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17 November 2026 / HQs & RCs

IG/PIU/DigiNews/Nov/2173

SOJNMS

IGNOU Marks National Press Day with Focus on Responsible Journalism and Media Credibility



The **Indira Gandhi National Open University** (IGNOU) organised a symposium to mark **National Press Day** on November 17, 2026, at the Conference Room, Vice-Chancellor's Office, IGNOU, New Delhi. The event was chaired by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU, **Prof. Uma Kanjilal.** The distinguished lecture centered on the theme 'Truth, Trust and Technology: Rebuilding Credibility in India' and was delivered by **Dr. Pragya Paliwal Gaur,** Vice-Chancellor, **Indian Institute of Mass Communication** (IIMC).

Delivering the welcome address, **Prof. Shikha Rai,** Director, School of Journalism and New Media Studies (SOJNMS), highlighted the growing crisis of truth and trust in the media landscape. She emphasized that reach, speed and technological advancement cannot replace

SOJNMS



Highlighting the achievements and distinctive strengths of IGNOU's School of Journalism and New Media Studies, **Prof. K. S. Arul Selvan** spoke about its affordable and flexible academic programmes, high-quality self-learning materials and courses designed to address emerging media technologies.

In her keynote address, Dr. Pragya Paliwal Gaur reflected on the rich legacy and significant contribution of Indian media to nation-building, public awareness and social development. She emphasized the need for transparent assessment of media freedom, responsible reporting and a careful balance between the public's right to information and considerations of national security and social sensitivities.

Dr. Gaur stressed that accuracy must take precedence over speed, noting that public trust is built through fairness, verification and adherence to professional ethics. She also underscored the importance of grassroots journalism and continuous professional training for media practitioners. Addressing the growing influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in journalism, she advocated its use as an enabling tool rather than a substitute for human creativity, writing skills and journalistic judgment. She reaffirmed that truth, credibility and public responsibility must remain the cornerstones of journalism in the evolving digital media

SOJNMS



Following the keynote address, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU, **Prof. Uma Kanjilal,** commended the School of Journalism and New Media Studies for its contributions to the field of Media and Information Literacy. She also suggested the development of short-term nano programmes alongside conventional diploma courses to make learning opportunities more accessible to wider sections of society.



The symposium witnessed participation from professors and researchers representing various academic faculties. Officials and students from IGNOU's Regional Centres also joined the programme through online participation, making the event accessible to a wider academic community. The programme



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SOFL

IGNOU and Financial University, Russia, Launch Three Short-Term Courses on Doing Business in Russia and Russian Language



Under the leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, **Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Indira Gandhi National Open University** (IGNOU) inaugurated three short-term courses in collaboration with the **Financial University, Russia,** on 16 November 2026. These include **'Doing Business in Russia',** with 200 seats offered free of cost, and two Russian Language Courses – 'Elementarno 1' and 'Elementarno 2'. The inauguration ceremony was held in hybrid mode, with participants attending at IGNOU and representatives of the Financial University joining virtually. The initiative marks a step towards strengthening international academic collaboration and expanding learning opportunities for IGNOU faculty, learners, alumni and associates.

Dr. Shivaji Bhaskar, Programme Coordinator, introduced the programme and provided an overview of the three courses and the objectives of the collaboration.

The programme commenced with opening remarks from **Prof. Mohammad Saleem,** Director, School of Foreign Languages (SOFL), IGNOU. He described the initiative as an important milestone for the School and highlighted the University's efforts to diversify its language offerings and establish academic collaborations with international institutions. He emphasized the importance of language learning in fostering cross-cultural understanding

SOFL



Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, Director, National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE), IGNOU, highlighted the enthusiasm among learners and budding entrepreneurs for the initiative. She noted that the courses would help participants develop a better understanding of the Russian business environment and explore opportunities for academic and entrepreneurial engagement.

In her presidential address, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, **Prof. Uma Kanjilal,** described the initiative as an important step in translating the **Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) signed between the two universities in 2023 into concrete academic opportunities. She highlighted the institutional efforts involved in taking the collaboration forward and noted that 200 participants had been identified from IGNOU's extensive learner base for the initiative. She also emphasized the relevance of the courses for budding entrepreneurs and learners seeking international exposure. Expressing the possibility of expanding the collaboration, she proposed exploring future initiatives such as micro-credential programmes and



SOFL



Representatives of the Financial University, including **Mrs. Elena Didenko,** Vice-Rector, **Mrs. Alla Filyushkina,** Director, Centre for International Educational Programmes, Higher School of Management and Technology, and **Ms. Malvina,** Deputy Dean, welcomed the collaboration and highlighted its potential to strengthen educational ties between the two institutions. They underscored the practical relevance of the courses and their role in developing participants' understanding of business practices and the Russian language.

From IGNOU, the Director, Academic Coordination Division (ACD), **Dr. Dev Kant Rao;** Director, Planning and Development Division (P&DD), **Prof. V. V. Subramanyam;** Registrar, Student Registration Division (SRD), **Dr. G. Mythili; Prof. Deepanwita Srivastava;** and all faculty members and consultants joined the Inauguration Ceremony at the Vice-Chancellor's Office (VCO), IGNOU. The participants included **Mr. Parvez Imam,** MA Russian learner and entrepreneur; **Mr. Sumit Nehra,** Russian Language learner and Customs Officer; and **Dr. Bhawna,** IGNOU learner and entrepreneur.

