

प्रगति पथ

विश्वविद्यालय समाचार

25 Sept. 2026 / Special Issue

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School of Computer and Information Sciences

About SOCIS

The School of Computer and Information Sciences (SOCIS), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU),

established in **1991**, is a pioneering academic School dedicated to education, research, training, innovation and capacity building in Computer Science, Information Technology and emerging areas of computing. Over more than three decades, SOCIS has contributed significantly to IGNOU's vision of accessible, flexible and technology-enabled higher education.



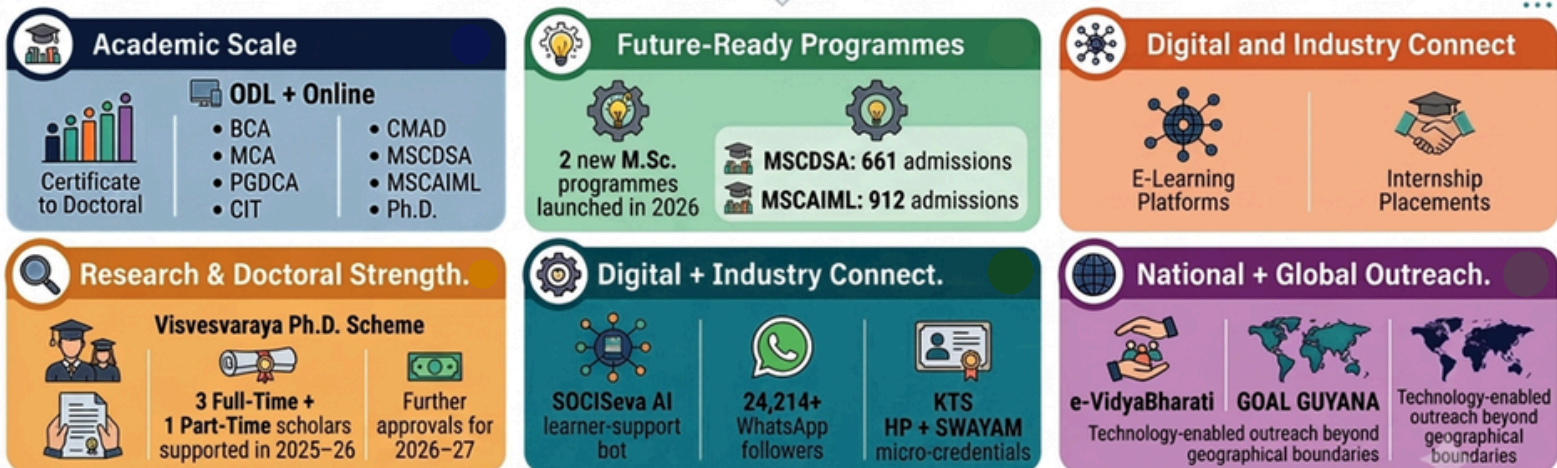
Faculty members of the School of Computer and Information Sciences, IGNOU

With an expanding focus on **Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Big Data Analytics** and other emerging technologies, SOCIS is strengthening IGNOU's academic, research, industry and digital learner-support ecosystem. Its initiatives, including specialized postgraduate programmes, the **Visvesvaraya Ph.D. Scheme, HP-linked SWAYAM micro-credentials, SOCISeva**, the **Official WhatsApp Channel, Knowledge Transfer Series**, and outreach through **e-VidyaBharati** and **GOAL GUYANA**, reflect its continuing contribution to IGNOU's academic expansion, innovation and global outreach.

PRESENT FACULTY STRENGTH: EXPERTISE SUPPORTING ACADEMIC EXPANSION

SOCIS at a Glance

THE SOCIS IMPACT PULSE



SOCIS Success Path



Infographic: SOCIS - Key Highlights

The School of Computer and Information Sciences (SOCIS) currently has eight faculty members, six Professors and two Associate Professors. The faculty expertises in **Computer Science, Data Science, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Databases, Big Data Analytics, Information Retrieval** and related areas.



