

प्रगति पथ

विश्वविद्यालय समाचार

17 Sept. 2026 / Headquarters & RCs

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IGNOU officials attend Hindi Diwas 2026 & the 6th All India Rajbhasha Sammelan (Official Language Conference) in Navi Mumbai



Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Vice Chancellor **Prof. Uma Kanjilal**, **Prof. Jitendra Kumar Srivastava**, Registrar; **Dr. Jitendra Dev Gangwar**, Finance Officer; and **Mr. Anand Kumar Soni**, Deputy Registrar (Rajbhasha); attended the Hindi Diwas 2026 and the sixth All India Official Language Conference held recently in Navi Mumbai.

The two-day conference, organised by the **Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs**, brought together policymakers, parliamentarians, scholars, litterateurs, educationists and senior officials to deliberate on the role and relevance of Hindi and the broader linguistic diversity of the country.

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The inaugural session was addressed by **Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah** as the Chief Guest. The conference, which has been organised annually since 2021, draws inspiration from the vision articulated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for promoting the use of Indian languages in public life and governance.

Hindi Diwas is observed every year on September 14 to commemorate the day in 1949 when the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi in the Devanagari script as the official language of the Union. The occasion also serves as an opportunity to reflect on the contribution of Hindi to India's multilingual cultural and literary landscape.

The Navi Mumbai conference brought particular attention to the relationship between Hindi and Maharashtra's rich linguistic, cultural and literary traditions. **Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar**, along with several Members of Parliament and other distinguished participants, were present at the event.



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The deliberations also underscored the importance of fostering dialogue and coordination among **Hindi** and **the country's other Indian languages**. Against the backdrop of **India's linguistic plurality**, the conference provided a platform to consider ways of **strengthening the use, development and mutual enrichment of Indian languages** in **education, administration and public communication**.

For **IGNOU**, whose academic outreach extends across diverse linguistic and geographical communities, the emphasis on **multilingualism** and **wider access to knowledge** resonates closely with its mandate of **making education inclusive and accessible**. The participation of **the University's senior leadership** in the conference reaffirmed the importance of **Indian languages** in advancing **a more inclusive and culturally rooted higher education ecosystem**.



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IGNOU Vice Chancellor calls on BMC Deputy Municipal Commissioner for Education



Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) **Vice Chancellor Prof. Uma Kanjilal** paid a courtesy call on **Dr. Prachi Jambhekar, Deputy Municipal Commissioner (Education)**, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), during her recent visit to Mumbai.

During the interaction, **Prof. Kanjilal** apprised **Dr. Jambhekar** of IGNOU's ongoing initiatives to expand access to quality higher education and reach learners across diverse geographical and social backgrounds. The discussion touched upon the University's efforts to harness technology-enabled learning to make higher education more accessible and responsive to the needs of learners across the country.

Dr. Jambhekar appreciated IGNOU's significant contribution as the world's largest open university in widening the reach of higher education and advancing the democratisation of learning. She also encouraged the University to further leverage emerging technologies to address educational disparities and strengthen learning opportunities for those at the last mile.

The interaction underscored the shared importance of technology, accessibility and inclusive educational practices in ensuring that geographical or social circumstances do not become barriers to higher education.

Headquarters

IGNOU officials visit IICT Mumbai to explore AVGC-XR facilities



IGNOU Vice Chancellor **Prof. Uma Kanjilal**; **Prof. Jitendra Kumar Srivastava**, Registrar; **Dr. Jitendra Dev Gangwar**, Finance Officer; and **Dr. Rahul Mishra**, Regional Director of RC Mumbai, visited the **Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), Mumbai**, on 16 September 2026 to familiarise themselves with its advanced facilities in the fields of **Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR)**.

The visit provided the IGNOU delegation an opportunity to gain an insight into the creative and technological infrastructure at IICT and explore the possibilities emerging from the convergence of technology and the creative industries.



