

प्रगति पथ

विश्वविद्यालय समाचार

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Japan Foundation delegation visits IGNOU, proposes donating books for the University library under Read Japan Project



A delegation from the **Japan Foundation's** Arts and Culture Department visited the **Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)** on 17 September 2026 and held discussions with IGNOU Vice-Chancellor **Prof. Uma Kanjilal** on strengthening academic and cultural engagement between the two institutions.

The delegation, comprising **Ms. Kurumi Otake**, Director, Japan Foundation, New Delhi; **Mr. Teruyuki Hoshina**, Director, Japan Foundation, New Delhi; and **Mr. Takashi Miura**, Japanese Language Advisor, Japan Foundation, also visited the **School of Foreign Languages (SOFL)**, where they were welcomed by **Prof. Mohd Saleem**, Director, SOFL, along with faculty members and consultants.

SOFL



At the meeting chaired by **Prof. Kanjilal**, the Japan Foundation representatives expressed their interest in **contributing books on Japanese language, literature and culture** to the IGNOU Library under the **Read Japan Project** of the **Tokyo Foundation**. The proposed contribution is part of an initiative under which the Foundation plans to provide 100 books to selected institutions across the world. The delegates informed the University that books had already been contributed to 40 academic institutions in India.

Welcoming the proposed contribution, **Prof. Kanjilal** said the books would enrich the University's academic resources and provide valuable reading material for learners and researchers interested in Japanese language and culture. She suggested that the collection could also be made available through the SOFL library and proposed a weekly reading day at the School to encourage students to engage with the resources.

The discussions also looked beyond the proposed book contribution towards wider avenues of academic and cultural cooperation. **Prof. Kanjilal** suggested that IGNOU could offer training programmes introducing traditional Japanese art forms such as Ikebana (flower arrangement), Shodo (calligraphy) and Nihonga (painting), besides exploring the creative traditions associated with Manga and Anime (graphic novel and animation art). She also proposed **cultural exchange programmes** and the organisation of a **'Japan Day'** at IGNOU to foster greater appreciation of Japanese culture among learners.



SOFL



The interaction further explored the possibility of a broader association between IGNOU and the Japan Foundation in areas including comparative literature, horticulture, research, educational resources, media, technology and innovation. The discussions reflected a shared interest in developing sustained academic engagement and expanding cooperation beyond the exchange of learning resources.

The meeting was attended by **Prof. Jitendra Kumar Srivastava**, Registrar; **Prof. Shailendra Kumar Yadav**, Director, Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC); **Prof. Pema Eden Samdup**, Director, International Division; **Dr. Dev Kant Rao**, Director, Academic Coordination Division; **Dr. Jitendra Dev Gangwar**, Finance Officer; **Prof. Mohd Saleem**, Director, SOFL; **Prof. Deepanwita Srivastava**, Senior Professor, SOFL; **Dr. Shivaji Bhaskar**, Programme Coordinator (Japanese); and **Dr. Ezra John**, PRO, Public Information Unit.

Dr. Bhaskar proposed the vote of thanks. The visiting delegation later toured the **EMPC and the IGNOU Library**, gaining an overview of the University's academic resources and learning infrastructure. The visit marked a step towards exploring sustained academic and cultural linkages between IGNOU and the Japan Foundation.