PRESENT FACULTY STRENGTH: EXPERTISE SUPPORTING ACADEMIC EXPANSION

Faculty Member	Designation	Broad Expertise
Prof. Sandeep Singh Rawat	Professor & Director	Data Mining; Big Data Analytics, Machine Learning and AI in Health, Transportation and other domains.
Prof. P.V. Suresh	Professor	Data Mining; Machine Learning; Cloud Computing
Prof. V.V. Subrahmanyam	Professor & Director (PDD)	Cloud Computing; Data Warehousing; Deep Learning
Prof. Divakar Yadav	Professor	Machine Learning; Deep Learning; Information Retrieval; Soft Computing
Prof. Akshay Kumar	Professor	DBMS; Big Data Analytics; Data Warehousing; Data Mining; ML
Prof. M.P. Mishra	Professor	Computer Science, NLP, Cloud Computing
Dr. Sudhansh Sharma	Associate Professor	ML; Deep Learning; Image Processing
Dr. Adwitiya Sinha	Associate Professor	Data Science; ML; Data Mining; Network Analytics; Explainable AI

The breadth of expertise within the School provides an important academic foundation for the expansion of programmes in **Data Science, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning**, as well as for continued development of **research, learner support** and **academic resources**.



SMART CLASSROOM FACILITY: ENABLING TECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT



Infographic: SOCIS - Empowering Learning Through Technology

As part of its broader initiative to strengthen technology-enabled teaching and learning, IGNOU has established **Smart Classroom facilities** across various Schools of Studies, equipped with modern technologies such as high-definition projectors and interactive boards.

The School of Computer and Information Sciences (SOCIS) is actively utilising this facility to enrich its academic and research environment. The Smart Classroom provides a contemporary space for research scholars and faculty members to engage in **meaningful academic interaction, research discussions** and **scholarly exchange**.

The facility complements SOCIS's efforts to foster a **vibrant research culture** and **technology-enabled academic ecosystem**, supporting greater collaboration, knowledge sharing and innovation across the School.

RESEARCH LABORATORY



SOCIS
School of Computer and
Information Sciences



RESEARCH LAB @ SOCIS

Enabling Advanced Research and Innovation

Experiment | Develop | Analyse | Innovate



Empowering Researchers | Advancing Innovation | Building a Stronger Research Ecosystem

Infographic: SOCIS RESEARCH LABORATORY: Enabling Advanced Research, Innovation & Knowledge Creation

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The **Research Laboratory** provides a dedicated and collaborative environment for Ph.D. scholars and learners to pursue advanced research and innovation. The laboratory currently comprises of five desktop computer systems, offering **dedicated computing resources to support scholars in their academic and research activities**. The facility supports experimentation, data analysis, computational work and technology-driven research, enabling researchers to undertake their work in a focused and resource-supported environment.

The Research Laboratory further strengthens the **research ecosystem** at SOCIS by promoting collaboration, experimentation and knowledge creation across emerging areas of Computer Science and Information Sciences. It provides research scholars with an enabling space to develop, refine and advance their research work.

ADMISSION STATISTICS: A SIGNIFICANT RISE IN LEARNER REACH

SOCIS has recorded sustained growth in learner reach across the July admission cycles. Fresh admissions increased from **13,339 in July 2021 to 22,842 in July 2026**, an increase of 9,503 learners, representing an overall growth of **71.24%**. July 2026 recorded the highest admission figure in the six-year July series, with **24.49% growth over July 2025**.