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The delegation was received and guided by **Mr. Ninad Raikar**, Chief Operating Officer, IICT, and **Mr. Munjal Shroff**, Director and COO, Graphiti Multimedia Pvt. Ltd. and member of the IICT Governing Council. The facilities at the IICT campus were demonstrated by **Mr. Salil Deshpande**, Head of Post Production, who briefed the visiting officials on the institute's technological and production capabilities.

The visit reflected IGNOU's interest in understanding contemporary creative-technology ecosystems and the evolving possibilities in AVGC-XR, particularly as technology continues to reshape learning, creativity and professional practice.



Headquarters

IGNOU Vice Chancellor visits Mumbai Regional Centre



Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Vice Chancellor **Prof. Uma Kanjilal** visited the University's Regional Centre at Panvel during her recent visit to Mumbai. She was accompanied by **Prof. Jitendra Kumar Srivastava**, Registrar and **Dr. Jitendra Dev Gangwar**, Finance Officer.

Regional Director and Head, IGNOU Regional Centre Mumbai, **Dr. Rahul Mishra**, along with the staff, welcomed the Vice Chancellor and the visiting officials. The delegation subsequently visited the Regional Centre premises and interacted with the staff.

During a brief meeting, **Dr. Mishra** presented a report on the functioning and activities of the Regional Centre. Addressing the staff, **Prof. Kanjilal** emphasised the need to make greater use of technology to strengthen student support services and facilitate academic activities. She also encouraged the Centre to facilitate the translation of study materials into Marathi for programmes that have a high demand among learners in the region.

Finance Officer **Dr. J. D. Gangwar** reviewed the onboarding of the Regional Centre on the Samarth Portal during the interaction. The meeting also focused on ways to facilitate self-employment opportunities and provide access to relevant training resources for students associated with the Mumbai Regional Centre.

The visit provided an opportunity to review the Centre's academic and student-support initiatives while identifying avenues to further strengthen learner-oriented services in the region.

STRIDE

IGNOU-MMTTC STRIDE & LIS-IGNOU Refresher Programme on

'Libraries 5.0: User-Centered, Innovative and Intelligent Information Services'



The Refresher Programme on '**Libraries 5.0: User-Centered, Innovative and Intelligent Information Services**' (12-days) under UGC MMTP was inaugurated on 16 September, 2026. The programme is being held under the patronage of IGNOU Vice Chancellor, **Prof. Uma Kanjilal** by **IGNOU-MMTTC STRIDE** in collaboration with **Faculty of Library and Information Sciences (LIS), School of Social Sciences** through hybrid mode.

STRIDE

Glimpses of the Day



STRIDE



The programme is being attended by **62 participants** from across the country. The Inaugural Address for the programme was delivered by **Prof. T. V. Vijay Kumar**, School of Computer & Systems Sciences, JNU, New Delhi, who spoke about the ‘**Evolution of Libraries from Library 1.0 to Library 5.0**’ and also on ‘**AI for Digital Data Curation**’.

The Welcome Address was delivered by **Prof. Anita Priyadarshini**, Programme Director, MMTTC & Director, STRIDE who informed that 60 MMTTC programmes had been conducted in the past two years and around eight thousand participants had been certified by IGNOU-MMTTC.

The Opening Remarks were made by **Prof. Nita Mathur**, Director, SOSS who congratulated the Faculty of LIS for this unique initiative. The details of the Programme were outlined by **Prof. Jaideep Sharma**, Programme Coordinator (LIS) and Registrar, SED, who informed that there are 48 sessions which are to be taken by 25 eminent resource persons from different HEIs and IGNOU.