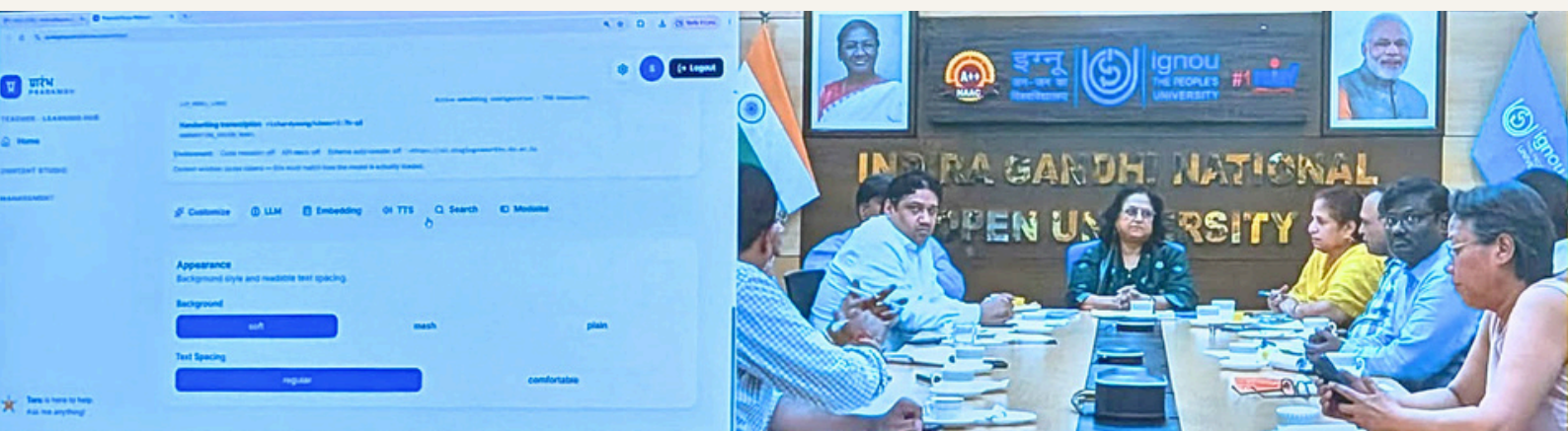
Headquarters

IGNOU explores SAMARTH's Prarambh portal for technology-enabled learner services



The **Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)** held a meeting with experts from SAMARTH at its headquarters on 17 September 2026 to deliberate on the '**Prarambh**' portal and explore its potential for strengthening technology-enabled learner services at the university.

The meeting was chaired by **IGNOU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Uma Kanjilal** and attended by **Prof. Sanjeev Singh**, Project Investigator SAMARTH, Institute of Informatics and Communication, University of Delhi, and **Mr. Anil Singh Bafila**, Head, R&D, SAMARTH. The SAMARTH team made a detailed presentation on the Prarambh portal, outlining its features and possible applications within the university's academic and administrative ecosystem. The portal is designed to support AI-assisted lesson-plan development, quiz creation and question generation through the Question Paper Delivery System (QPDS), besides facilitating evaluation and intelligent timetable management.



Headquarters



The team also demonstrated a role-based dashboard designed for all divisions and schools, enabling the generation of specific reports and providing access to relevant information based on institutional requirements. The presentation was followed by an interaction between the SAMARTH representatives and IGNOU officials, during which case-specific clarifications were sought and updates discussed. The deliberations brought together officials from various academic, administrative, technology and learner-support domains of the university.

Among those present were **Prof. Jaideep Sharma**, Registrar, SED; **Prof. Pema Eden Samdup**, Director, International Division; **Prof. Neera Kapoor**, Director, COE; **Prof. V.V. Subrahmanyam**, Professor, SOCIS and Director, Pⅅ **Prof. Gaurav Singh**, National Co-coordinator, SWAYAMPRAKHA; **Dr. Jitendra Dev Gangwar**, Finance Officer; **Dr. G. Mythili**, Registrar, SRD; **Dr. Amit Kumar Srivastava**, Additional Director, SED; **Mr. Pankaj Kumar**, Deputy Director, CD; **Dr. Amit Verma**, Assistant Director, COE; **Mr. Mithun Datta Senapati**, Project Manager; and **Dr. Ezra John**, Assistant Director, VCO.

The meeting concluded with discussions on the way forward towards integrating appropriate technological solutions to facilitate more seamless, efficient and responsive learner services at IGNOU.



SOFL

IGNOU Conducts Live Radio Counselling Session for Russian Learners



An **interactive live radio counselling session** for present and prospective learners of Russian was conducted by **Dr. Shivaji Bhaskar**, Faculty Member and Programme Coordinator, Russian, School of Foreign Languages (**SOFL**), Indira Gandhi National Open University (**IGNOU**), at the **Gyan Vani FM** Radio Station, Electronic Media Production Centre (**EMPC**), on September 17.

The session provided learners with an **opportunity to gain insights into the study of the Russian language** and engage with **academic guidance through IGNOU's radio-based educational outreach**. The interactive format enabled learners to seek guidance and clarification relevant to their academic interests and language-learning journey.

The programme formed part of IGNOU's continuing efforts to extend academic counselling through accessible media platforms and strengthen learner support beyond the conventional classroom.

