ignou THE PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY

# प्रगति पथ

विश्वविद्यालय समाचार

29 October 2026 / HQs & RCs

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## Headquarters

# IGNOU's 76th APC Meeting Reviews New Programme Proposals and Academic Initiatives




The **Indira Gandhi National Open University** (IGNOU) convened the 76th meeting of its Academic Programme Committee (APC) on 28 October 2026 at the Conference Room of the Vice-Chancellor's Office. The meeting was chaired by **Prof. Uma Kanjilal,** Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU, and attended by APC members and

# Headquarters




The meeting deliberated on a comprehensive agenda comprising 14 major items concerning the academic programme proposals, programme launch forms, approval of online programmes, and other matters relating to academic development. Key items included **Programme Proposal Forms** (PPFs) for new academic programmes, **Programme Launch Forms** (PLFs) for various programmes, an **Online Programme Approval Form** (OPAF), and the ratification of fees for one-credit micro-credential courses.




The Committee also considered proposals for new academic programmes and micro-credentials, alongside PPFs for undergraduate programmes in Statistics and Geography under the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP). These deliberations reflected the University's continued efforts to expand its academic offerings, diversify learning pathways, and respond to emerging educational needs through flexible and innovative

# Headquarters




An important aspect of the meeting was the induction of **Prof. Rattan Singh,** Vice-Chancellor of Jagat Guru Nanak Dev State Open University, Punjab, as a new member of the Planning Board and Academic Programme Committee. The Committee also acknowledged the valuable contributions of **Prof. Satyakam**, former Vice-Chancellor of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU), Prayagraj, as he concluded his association as a member.







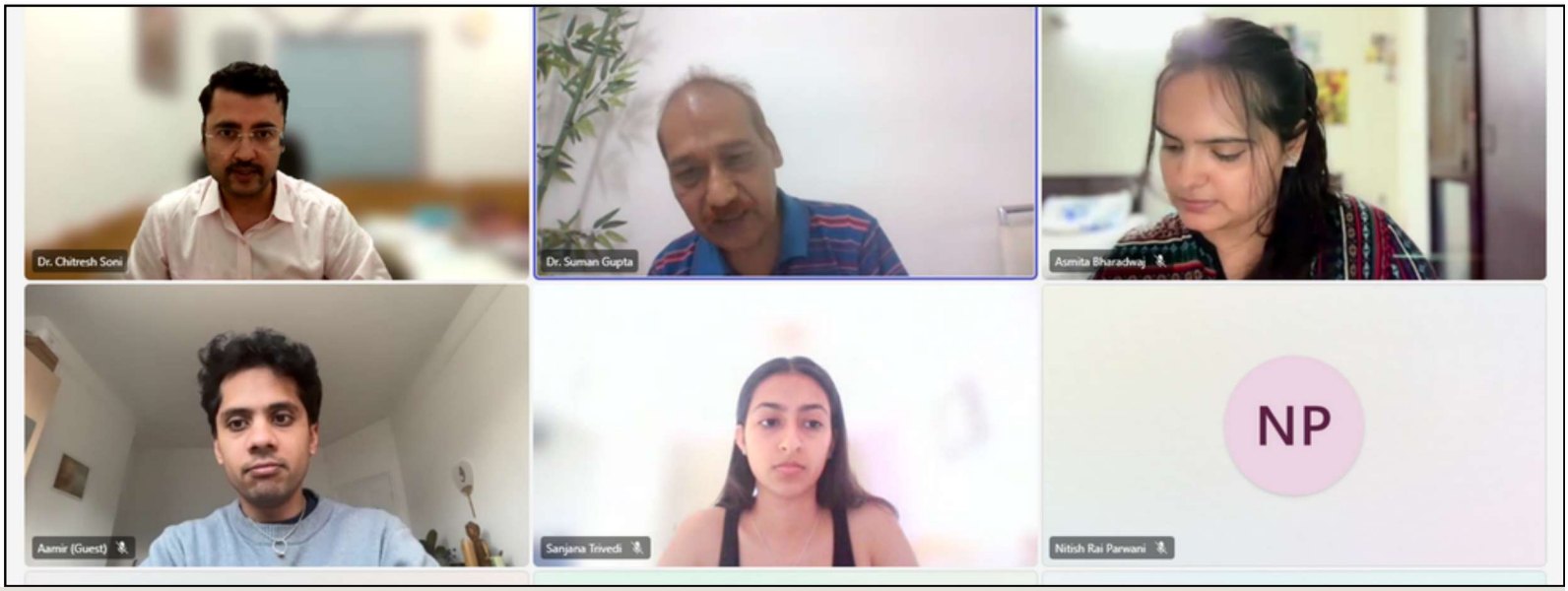
The meeting provided an important forum for reviewing academic proposals, examining programme development and launch requirements, and considering initiatives aimed at strengthening the University's academic portfolio. The deliberations and decisions taken during the meeting are expected to facilitate the progression of proposed programmes through the requisite approval processes, support the introduction of new learning opportunities, and further advance IGNOU's commitment to accessible,