STRIDE

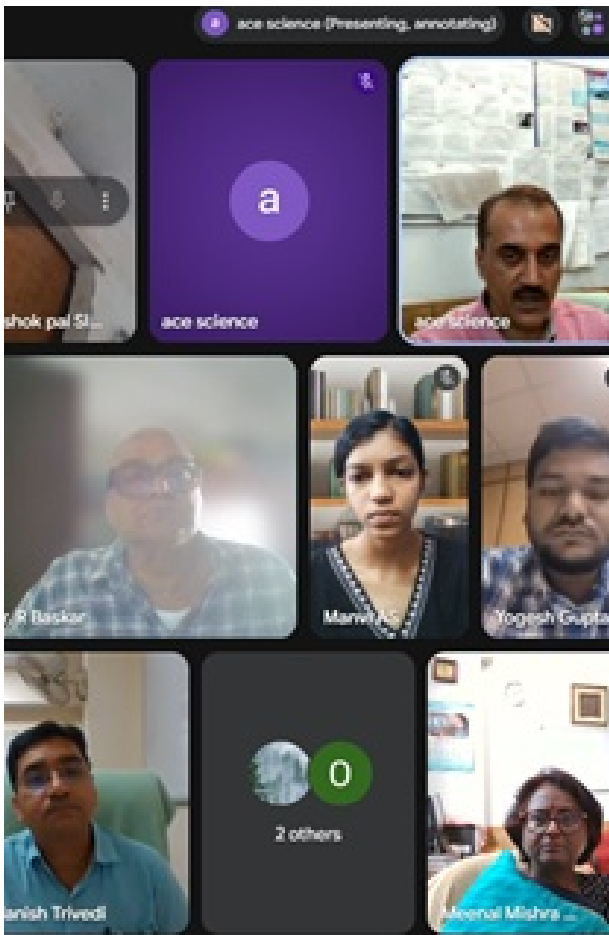


The programme was anchored by Programme Coordinator (LIS) **Dr. Pawan Kumar Saini**, and the vote of thanks was given by **Dr. Ram Chandra**, Programme Coordinator (STRIDE). The resource persons in this programme include eminent faculty from discipline of Library and Information Sciences. This Refresher Programme is being held from 16 to 29 September, 2026.



SOS

Web Conference conducted for Appreciation Course on Environment (ACE)



As per the practise , a **web conference** was conducted for the **Appreciation Course on Environment (ACE)** by the **School of Sciences** on **16 September 2026** for learners enrolled in the **July–September 2026 cycle**. ACE is a **Social Responsibility initiative** of **IGNOU**. It was developed by **IGNOU** in association with the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India**. The web conference consisted of **three one-hour sessions** held from **11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** ACE is coordinated by the **Geology faculty members** of the School of Sciences. At the outset, the coordinators, **Prof. Benidhar Deshmukh** and **Prof. R. Baskar**, welcomed **Prof. Manish Trivedi, Director, SOS**, the resource persons, and the participants, and briefed them about the sessions. The learners were then given an **orientation on ACE**.

Professor Manish Trivedi, Director SOS, in his opening remarks stated that **the environment is becoming more crucial**. More people, especially those who are educated and professionally engaged, are showing a **deep interest in environmental issues**. **They want to learn, they want to act**, and most importantly, they want to **make a difference in their communities**. However, despite their enthusiasm and background, many find themselves **overwhelmed** - either by **too much information** or by **misinformation**. This confusion often **prevents meaningful contributions**.

SOS

To bridge this gap, the University, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India**, developed the **Appreciation Course on Environment**, or **ACE**. This non-credit awareness course is designed to empower individuals with clear, reliable knowledge so that they can take informed action and become true stewards of their environment. The course is a social responsibility initiative of **IGNOU**. He called upon learners to embrace this opportunity to learn, lead, and leave a lasting impact.



Prof. Meenal Mishra, a senior faculty member in the Discipline of Geology, School of Sciences, motivated the learners to take up the course to understand the role of the environment and the importance of environmental education in their daily lives

The resource person for the first session, held from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, was environmentalist **Prof. Jaswant Sokhi**, a former IGNOU Professor and the current Pro-Vice Chancellor of Sikkim Professional University. She took the participants on an interesting expedition across Sikkim and its lakes.



SOS

Lakes of Sikkim (16.09.2026).pdf
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Zoom Share Highlight Rotate Markup Search

ice science

Appreciation course on Environment

Course Code ACE

Sikkim and its lakes



https://www.sikkimtours.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/PSX_30240813_124758.jpg

September 16, 2026
16/09/26

Jaswant Sokhi

1



Guru Dongmar Lake



SOS

How Lakes Form

Tectonic Lakes: Formed when movements of the Earth's crust, such as faulting, folding, or subsidence, create large depressions that fill with water (e.g., Lake Baikal, Wular Lake).