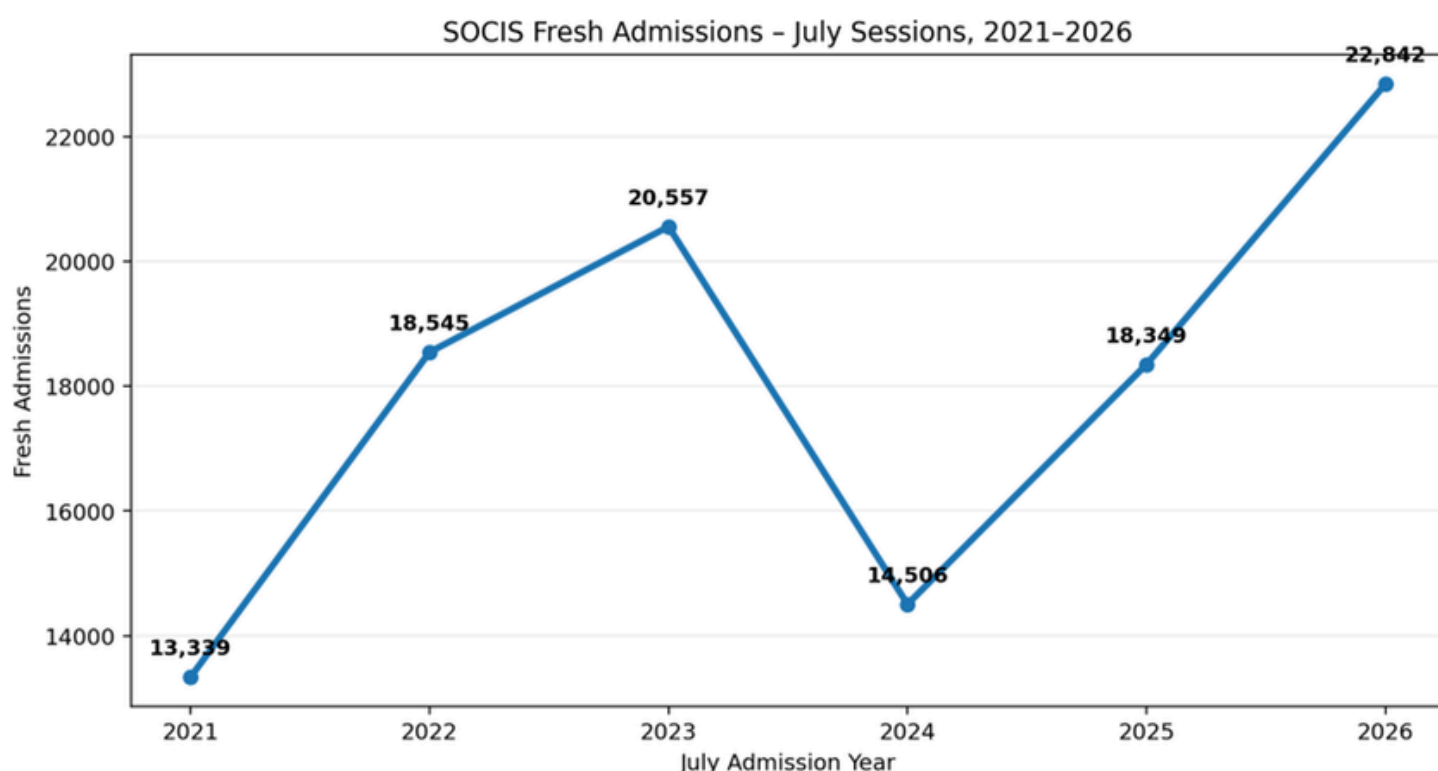


Figure. Fresh admissions in all July sessions from 2021 to 2026.

New Programmes: Early Learner Uptake

The newly launched programmes have already attracted significant learner interest. MSCDSA recorded **661 fresh admissions in January 2026** and another **671 in July 2026**, while MSCAIML recorded **912 fresh admissions in July 2026**. Together, the two new programmes recorded **1,573 fresh admissions in July 2026**.

The admission trend indicates a strong expansion in learner reach, while the July 2026 intake also demonstrates early learner acceptance of SOCIS's newly introduced programmes in **Data Science and Artificial Intelligence**.