# SOTST

## IGNOU Faculty & Scholar Research Presented at Prestigious Oxford Dharma Conference 2026

*Dr. Chitresh Soni and Ph.D. scholar Prabhat Kumar explore the cultural and linguistic intersections between India and China through the Chinese translation of the Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa*




In a significant academic achievement for **Indira Gandhi National Open University** (IGNOU), **Dr. Chitresh Soni,** Assistant Professor, School of Translation Studies and Training **(SOTST)**, and **Mr. Prabhat Kumar,** Ph.D. scholar at the School, presented their research paper at the second edition of the **Oxford Dharma Conference 2026,** organised by the Oxford Dharma Centre for Research and Policy at All Souls College, **University of Oxford,** United Kingdom.

Titled ***"Navigating the Polysemy of 'Dharma': Exploring the Contextual Renderings in Ji Xianlin's Chinese Translation of the Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa,"*** the paper examines the multiple meanings of Dharma and how they are interpreted and conveyed across linguistic and cultural contexts in the Chinese translation of the Indian epic. The study forms part of the ongoing doctoral research at SOTST and undertakes a sociocultural and linguistic examination of the Chinese translation of the **Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa.** By investigating the translation choices made by eminent Chinese scholar Ji Xianlin, the research seeks to deepen understanding of the historical, intellectual and cultural connections between two

# SOTST



NAVIGATING THE POLYSEMY OF 'DHARMA': EXPLORING THE CONTEXTUAL RENDERINGS IN JI XIANLIN'S CHINESE TRANSLATION OF THE VĀLMĪKI RĀMĀYAṆA

Presented at **Oxford Dharma Conference 2026**

On 28th October 2026

(Online Session on **Exploring Dharma in Contemporary Contexts**)