RC- Patna

IGNOU Regional Centre Patna Conducts MCA NEW Project Viva-Voce Examination



Indira Gandhi National Open University (**IGNOU**), Regional Centre Patna, successfully conducted the second and final day of the **Viva-Voce Examination** for the project of the **MCA - NEW Programme** on 16 September 2026. The examination was scheduled over two days for the systematic evaluation of project work submitted by eligible learners.

On 16 September 2026, **108 learners appeared** before the appointed experts and external examiners for evaluation of their projects. The Viva-Voce was conducted in accordance with the prescribed academic norms and guidelines of the University.

Before the commencement of the examination, **Dr. E. Krishna Rao**, Senior Regional Director, **IGNOU Regional Centre Patna**, interacted with the experts and external examiners and emphasized the importance of maintaining **IGNOU's** academic standards and quality benchmarks. He reiterated that IGNOU does not compromise on quality and advised the examiners to ensure a fair, objective, and quality-oriented evaluation of the learners' project work.

Dr. Neelu Sharma, Assistant Regional Director, coordinated and supervised the examination proceedings, ensuring their smooth, systematic, and orderly conduct in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.



RC- Patna

IGNOU RC Patna Academic Invited to 'Beech Behas' Show on DD Patna



On 14 September 2026, **Dr. Neelu Sharma**, Assistant Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Patna, participated as a panelist in Doordarshan Patna's programme 'Beech Behas' on the topic '**Education in Bihar: Challenges and Opportunities.**'

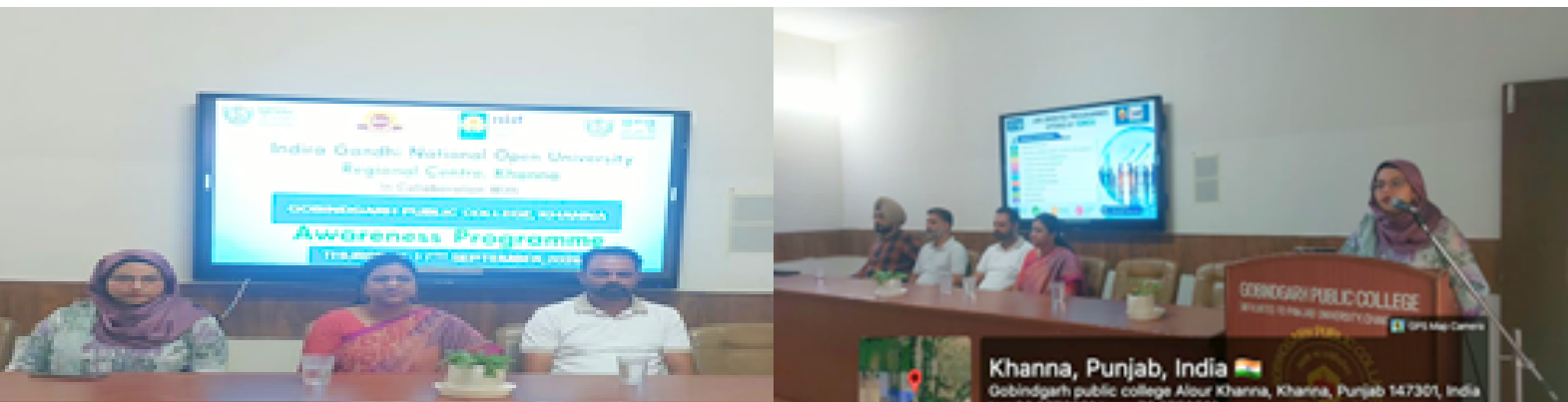
During the discussion, **Dr. Sharma** shared her views on the prevailing challenges and emerging opportunities in the field of education in Bihar. Drawing on the experience and contributions of **Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)**, she highlighted the importance of making education more accessible, inclusive, flexible, and employment-oriented, particularly for learners from diverse socio-economic and geographical backgrounds.

She also discussed the role of open and distance learning in expanding educational opportunities and enabling learners to pursue higher education alongside employment and other responsibilities. The discussion emphasised the need to strengthen the linkages between education, skill development, and employability so that learners are better prepared for the changing requirements of the employment landscape.



