ignou THE PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY

प्रगति पथ

विश्वविद्यालय समाचार

13 October 2026 / Headquarters & RCs

IG/PIU/DigiNews/Oct/2149

Headquarters

IGNOU Students to Showcase AI Innovationsat Global Conference in Viet Nam



Two student teams from the **Indira Gandhi National Open University** (IGNOU) are representing the University at the two-day final conference of the Digital Skills to Succeed in Asia (DS2S) project in Viet Nam, which began on 13 October 2026. The conference brings together university partners, students, industry representatives and the German development cooperation agency GIZ from India, Bangladesh, Germany and Viet Nam, marking the culmination of the three-year initiative commissioned by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The two IGNOU teams earned their place at the international conference after winning the DS2S International Hackathon 2026, themed "Experiential AI Learning for Real-World Problem Solving". They are being guided by **Prof. Pema Eden Samdup,** Director, International Division; **Prof. Neera Kapoor,** Director, Centre for Online

Headquarters



The first team, **POSHTIKA,** comprising **Razwan Shoket,** a student of M.A. Anthropology from Srinagar; **Himanshi Sharma,** an MBA in Healthcare and Hospital Management student from Delhi-3 Regional Centre; and **Pallavi Dobriyal,** a student of M.A. Psychology from Delhi-3, developed an AI-assisted predictive nutrition surveillance system. The solution is designed to help frontline health workers identify rural children at risk of malnutrition and facilitate timely intervention.

The second team, **SmartOFF,** comprising Sanjeev Jaglan, a student of M.Sc. Renewable Energy and Environment from Karnal; **Anshu Prajapati,** a B.Sc. (General) student from Delhi-2 Regional Centre; and **Nishi Sirohi,** a BCA student from Noida Regional Centre, developed a no-code, AI-enabled energy monitoring solution. The system analyses energy consumption, occupancy, costs and carbon footprint to identify opportunities for improving energy efficiency in office buildings. Both teams are scheduled to present their solutions on the second day of the conference at the National Economics University.

Headquarters



The opening day focused on the project's achievements, its impact on learners and institutions, and ways to integrate successful practices into higher education. Following a presentation on the DS2S journey and a keynote address on skill-based higher education and the future of work, students from the participating countries shared their experiences of micro-credentials, the hackathon and the spring school. Sessions also examined the project's impact on faculty and institutions, alongside discussions on gender-responsive approaches to digital skills education.

During a session on students' experiences, **Razwan Shoket** spoke on behalf of IGNOU, describing the hackathon as a transformative experience. He acknowledged the University's National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE) for providing distance learners with a platform to develop their ideas into practical solutions, and credited faculty mentors with challenging their assumptions and encouraging them to refine their work. Reflecting on his journey from Jammu and Kashmir to the international gathering in Hanoi, he said the experience had made geographical distance seem inconsequential.

Headquarters



IGNOU's participation also featured a poster presentation, "From Digital Learning to Real-World Impact", by **Dr. Amit Verma** and the student teams at the partner-university exhibition. The presentation highlighted the challenges of engaging learners across a university with millions of students and no conventional classroom structure, and outlined how NCIDE, working with Regional Centres across the country, coordinated the hackathon from student mobilisation and registration to mentoring and final presentations.

The process included identifying real-world problems, developing solution blueprints, building prototypes and preparing final pitches. Faculty mentors supported the participants throughout, helping them translate ideas into workable solutions. The success of both teams demonstrated how structured mentoring and accessible digital tools can enable learners from diverse academic backgrounds to participate in innovation.

Headquarters



In her closing reflections on the first day, **Prof. Pema Eden Samdup** emphasised that development partnerships must deliver measurable outcomes and lasting impact, rather than training alone. She credited the progressive leadership of **IGNOU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Uma Kanjilal** for fostering an institutional culture in which staff members returning from GIZ workshops share their learning with colleagues and serve as master trainers.

She also underlined the significance of the hackathon for open and distance learners, who may have limited opportunities to interact with fellow students and faculty in person.