organized by Oxford Dharma Centre at All Souls College, University of Oxford

Presented by: Prabhat Kumar & Dr Chitresh Soni

*(Designation: Doctoral Candidate, Assistant Professor respectively)*

*School of Translation Studies and Training*

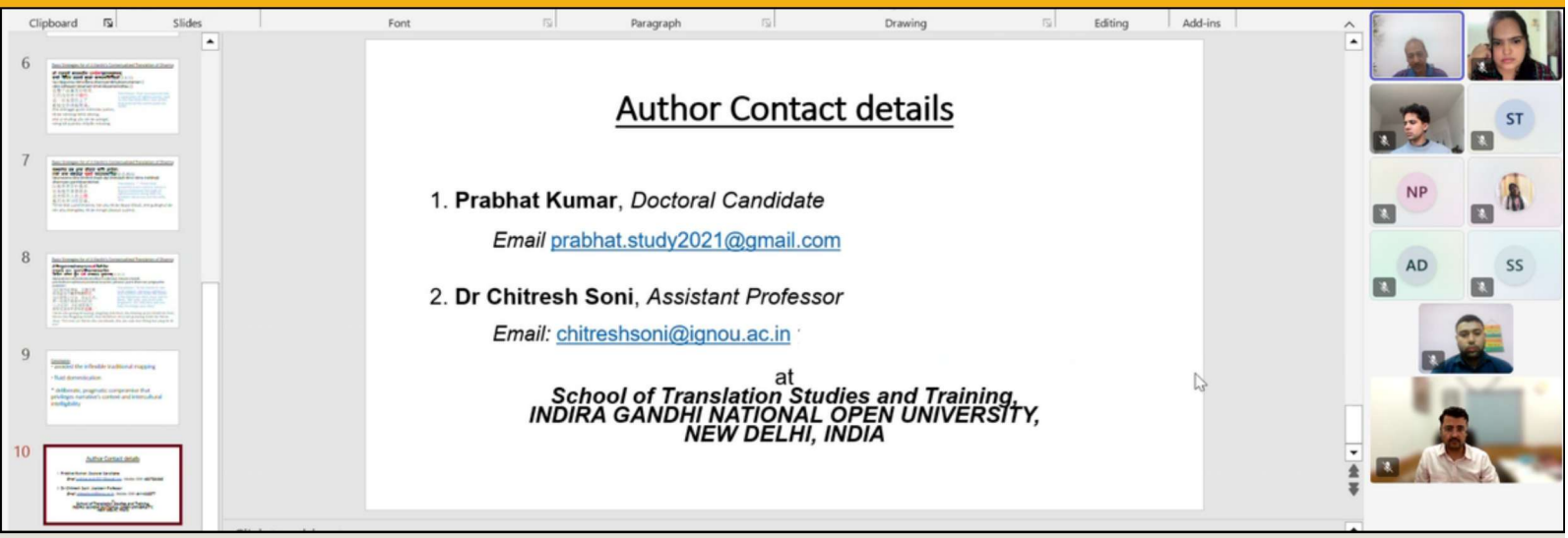
*INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY*

*NEW DELHI, INDIA*

The research also makes a valuable contribution to the dissemination and promotion of the **Indian Knowledge System** (IKS) by examining the transmission of Indian philosophical and cultural concepts across linguistic and civilisational boundaries. Through its focus on the interpretation of Dharma in a Chinese translation of the Rāmāyaṇa, the study highlights the importance of translation as a means of preserving, documenting and communicating India's intellectual and cultural heritage to a wider international audience. In this respect, the research aligns with the vision of the **National Education Policy** (NEP) 2020, which emphasises the preservation of India's rich heritage and knowledge traditions and their integration into contemporary education and scholarship.

The Oxford Dharma Conference provides an international academic platform for scholars, policy practitioners, jurists and institutional leaders to explore Dharma as a framework for ethical responsibility, social order and institutional life across cultures and disciplines. Hosted annually at All Souls College, University of Oxford, the conference encourages interdisciplinary engagement with the concept of Dharma and its relevance to contemporary intellectual and public discourse.

# SOTST




The selection of the IGNOU research paper is particularly noteworthy given the highly competitive nature of the conference. Of the 666 abstracts received from across the world, only a select number were accepted for presentation. The paper underwent a rigorous, multi-stage screening process. Its evaluation required additional expert review because of the multiple non-English languages involved in the research. As the final acceptance came at a late stage, Dr. Soni and Mr. Kumar presented their paper online.

The achievement reflects the academic rigour, interdisciplinary orientation and international research engagement fostered at IGNOU. It also highlights the contribution of SOTST to advancing translation studies beyond the transfer of meaning between languages towards a deeper understanding of the cultural contexts, philosophical traditions and civilisational exchanges embedded in literary works. Research of this nature is especially valuable in illuminating the nuances of India's intellectual heritage while examining its reception and interpretation in other linguistic and cultural settings.