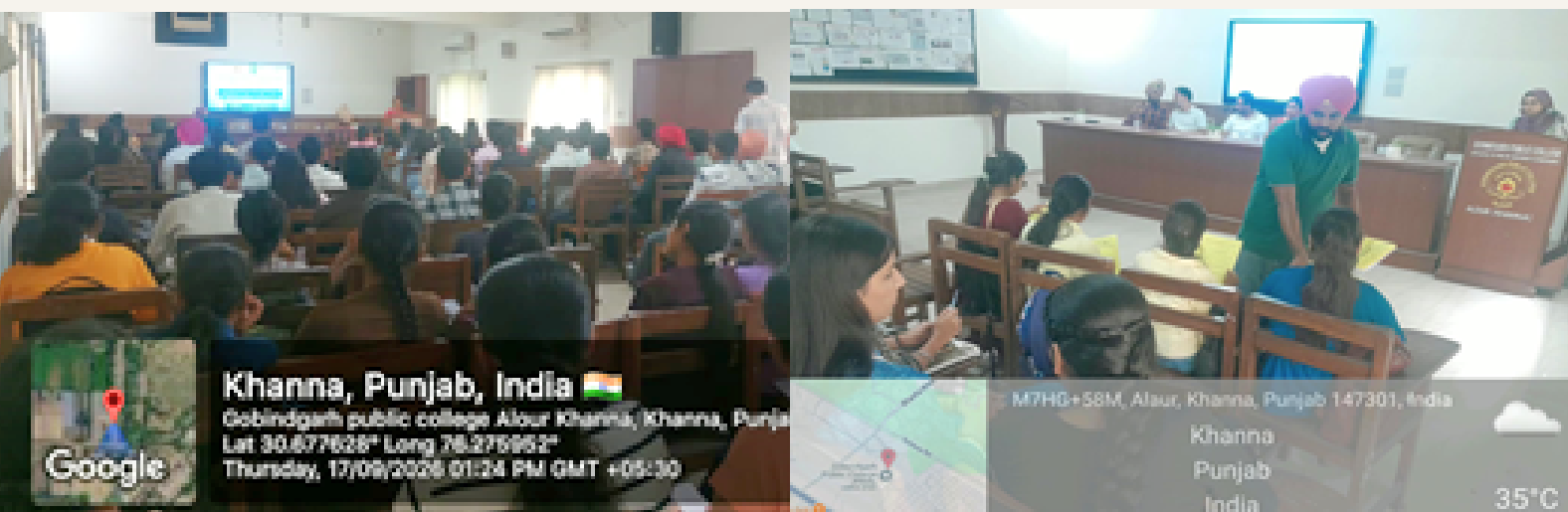
RC- Khanna

Awareness Camp



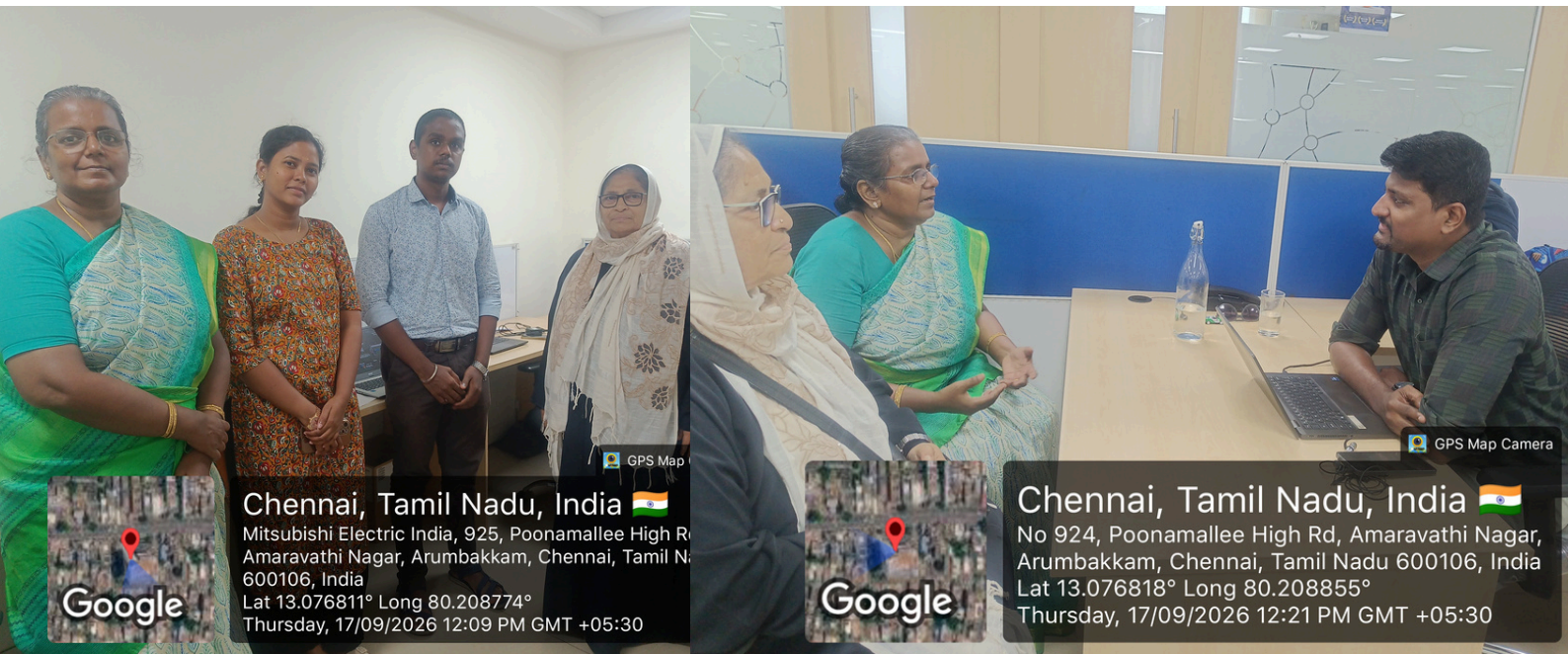
IGNOU Regional Centre, Khanna, organized an **Admission Awareness Camp** in collaboration with Gobindgarh Public College (GPC), Alour, Khanna (Learner Support Centre – 2283), on 17 September 2026. The programme aimed to create awareness of the various educational programmes offered by **Indira Gandhi National Open University**.

Dr. Manju Goel, Regional Director, and **Dr. Maria Afzal**, Assistant Regional Director, addressed the participants about the various educational opportunities available through IGNOU. Students were motivated to enrol in programmes of their interest alongside their regular studies and after completing their studies at the regular college. **Dr. Rupinder Singh**, Coordinator of LSC 2283, briefed the students about the activities carried out by the IGNOU Study Centre. He encouraged the students to contact the centre if they faced any difficulty in applying for admission. Pamphlets in vernacular languages containing information about IGNOU programmes and study centres under the jurisdiction of Regional Centre, Khanna, Punjab, were distributed among the participants.



RC- Chennai

IGNOU Chennai Regional Centre Facilitates Campus Placement



The **IGNOU Regional Centre, Chennai** facilitated a campus placement drive at **Bajaj Life Insurance Company Limited**, Chennai, on 17 September 2026. The initiative provided IGNOU learners and graduates an opportunity to explore employment prospects in the insurance sector.

