law and Management, and Migration and Diaspora Studies. These disciplines prepare graduates for specialized roles in sustainability management, environmental consulting, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), NGOs, and policy research institutes.

- Skill-Oriented and Applied Curricula: By integrating theoretical knowledge with practical case studies and fieldwork modules, SOITS aligns its courses with industry needs, equipping learners to transition directly into practice.
- Upskilling for Working Professionals: Many learners in SOITS programmes are already employed. Upgrading their qualifications through specialized master's programmes or postgraduate diplomas opens pathways for career advancement, promotions, or transitions into higher-level policy and management roles.
- Interdisciplinary Advantage: Modern employers increasingly seek professionals who can work across traditional boundaries, such as those combining environmental science with social policy. SOITS's interdisciplinary focus gives graduates a competitive edge in public administration, development agencies, and global research organizations.
- Institutional Job Support: SOITS learners benefit from IGNOU's Campus Placement Cell (CPC), which organizes placement drives and job-readiness workshops in collaboration with industry partners.



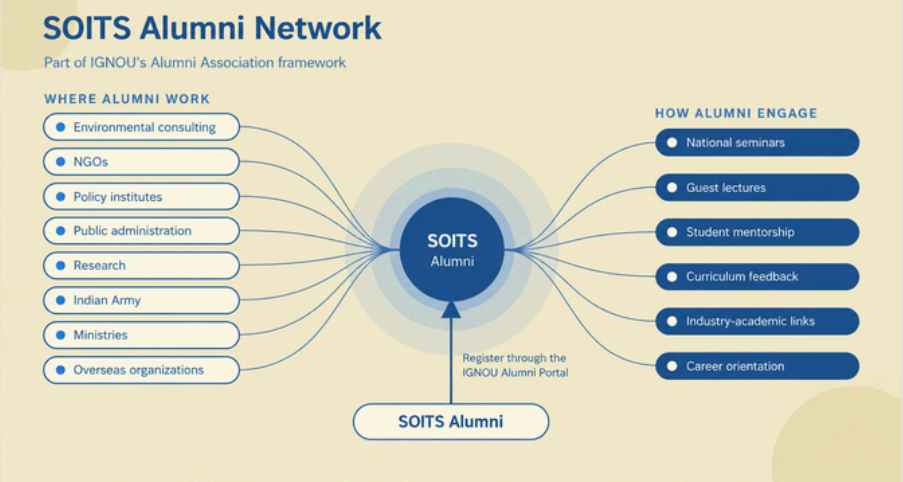
# SOITS Alumni Network

The Alumni Network of the School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (SOITS) is part of IGNOU's Alumni Association framework. Graduates from SOITS programmes, such as Environmental Studies, Sustainability Science, and Migration and Diaspora Studies, register through the main IGNOU Alumni Portal and work across various professional sectors, including environmental consulting, NGOs, policy institutes, public administration, and research.

Alumni interact with the School by participating in national seminars, guest lectures, and student mentorship programmes hosted by SOITS. Networking opportunities across different industries and institutional involvement enable alumni to contribute to curriculum feedback, industry-academic links, and career orientation.



***Lt. General (Dr.) Pradeep C. Nair is an alumnus of IGNOU's School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (SOITS) and currently serves as the Vice-Chancellor of St. Mary's Rehabilitation University (SMRU).***




***IGNOU-SOITS alumni are employed in several leading organizations, including the Indian Army, ministries, and overseas organizations. The School has a strong alumni network, and its alumni actively participate in the School's activities.***

# Learning Through Practice

The School's programmes are interdisciplinary and offer practical experience through fieldwork, internships, and project work to enhance employability. This approach directly supports the mandates of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020,** which emphasize multidisciplinary study, flexible and skill-based learning, industry engagement, and real-world exposure.

## Best School Award




*SOITS Receives the Best School Award on 19 November 2022*

The School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (SOITS) received the **Best School Award** at **IGNOU's 37th Foundation Day** on 19 November 2022 for its pioneering contributions to interdisciplinary research, curriculum development, and national seminars and conferences.

# Way Forward

- Curriculum revision, identification of new micro-credential courses, and expansion of digital learning content.
- Promote collaborative research projects.
- Enhanced research collaborations, AI-enabled learner support pilots.
- Develop a structured outreach and publicity strategy for the programmes through Regional Centres, social media, alumni networks, professional associations, and relevant government and industry organisations.
- Organise workshops, national and international conferences, and seminars on emerging interdisciplinary themes.
- Develop more MOOCs on SWAYAM and educational content for SWAYAM Prabha.

Going forward, SOITS aims to revise its programmes in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, introduce new micro-credential courses, and expand digital learning content, including MOOCs on SWAYAM and educational content for Swayam Prabha. The School also plans to strengthen collaborative research, explore AI-enabled learner support initiatives, and organize workshops, seminars, and national and international conferences on emerging interdisciplinary themes. In addition, it seeks to expand outreach and publicize its programmes through Regional Centres, social media, alumni networks, professional associations, and relevant government and industry organizations.