The presentation at a distinguished international academic forum marks a significant milestone for the researchers and brings recognition to IGNOU's continuing efforts to promote quality research, scholarly inquiry and cross-cultural understanding. By bringing Indian philosophical thought and literary heritage into international academic discourse, the University's faculty and research scholars are helping advance the objectives of the **IKS initiative** and the broader educational vision of **NEP 2020.** Their accomplishment underscores IGNOU's role in strengthening the global visibility of Indian scholarship while

# SOCE

## SOCE Stages Street Play to Promote a Drug-Free India



The **School of Continuing Education** (SOCE), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), in collaboration with the **School of Performing and Visual Arts** (SOPVA), staged a street play titled **'SANKALP'** on 27 October 2026 at the ramparts of the Baba Saheb Convention Centre, IGNOU, New Delhi. Organized under the *Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan* and conducted under the guidance of **Prof. Bharadwaza,** the performance aimed to raise awareness among young people about the growing problem of alcohol and substance abuse.

The play was performed by ten PhD scholars from the two schools and witnessed by approximately 65 students, along with faculty members of SOCE, SOPVA and other schools. **Prof. Heena K. Bijli**, Director, SOCE, and **Prof. Lakshman Prasad,** Director, SOPVA, were also present to encourage the students.

Through realistic scenes, relatable characters and impactful dialogues, the performers highlighted factors that can lead young people towards substance abuse, including family pressure, academic stress, peer influence and personal challenges. The play portrayed how the initial temptation to escape stress or gain social acceptance can gradually develop into addiction, affecting an individual's physical and mental well-being, academic performance,

# SOCE



The performance conveyed that alcohol and drugs are not solutions to stress or personal difficulties. Instead, the scholars encouraged young people to adopt healthier coping mechanisms, such as participating in sports, pursuing creative activities, practising meditation and maintaining open communication with family members and friends. The play also emphasized making informed choices, resisting negative peer pressure and supporting friends who may be struggling with substance abuse.



The audience watched the performance with keen interest and responded warmly to its social message. The presentation was appreciated for addressing a serious issue in a simple, engaging and relatable manner that connected with the concerns and experiences of young people.



The programme concluded with participants and audience members taking a pledge to stay away from substance abuse, manage stress through positive means and contribute towards building a healthier, safer and drug-free society. The organizers emphasized the role of student-led awareness initiatives in encouraging peer engagement, promoting responsible choices and



# SOCE

## SOCE Organizes Teleconferencing Session on Substance Use Prevention






The **School of Continuing Education** (SOCE), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), organized a special teleconferencing session on 19 October 2026 as part of the observance of six years of the *Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan* (NMBA). The session, titled **'Substance Use Prevention in India: Historical Perspectives, Warning Signs, Treatment and Community-based Solutions',** aimed to raise awareness about substance abuse prevention and treatment.

**Prof. Heena K. Bijli,** Director, SOCE, welcomed the participants attending the programme in person and online. She outlined the significance of the Abhiyaan and emphasized the need to raise awareness about substance abuse, prevention and treatment, and to promote safe, healthy and drug-free campuses.

**Dr. Rajesh Kumar,** Executive Director, Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses (SPYM), New Delhi, delivered the session. He discussed the expansion of the *Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan* and its three-pronged strategy of supply control, demand reduction and awareness. He also covered the historical perspectives and classification of substances, warning signs, associated stigma, treatment, training and rehabilitation.

Dr. Kumar highlighted NAVCHETNA, an award-winning initiative by SPYM that raises awareness about substance use prevention among children and adolescents and promotes healthy, drug-free lifestyles. The session concluded with an interactive discussion in which Dr. Kumar addressed participants' questions and clarified misconceptions about substance use and abuse.





# SOFL

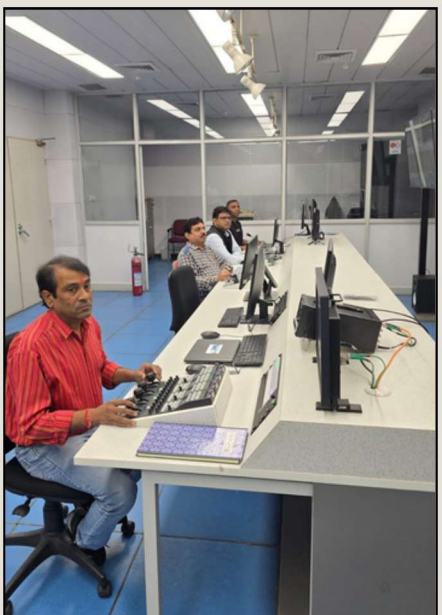
## SOFL Organizes Lecture on Japanese Language Counting Expressions




The **School of Foreign Languages** (SOFL), IGNOU, organized a lecture on Japanese language counting expressions at the Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC) today. The lecture was delivered by **Mr Miura Takashi,** Japanese Language Advisor, Japan Foundation, and was attended by officials, faculty members and consultants from SOFL and EMPC.