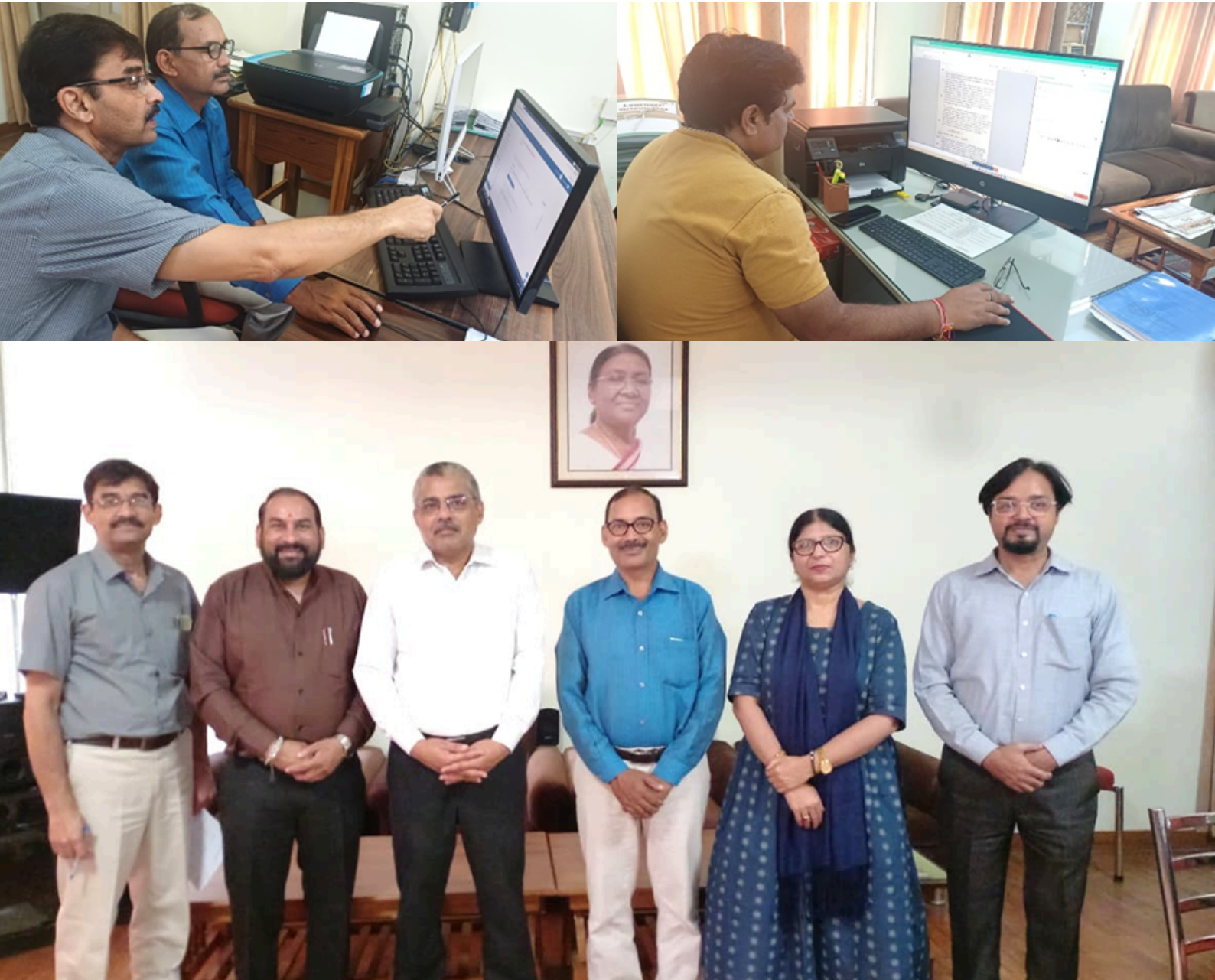
A total of 47 aspirants participated in the placement process, of whom Mr. Dilli Babu, an IGNOU graduate and current learner, was selected.

Mr. Dilli Babu completed his B.Sc. in June 2025 through IGNOU Learner Support Centre-2578, Guru Nanak College, Chennai. He is currently pursuing **M.A. in Public Administration** through IGNOU Regional Centre, Vellore.

The placement drive was coordinated by **Dr. J. S. Dorothy**, Senior Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Chennai, and **Dr. Sk. Zareena**, Assistant Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Chennai, in association with **Mr. Sridhar Ashok**, Cluster Manager-HR, and **Ms. Kamali P.**, Manager-HR, Bajaj Life Insurance Company Limited. The company officials expressed their willingness to conduct another campus placement drive on 21 September 2026. As part of the initiative, Mr. Sridhar Ashok has also volunteered to conduct a virtual pre-placement talk titled 'Campus Placement Prospects at Bajaj Life Insurance Company Limited' on 21 September 2026 at 3:00 PM. The session will familiarise prospective candidates with career opportunities and the placement process at the company.

RC- Lucknow

On-the-Spot Evaluation of Assignments of Online Programmes



IGNOU Regional Centre, Lucknow, conducted an on-the-spot evaluation of assignments for online programmes on 17 September 2026. Senior Regional Director and Head **Dr. Anil Kumar Misra**, Regional Director **Dr. Reena Kumari**, Assistant Registrar **Dr. Nishith Nagar**, and Assistant Director (Software) **Mr. Arabinda Mishra** guided the academic counsellors in operating the LMS portal to evaluate assignments for various online programmes. **Dr. Dhurandhar Yadav** and **Dr. Sarvind Kumar** participated in the on-the-spot evaluation of assignments for the Online Programmes (MASSOL/BFTTMOL).