Glacial Lakes: Created when melting glaciers erode deep valleys or leave behind depressions from moraines and ice sheets (e.g., the Great Lakes, Dal Lake).

Volcanic (Crater) Lakes: Formed when rainwater or melted snow fills inactive volcanic craters or collapsed calderas (e.g., Crater Lake, Lonar Lake).

Oxbow Lakes: Formed when a meandering river cuts off a loop from its main channel during a flood, leaving a crescent-shaped body of water.

Artificial Lakes (Reservoirs): Built by humans damming rivers for hydroelectric power, irrigation, or drinking water supply (e.g., Lake Mead, Gobind

16/09/26

14

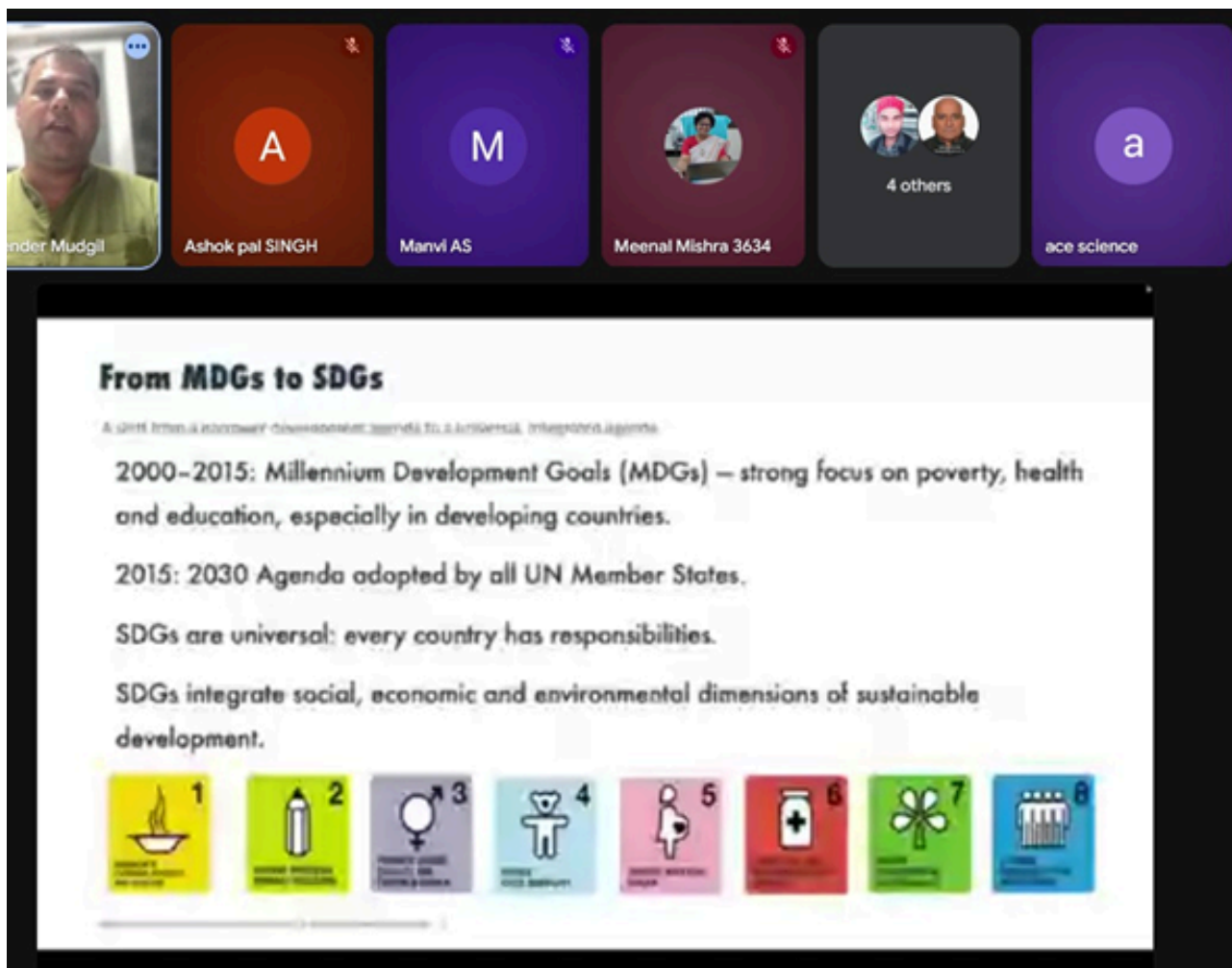
She mentioned that lakes, whether **natural or man-made reservoirs**, are surrounded by land and provide **vital ecological, economic, and climatic benefits** to our planet. **Sikkim**, a small state in **northeastern India**, has several lakes that play a vital role in regulating the water cycle in the state and surrounding areas. She discussed the form and structure of lakes, their characteristics, formation, and importance. She then spoke about the prominent lakes in **Sikkim**, their locations, ecological functions, sociocultural relevance, and ecological and geographical importance.