By bringing them together to develop solutions and present their work internationally, the initiative offered an opportunity to collaborate beyond geographical boundaries. She thanked GIZ for its support and expressed hope for continued collaboration

Headquarters



IGNOU's participation reflects its sustained efforts to nurture student innovation through NCIDE and the Special Projects Unit. The University coordinated student mobilisation and registration, facilitated the completion of the prescribed GIZ and IBM/Cisco micro-credentials, and arranged three virtual mentoring sessions covering solution blueprint development, prototype creation and elevator pitching.

The adoption of no-code and low-code tools enabled students, including those without formal technical backgrounds, to develop technology-based responses to practical challenges. The two teams' success at the international hackathon and their participation in the Viet Nam conference underscore the potential of open and distance learning to broaden access to innovation, digital skills and global academic engagement.



RC Bhagalpur

IGNOU Regional Centre Bhagalpur Organizes Pre-Recruitment Counselling and Pre-Placement Drive



IGNOU Regional Centre Bhagalpur, in collaboration with Marwari College, Bhagalpur, organized a pre-recruitment counselling and pre-placement drive on 29 September 2026 to guide learners on career opportunities, skill development, self-employment and placement services available through government initiatives.

Dr. Kirti Vikram Singh, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Bhagalpur, presided over the programme and highlighted the university's efforts to support learners through vocational skill training, self-employment opportunities and placement assistance. He emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between academic learning and industry requirements to prepare learners for

RC Bhagalpur



Dr. O. P. Tiwari, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Bhagalpur, outlined the academic, administrative and learner support services available at the Regional Centre. **Mr. Amarnath,** General Manager, National Career Service (NCS), presented an overview of the NCS portal and government career schemes, encouraging learners to register on the portal and explore available employment opportunities.





The programme also included awareness on cleanliness and hygiene under the ***'Swachhata Hi Seva'*** campaign. The Principal and faculty members of Marwari College, along with IGNOU learners, attended the session. An interactive question-and-answer session addressed learners' queries regarding recruitment processes, career pathways and skill



RC Shimla

IGNOU Regional Centre Shimla Oversees Ph.D. Entrance Test and Coordinates Academic Counselling