The three participants shared their expectations from the courses. They highlighted the opportunity to understand the Russian business environment and explore practical entrepreneurial prospects, and expressed interest in learning about Russian culture, traditions and customs. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Shivaji Bhaskar, who expressed optimism about developing more short-term and jointly designed courses through

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RC Chennai

IGNOU Regional Centre Chennai Observes National Press Day 2026





IGNOU Regional Centre Chennai observed **National Press Day 2026** on 16 November 2026, commemorating the establishment of the Press Council of India, which began functioning on this day in 1966.

The staff virtually attended the keynote address by **Dr. Pragya Paliwal Gaur,** Vice Chancellor, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, on the theme 'Truth, Trust and Technology: Rebuilding Credibility in Indian Media'. A summary of the address was also shared with the staff in Tamil.

Dr. J S Dorothy, Senior Regional Director, highlighted the National Press Day 2026 theme, 'Journalism: Populist or Responsible', and discussed the growing relevance of print, broadcast, digital and photojournalism in the teaching-learning process, particularly after the

RC Chennai



She also traced the evolution of journalism education in India, from the early formal courses introduced by Dr. Annie Besant in 1920 and subsequent programmes at Aligarh Muslim University and the University of Panjab to the introduction of journalism programmes at IGNOU and the establishment of its Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC) in 1987. She also referred to the Indian Institute of Mass Communication's transition to a deemed-to-be university in 2024.

Dr. S K Zareena, Assistant Regional Director, outlined the history of National Press Day and the role of the press in Indian democracy. **Dr. Premila Swamy D,** Regional Director, highlighted journalistic ethics, the importance of regional languages, and the digital

RC Lucknow

IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow Organizes Learners' Grievance Redressal Meet



IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow organized a **Learners' Grievance Redressal Meet** on 16 November 2026 at the Regional Centre premises to address the academic and administrative concerns of learners.

Dr. Reena Kumari and **Dr. Anamika Sinha,** Regional Directors, along with **Ms. Beena Yadav**, Assistant, **Mr. Ravindra Pratap** and **Ms. Rajshree Verma,** Senior Personal Assistants (SPAs), **Ms. Roshni Kumari,** Personal Secretary, **Mr. Manoj Kumar,** Personal Assistant, and **Mr. Brijesh Yadav,** Assistant Section Officer, guided the learners and addressed their queries.

The meet was coordinated by **Dr. Jai Prakash Verma,** Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow. Learners participated in the interaction, shared their concerns, and sought clarification on various issues.





RC Aligarh

IGNOU Regional Centre Aligarh Conducts Online Induction Meeting for July 2026 Session



IGNOU Regional Centre Aligarh conducted an **Online Induction Meeting** for learners of IGNOU Study Centre 27100, P.C. Bagla College, Hathras, on 16 November 2026. **Dr. Ajay Vardhan Acharya,** Regional Director and Head, IGNOU Regional Centre Aligarh, served as the resource person.

During the session, Dr. Acharya explained the various learner support services, including the **Online Assignment Management System** (OAMS), **Online Project Management System** (OPMS), assignment and project submission procedures, examination-related information, digital counseling resources, academic counseling and access to study materials. He also familiarized learners with the IGNOU e-Content App, e-Gyankosh and EMPC YouTube services, highlighting the digital resources available to support their academic journey.

RC Lucknow

IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow Conducts Viva-Voce Examination for BLIS and MLIS Learners



IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow conducted the **Viva-Voce Examination** for the Internship Alternative Literature Survey Report of Bachelor of Library and Information Science **(BLIS)** and Master of Library and Information Science **(MLIS)** programmes for courses BLII-230 and MLII-105, respectively, on 16 November 2026 through Google Meet.

Prof. Archana Mishra, School of Library and Information Science, IGNOU, New Delhi, was invited as the external examiner. **Dr Anil Kumar Misra,** Senior Regional Director and Head, **Dr Reena Kumar,** Regional Director, **Dr Nishith Nagar,** Assistant Registrar, **Mr Arabinda Misra,** Assistant Director (Software), and the learners appearing for the viva-voce examination were present.

RC Cochin

IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin Conducts Induction Meeting for July 2026 Admission Cycle at LSC Vypin



IGNOU Regional Centre Cochin conducted a face-to-face **Induction Meeting** for newly admitted learners of the July 2026 admission cycle at Rural Academy of Management Studies (RAMS), Learner Support Centre (LSC 14157), Vypin, Ernakulam, on 13 November 2026.

Sh. Shafiq, Coordinator, LSC 14157, welcomed the participants and introduced the resource persons from the Regional Centre. **Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan,** Deputy Director, IGNOU RC Cochin, provided an overview of IGNOU, its objectives and the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system. She explained the academic and student support services available to learners and emphasized the importance of regularly accessing the IGNOU website and student portal, attending academic counseling sessions, submitting assignments within deadlines, appearing for Term-End Examinations and maintaining communication with the Regional Centre and Learner Support Centre.

Sh. Muhammad Ansar, Assistant Executive Development Programme (AEDP), shared practical suggestions on planning studies, maintaining discipline and effectively using IGNOU's learning resources. The session also included an interactive discussion in which learners' queries about their academic programmes and student support services were