**Mr Shivaji Bhaskar,** Programme Coordinator, SOFL, and **Ms Ashuni,** EMPC, coordinated the lecture to support Japanese language learners at IGNOU in developing their language skills.



# RC Patna

## IGNOU Regional Centre Patna Guides BLIS Learners on Online Project Submission




**IGNOU Regional Centre Patna** organized an online orientation on the Online Project Management System (OPMS) for **Bachelor of Library and Information Science** (BLIS) learners of the January 2026 session on 28 October 2026.

**Dr. E. Krishna Rao,** Senior Regional Director, emphasized the importance of understanding the OPMS workflow and adhering to the prescribed guidelines and timelines. **Dr. Asif Iqbal,** Regional Director, highlighted the role of digital platforms in streamlining academic processes and advised learners to follow the prescribed procedures for project submission.

**Dr. Neelu Sharma,** Assistant Regional Director, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the key features of OPMS, the step-by-step submission process, and essential guidelines. An interactive discussion followed, during which learners raised queries and received

# RC Hyderabad

## IGNOU Regional Centre Hyderabad Conducts B.Ed. Workshops at LSC 0158




**IGNOU Regional Centre Hyderabad** conducted B.Ed. workshops for first- and second-year learners at Learner Support Centre (LSC) 0158, Nava Bharathi College of Education, Hyderabad, from 10 to 21 October 2026. Approximately **82 learners** participated in the **12-day programme** to strengthen their pedagogical knowledge, practical teaching skills, and understanding of the teaching profession.

During the valedictory session, **Dr. Raju Bolla,** Regional Director, emphasized the importance of bridging theory and practice through lesson planning, practice teaching, classroom observation, and reflective learning. He encouraged collaborative learning, respect for diverse learner backgrounds, and the creation of inclusive classrooms. He also highlighted effective classroom management and the use of innovative teaching aids, locally available materials, and digital resources to make learning engaging and meaningful.

Dr. Bolla emphasized empathy and lifelong learning, encouraging teachers to understand learners' needs, update their knowledge, and adapt their teaching practices. He also highlighted the importance of fostering curiosity, scientific thinking, creativity, and analytical skills to promote research, innovation, and problem-solving among learners.

The session concluded by Dr. Bolla encouraging prospective teachers to aspire to excellence, apply global knowledge to local challenges, and contribute to India's development. Citing G. D. Naidu as an example of innovation through curiosity and practical problem-solving, he highlighted the relevance of AI and digital learning resources in education, while emphasizing the importance of empathy,

# RC Hyderabad

## IGNOU Regional Centre Hyderabad Observes Vigilance Awareness Week 2026




**IGNOU Regional Centre Hyderabad** observed **Vigilance Awareness Week 2026** on 26 October under the theme **'Probity for Prosperity',** in accordance with the instructions issued by the IGNOU Vigilance Cell.

On the occasion, **Dr. Raju Bolla,** Regional Director, addressed the officers and staff members on the importance of integrity, transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct in public administration. He emphasized that probity in professional and personal life is essential to preventing corruption, strengthening public trust, and ensuring responsible governance. He encouraged staff members to discharge their duties honestly and uphold ethical values.