Five well-known holy lakes in Sikkim, notified by the **State Government of Sikkim**, were highlighted in the presentation, including their origins, expanse, and features of interest to ecologists, geologists, tourists, and people from all walks of life. She mentioned that there are about **109 sacred lakes** in different parts of **Sikkim**. Some of them are in inaccessible areas, and many more lakes are yet to be listed, as reaching them is challenging because of the steep mountains and deep valleys in the state. She then elaborated on the five important lakes of **Sikkim: Guru Dongmar Lake, Tsho Lhamo Lake, Tsomgo Lake, Khecheopalri Lake, and Kathok Lake**. She pointed out that this area of study is evolving gradually and is of particular interest in view of recent climatic disasters, including **glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs)** in **Sikkim, Nepal, and adjoining areas**.

SOS

In the second session, held from 12 noon to 1 p.m., the talk was delivered by **Dr. Devender Mudgil**, a distinguished scholar in geomicrobiology and cave ecosystem research at **Zakir Husain Delhi College**, on the topic of **Sustainable Development Goals**.

He discussed how the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, adopted in 2015, form a global framework linking economic growth, social well-being, and environmental sustainability. With 17 goals and 169 targets, they emphasise how areas such as clean energy, water, health, education, and gender equality are interconnected. India's institutional mechanisms, especially **NITI Aayog** and the **SDG India Index**, show steady national progress, with the composite score rising from 57 in 2018 to 71 in 2023–24.



The session stressed **“localising the SDGs,”** showing how global goals translate into action for states, districts, cities, institutions, and citizens. It also noted that globally, only about 35% of assessed targets are on track, making accelerated action essential. The key message was that the SDGs are not just 17 goals, but a shared language linking people, prosperity, planet, peace, and partnerships, enabling measurable sustainable development at all levels.

SOS

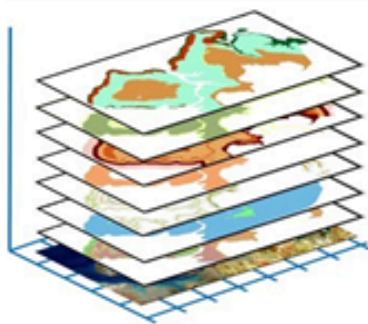
In the third session, held from 1 to 2 p.m., **Professor Benidhar Deshmukh** from **SOS, IGNOU**, delivered a talk on **“Geoinformatics in Environmental Studies.”**

He began the session by giving an overview of geoinformatics, introducing its components with an emphasis on **Remote Sensing**, **GIS**, and **GNSS** technologies. He then provided an overview of the application potential of geoinformatics in environmental studies, covering practical examples in various areas such as mapping and monitoring land use/land cover, vegetation/forest cover, urban expansion and its relationship with land-surface temperature, air quality, glaciers, and climatic parameters such as precipitation and temperature. He also demonstrated examples from coastal and marine studies, focusing on coral reefs, thermal stress and bleaching alerts, and mangroves. Later, he focused on land degradation studies, including mapping gully and ravine areas, assessing soil erosion, and developing a land degradation vulnerability index, with a focus on Indian examples, particularly those carried out by researchers from **IGNOU** and their collaborators.