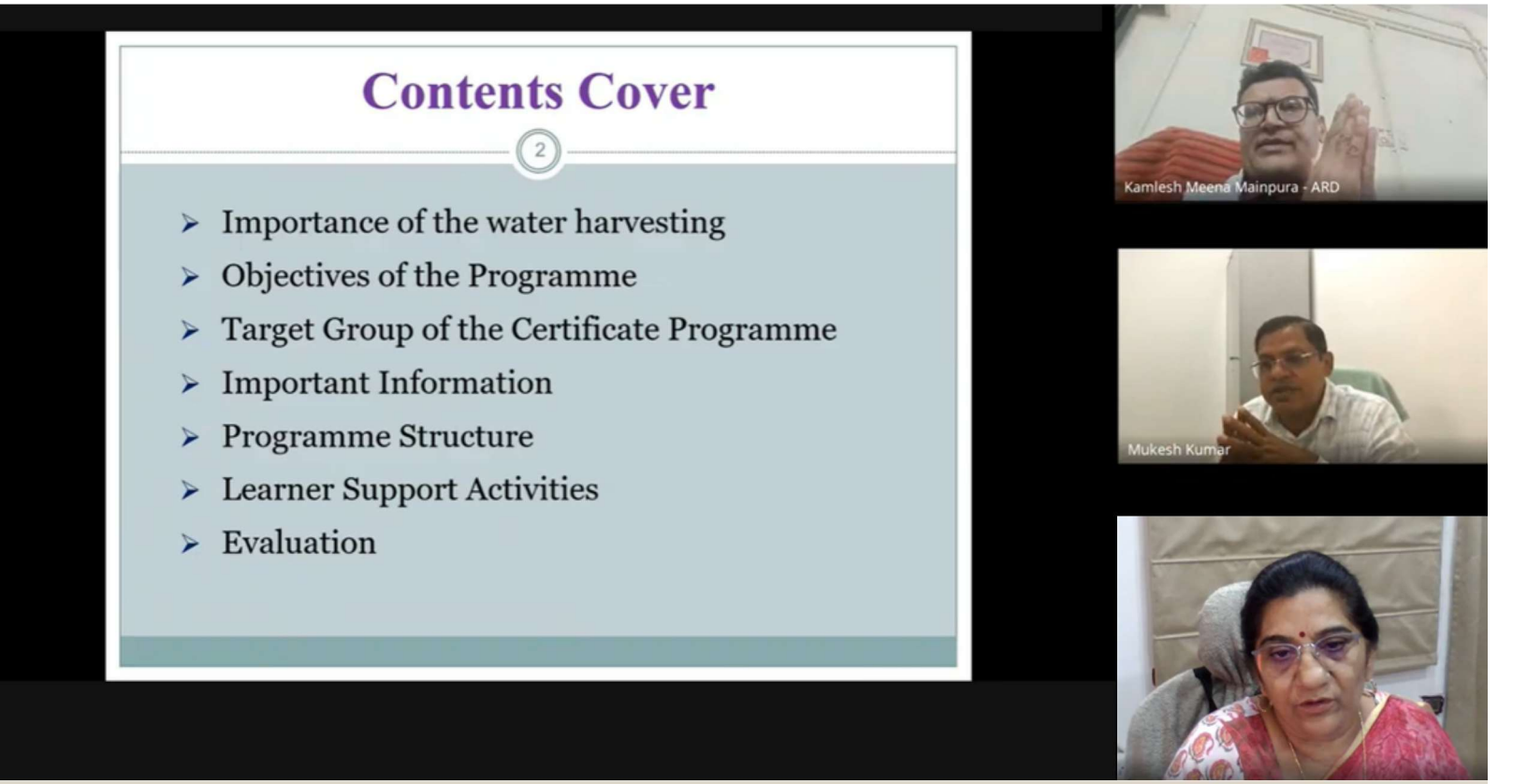
IGNOU Regional Centre Shimla oversaw arrangements for the **Ph.D. Entrance Test** 2026, held on 11 October 2026 at Examination Centre 1101, Government Degree College (GDC), Sanjauli. **Dr. Joginder Kumar Yadav,** Senior Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Shimla, served as the official observer and reviewed the arrangements to ensure the smooth, transparent and fair conduct of the examination.

During his visit, Dr. Yadav also inspected the **B.Sc. Geology** practical counselling sessions at the college. He interacted with the learners to understand their academic experiences and receive feedback on the quality and adequacy of the practical support provided.

In another academic initiative, IGNOU Regional Centre Shimla coordinated the centralized online theory counselling for the **Appreciation Course on Environment (ACE)** for the July 2026 admission cycle. As the nodal Regional Centre, Shimla facilitated academic support for learners mapped from various Regional Centres across the country. **Dr. Prem Prakash** of Government Degree College, Solan, served as the academic counsellor, delivering lectures and addressing learners' queries

RC Jaipur

IGNOU Regional Centre Jaipur Holds Online Induction for CWHM Programme



IGNOU Regional Centre Jaipur conducted an Online Induction Meeting on 9 October 2026 for learners enrolled in the **Certificate in Water Harvesting and Management (CWHM)** programme for the July 2026 session.

Prof. Mukesh Kumar, Programme Coordinator, School of Agriculture (SOA), briefed learners on the programme objectives, course structure, study materials, assignment submission procedures, practical components and examination system. **Dr. Mamta Bhatia,** Senior Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jaipur, highlighted the importance of the programme in promoting water conservation and sustainable water management practices.

The interaction enabled learners to clarify their queries and understand the academic requirements of the programme. **Dr. Indu Ravi,** Regional Director, delivered the vote of thanks.

RC Patna

IGNOU Regional Centre Patna Conducts Ph.D. Entrance Examination



IGNOU Regional Centre Patna conducted the **Ph.D. entrance examination** on 11 October 2026 at Examination Centre 0500A, Maulana Mazharul Haque Arabic and Persian University, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Student Evaluation Division (SED), IGNOU Headquarters.

A total of **45 candidates** appeared for the examination at the centre. The OMR attendance sheets, dispatch memo packet, and remaining examination materials were dispatched to the Student Evaluation Division as per the prescribed guidelines. The examination was conducted smoothly and successfully by the Regional Centre, ensuring adherence to the prescribed guidelines and examination procedures.