Following the address, Dr. Bolla administered the Integrity Pledge, reaffirming the collective commitment to integrity, combating corruption, and promoting ethical practices in public service.The programme reinforced the shared responsibility of employees and stakeholders

# RC Hyderabad

## IGNOU Regional Centre Hyderabad Conducts Offline Induction Meeting for July 2026 Learners






**IGNOU Regional Centre Hyderabad** conducted an Offline Induction Meeting for learners enrolled in diploma, undergraduate, and postgraduate programmes under the July 2026 admission cycle on 25 October 2026 at Learner Support Centre (LSC) 01131, Aurora Business School, Punjagutta, Hyderabad. The meeting was addressed by **Dr. Raju Bolla,** Regional Director. **300 learners** from the LSC attended the meeting.

Dr. Bolla explained IGNOU's distance education system, its network, and the roles of the Regional Centre and Learner Support Centres. He highlighted the importance of academic counselling, assignment submission, adherence to prescribed schedules and deadlines, and the online submission of registration revision (RR) forms and examination forms. Learners were also advised to maintain a file of academic records and refer to official sources for information related to their programmes.

Regarding learner support materials, it was noted that most learners had received their identity cards and downloaded their Self-Learning Materials (SLM), while some were yet to access them. These learners were advised to download the available materials through e-Gyankosh. The counselling schedules had not yet been distributed at the time of the meeting.

During the interactive session, learners raised queries about assignment submission deadlines and accessing soft copies of study materials. The meeting familiarized learners with IGNOU's distance-learning system, academic requirements, and available digital

# RC Patna

## IGNOU Regional Centre Patna Organizes Poster-Making Competition on Vigilance Awareness




**IGNOU Regional Centre Patna** organized a poster-making competition on 28 October 2026 as part of Vigilance Awareness Week to promote awareness of integrity, transparency, and ethical conduct in professional and public life.




Regional Centre staff members, including **Mr. Ravi, Ms. Kanishka, Ms. Madhuri,** and **Mr. Sanjeev,** participated in the competition and presented posters based on vigilance-related themes.




**Dr. E. Krishna Rao,** Senior Regional Director appreciated the participants' efforts and encouraged staff members to take part in initiatives promoting integrity and ethical values in the workplace. **Dr. Asif Iqbal,** Regional Director and **Mr. Ojha Jai Prakash,** Deputy Registrar, were also present. The best entry will be awarded on the University's Foundation Day.

**Dr. Neelu Sharma,** Assistant Regional Director,

# RC Lucknow

## IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow Organizes Webinar on Entrepreneurship and Innovation



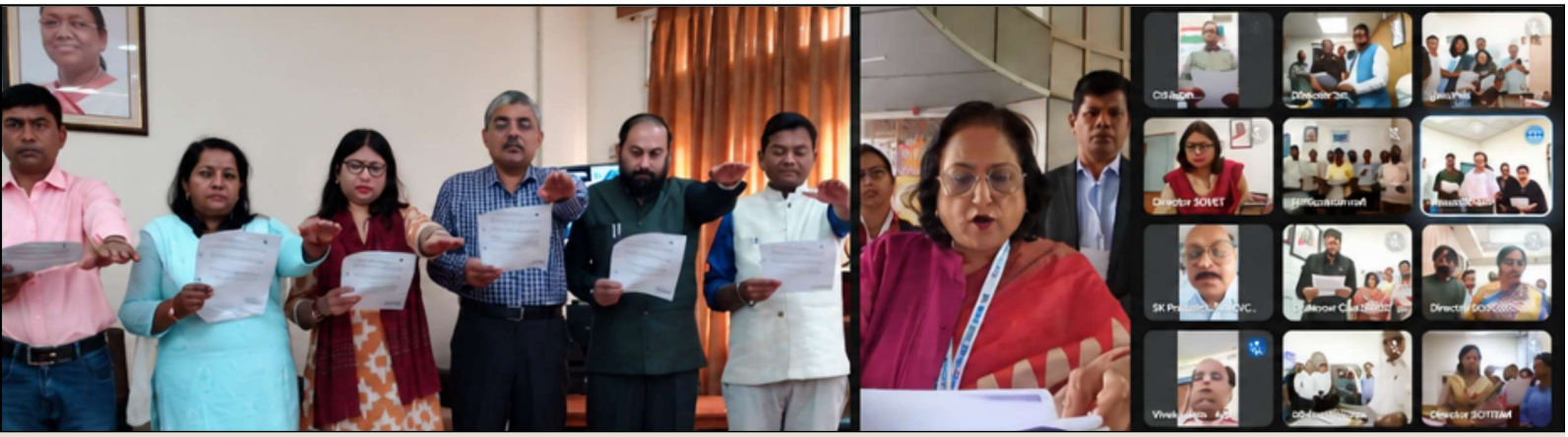
The Innovation Club of **IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow** organized a webinar on **'Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Indian Start-up Ecosystem'** on 27 October 2026 to mark Institution's Innovation Day under the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) initiative. The programme was chaired by **Dr. Anil Kumar Misra,** Senior Regional Director and Head, who highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship and innovation in the current scenario and their role in building a *Viksit Bharat.*