The Three Pillars

GIS

Geographic Information Systems for spatial database analysis



GNSS

Precise satellite based position tracking

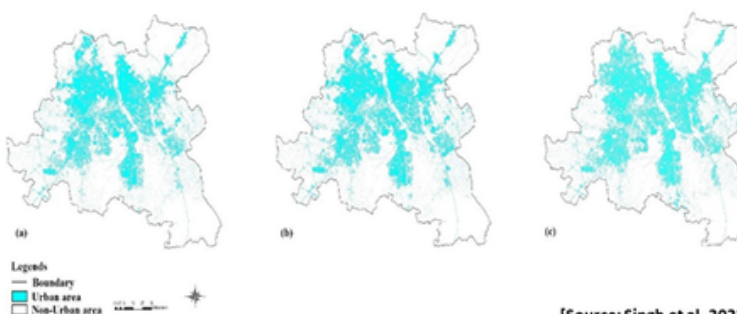


Remote Sensing

Earth observation via satellite and aerial sensors



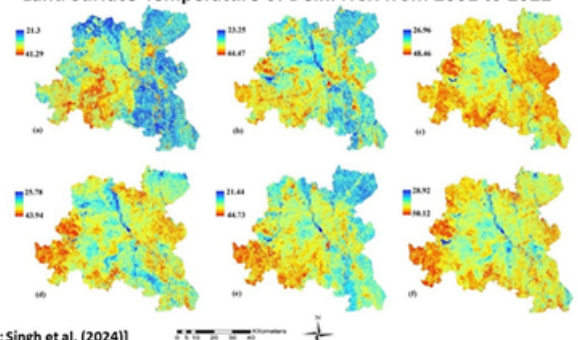
Urban Growth Map of Delhi NCR from 2020 to 2030



[Source: Singh et al. 2022]

Fig. 9 Urban growth maps of the study area (a). Actual map 2020 (b). Predicted map 2020 (c). Predicted map 2030

Land Surface Temperature of Delhi NCR from 2001 to 2022



[Source: Singh et al. (2024)]

Fig. 4 Spatial variation in LST (°C) for the month of April in the years a 2001, b 2010, c 2019, d 2020, e 2021, and f 2022