RC Patna

IGNOU Regional Centre Patna Organizes Online Induction Meeting for BCA-NEW and BCAOL Learners



IGNOU Regional Centre Patna organized an **Online Induction Meeting** on 11 October 2026 for newly enrolled learners of the Bachelor of Computer Applications **(BCA-NEW)** (ODL) and Bachelor of Computer Applications (Online) **(BCAOL)** programmes. The meeting familiarized learners with the university's academic framework, online learning facilities and student support services.

Dr. E. Krishna Rao, Senior Regional Director, welcomed the learners in his presidential address and highlighted the role of distance and online education in expanding access to higher education. He encouraged them to use IGNOU's digital learning resources effectively, remain committed to their studies and engage with the university's academic and support services.

Dr. Neelu Sharma, Assistant Regional Director, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the academic structure of both programmes, online learning processes, digital study materials, assignment submission procedures and learner support services. She also familiarized learners with the online platforms and resources available to support their studies.

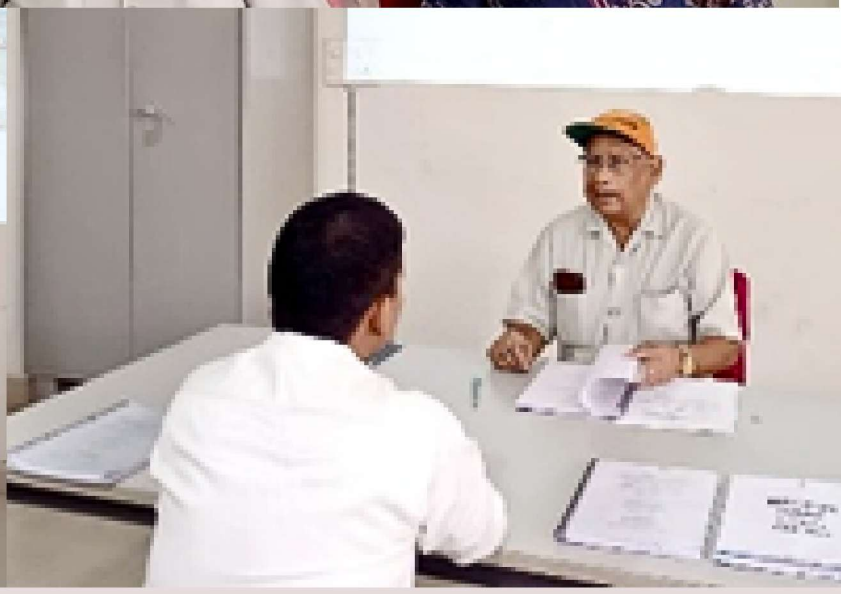
The session included a doubt-clearing discussion in which learners raised queries about the programmes and related academic procedures. The meeting helped learners understand their programmes' academic requirements and prepare for their learning journey.

RC Lucknow

IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow Conducts MAPC Project Viva-Voce Examination







IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow conducted the viva-voce examination for the **Master of Arts in Psychology (MAPC)** project reports under course codes MPCE-16 and MPCE-26 on 12 October 2026 in hybrid mode.

Prof. P. C. Mishra served as the external examiner. **Dr. Anil Kumar Misra,** Senior Regional Director and Head, IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow, and **Dr. Reena Kumar,** Regional Director, were present during the examination. Five examinees were physically present at the Regional Centre for the viva-voce examination.

RC Shimla

IGNOU Regional Centre Shimla Holds Weekly Student Grievance Redressal Meeting





IGNOU Regional Centre Shimla held its weekly Student Grievance Redressal Meeting on 13 October 2026 as part of its regular initiative to address learners' academic and administrative concerns.

The meeting covered issues related to assignment marks updation, admission confirmation, migration certificates, and degree-related matters. More than **20 student grievances** were addressed on the spot during the meeting.

The Regional Centre conducts these meetings every week to provide learners with a regular channel for raising and resolving their academic and administrative concerns.