**Dr. Vijay Kumar Tiwari,** Vice-Chancellor, Shri Ramswaroop Memorial University, Lucknow, delivered the keynote address on entrepreneurship, innovation, and the evolving Indian start-up ecosystem. He highlighted the role of innovative thinking, entrepreneurial skills, and start-up initiatives in promoting self-employment and economic growth.

The webinar was convened by **Dr. Jai Prakash Verma,** Regional Director and Nodal Officer, Innovation Club, IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow. **Dr. Reena Kumari** and **Dr. Anamika Sinha,** Regional Directors, **Dr. Nishith Nagar,** Assistant Registrar, coordinators and staff members of Learner Support Centres, faculty members, and approximately **62 students** participated in the programme. **Dr. Parvat Singh,** Organising Secretary, proposed the vote of thanks. The webinar aimed to foster an entrepreneurial mindset among learners and encourage them to explore innovative ideas and start-up opportunities.

# RC Lucknow

## IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow Participates in Vigilance Pledge



**IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow,** led by **Dr. Anil Kumar Misra,** Senior Regional Director and Head, participated virtually in the Vigilance Pledge as part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026, in coordination with the IGNOU Headquarters Vigilance Cell.

The event also featured an address by **Prof. Uma Kanjilal,** Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, who emphasized that "true vigilance lies in everyday conduct, not just in annual observances." The programme reinforced the importance of integrity, transparency, and accountability in institutional functioning and public service.



# RC Lucknow

## IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow Conducts On-the-Spot Evaluation of Online Programme Assignments



**IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow** conducted an on-the-spot evaluation of assignments for online programmes on 23 October 2026. **Dr. Reena Kumari,** Regional Director, along with **Mr. Arabinda Mishra,** Assistant Director (Software), guided the academic counsellor in using the Learning Management System (LMS) portal to evaluate assignments for course code BCOLA-138. **Dr. Vipin Pandey** participated in the on-the-spot evaluation of assignments for the **BCOMOL programme.**



# RC Bhagalpur

## IGNOU Regional Centre Bhagalpur Organizes Expert Lecture on Innovation and Entrepreneurship




**IGNOU Regional Centre Bhagalpur** organized an online expert lecture on **'Innovation, Startup and Entrepreneurship: Ideas to Impact'** on 28 October 2026 to mark Institutional Innovation Day. The session aimed to encourage learners, faculty members, coordinators, and stakeholders to develop an innovative mindset and explore entrepreneurial opportunities.

The programme was chaired by **Dr. Sarah Naseem,** Senior Regional Director, who highlighted the role of innovation in higher and distance education and the importance of self-reliance and skill-based learning in socio-economic development. **Dr. Kirti Vikram Singh,** Regional Director, outlined the objectives of the event and IGNOU's initiatives to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment among learners.

**Shri Sandeep Dwivedi,** Investment Promotion Officer, Satellite Investment Promotion Office, Mumbai, delivered the expert lecture on the start-up ecosystem and the process of translating ideas into viable business models. **Dr. O. P. Tiwari,** Regional Director, also shared his views on the subject.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion in which participants raised queries about start-up funding, guidance, and entrepreneurial execution.