SOS

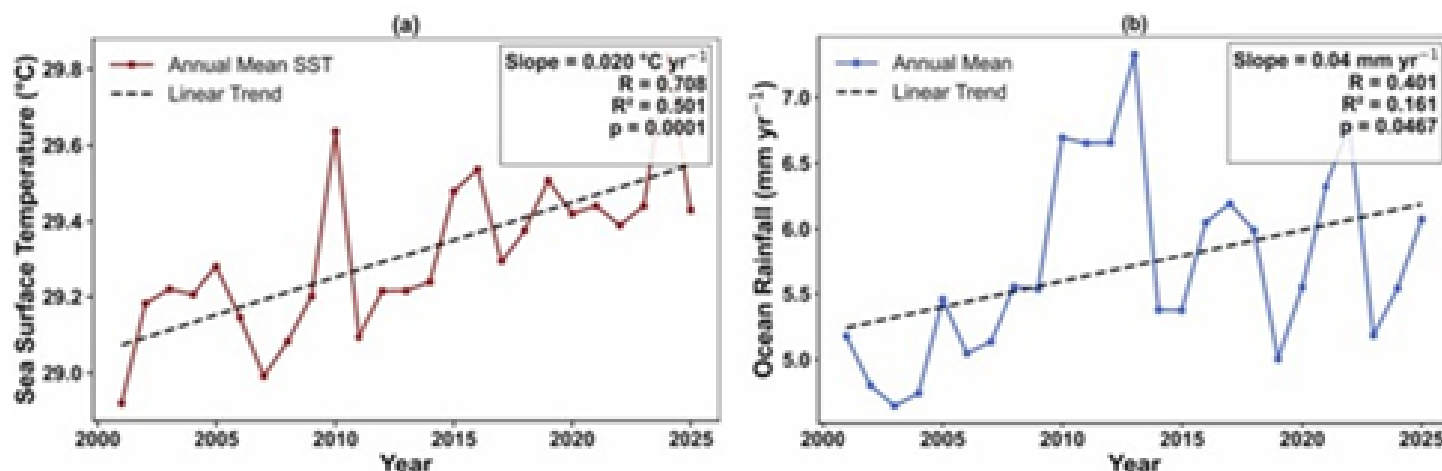


Fig. 2. Interannual variability and long-term trends (2001–2025) for (a) annual sea surface temperature and (b) annual ocean rainfall. The dashed lines indicate the corresponding linear trend revealing a significant warming rate of 0.02°C yr⁻¹ across the study region.

[Rai, J., Kumar, P., Deshmukh, B., Kumar, P., & Dikshit, A. (2026). **Identifying the Thermal Stress and Bleaching Risks associated with Sea Surface Temperature Variability and El-Nino on Coral Reefs Surrounding the Andaman and Nicobar Groups of Islands.** *Regional Studies in Marine Science*, 105412.]

Each session was followed by an interaction with participants, during which **ACE learners** asked questions and expressed their views on various environment-related issues. The sessions generated considerable interest in the topics covered, and all the sessions were greatly appreciated by the participants. In addition to the **ACE learners** and members of the **ACE team**, the web conference was also attended by officials and functionaries from **Regional Centres**. The web conference concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Coordinator **Prof. Benidhar Deshmukh** to the **Hon'ble Vice Chancellor**, Director, **SOS, EMPC, RSD, SRD, Computer Division, Regional Centres, Regional Directors**, the learned resource persons, and all the learners and participants.

RC- Khanna

Placement Drive



Khanna, Punjab, India
Grand Trunk Road, Bulepur Village, Khanna, Punjab
141401, India
Lat 30.687578, Long 76.250942
Tuesday, 15/09/2026 12:18 PM GMT+05:30
Note : Captured by GPS Map Camera

IGNOU Regional Centre, Khanna organised a **Placement Drive** facilitated by the **IGNOU Campus Placement Cell (CPC), Maidan Garhi, New Delhi**, in collaboration with **Axis Bank** on **15 September 2026** at **IGNOU Regional Centre, Khanna**. The initiative aimed to provide IGNOU learners with meaningful employment opportunities and direct exposure to the corporate recruitment process.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by **Dr. Manju Goel, Regional Director**. She encouraged the participating learners to utilise the opportunity effectively. The drive was coordinated by **Dr. Pramesh Chandra** and **Dr. Maria Afzal, Assistant Regional Directors**, who facilitated the smooth conduct of the programme.

Mr. Gaurav Verma, Talent Head, Axis Bank, interacted with the learners and briefed them about the employment opportunity, organisational expectations, and recruitment process. A total of **15 learners** participated in the selection process. The process included one-to-one interactions with the learners, followed by an online test, on the basis of which **three candidates** were selected.

RC- Shimla

Hindi Pakhwada Activities and Student Grievance Redressal Meeting at IGNOU Regional Centre, Shimla



IGNOU Regional Centre, Shimla, organised competitions in **Sulekhan, Shrut Lekh, and Upyogi Shabd Lekhan** on the RC Shimla premises. Students from various programmes and the staff of RC Shimla participated in these competitions as part of **Hindi Pakhwada 2026**. The students participated enthusiastically in the activities organised by RC Shimla to promote Hindi as the Rajbhasha.

A student grievance redressal meeting was also organised today. Student queries and issues were addressed by the officer, **Dr. Sandeep Gupta**, Regional Director, and the grievances and queries were resolved on the spot.