RECENT PROGRAMMES LAUNCHED: ADVANCING INTO EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

A major recent milestone for **SOCIS** has been the introduction of **two specialized postgraduate programmes** in emerging technology domains, strengthening the School's academic response to the growing demand for advanced skills in data-driven computing and artificial intelligence.

School of Computer and Information Sciences
M.Sc. (DATA SCIENCE AND ANALYTICS) (MSCDSA)

The School of Computer and Information Sciences announces the launch of M.Sc. Data Science and Analytics Programme from January 2026 session.

Objective(s):

- To provide a strong foundation in statistical and computational methods for data analysis.
- To equip with the skills to collect, manage, analyze and interpret large and complex datasets.
- To apply data science techniques to solve real-world problems in various domains such as business, healthcare, social sciences, and engineering.
- To prepare for careers in data science and analytics.

Eligibility: Bachelor degree of at least 3 years from a recognized University / Institution.

Exit option: Learners completing the first two semesters (40 credits) may exit with a PG Diploma in Data Science and Analytics.

Duration: Minimum: 2 Years Maximum: 4 Years.

Mode of Delivery: Open & Distance Learning.

Medium of Instruction: English.

Programme Fee: ₹13,000/- per Semester.

Launch cycle: January 2026
Admissions starts from December 2025
visit www.ignou.ac.in for latest updates

Programme Coordinator(s)
Prof. Sandeep Singh Rawat
Prof. Divakar Yadav

M.Sc. (Data Science and Analytics) – MSCDSA

The **M.Sc. (Data Science and Analytics)** was introduced in the **January 2026 session in ODL mode**. The programme develops computational and statistical skills for data-driven problem solving and prepares learners to collect, manage, analyse and interpret complex datasets. It includes contemporary areas such as **data science, data visualisation, artificial intelligence and machine learning, big data analytics, deep learning, cloud computing and natural language processing**.

The programme also provides a **multiple-exit provision**: after successful completion of the first two semesters (40 credits), a learner may be eligible for the **Post Graduate Diploma in Data Science and Analytics**, subject to prescribed conditions.

M.Sc. (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning) – MSCAIML

The **M.Sc. (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)** was launched in the July 2026 session. The programme provides advanced knowledge and practical skills in **AI and ML**, including **data science, deep learning, natural language processing, computer vision and intelligent systems**. It combines theoretical foundations with practical work and project-based learning.

The launch of MSCDSA and MSCAIML marks a **significant expansion of SOCIS into advanced, data-driven and AI-enabled domains of computing** and strengthens the School's future-oriented academic portfolio.

SCHOOL OF COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES (SOCIS)
M.Sc. (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING) – MSCAIML

The School of Computer and Information Sciences announce the launch of M.Sc. (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning) Programme from July 2026 session.

Objective(s):

The M.Sc. (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning) programme is designed to prepare graduate students for successful careers in the software industry and academia. The following are the objectives:

- To provide a strong foundation in programming and ML algorithms for solving diverse problems.
- To equip with the skills to collect, manage, analyse and interpret large and complex datasets.
- To apply machine learning and deep learning techniques to solve real-world problems in various domains such as business, healthcare, social sciences, and engineering.
- To prepare for careers as Machine Learning Engineer, Data Scientist, AI Research Scientist.

Eligibility: Bachelor's degree of at least 3 years duration from any recognized University/Institution. Mathematics at the 10+2 level is desirable.

Exit option: Learners completing the first two semesters (40 credits) may exit with a PG Diploma in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

Duration: Minimum: 2 Years Maximum: 4 Years.

Mode of Delivery: Open & Distance Learning.

Medium of Instruction: English.

Programme Fee: ₹13,000/- per Semester.

Launch cycle: July 2026
Admissions starts from June 2026
visit www.ignou.ac.in for latest updates

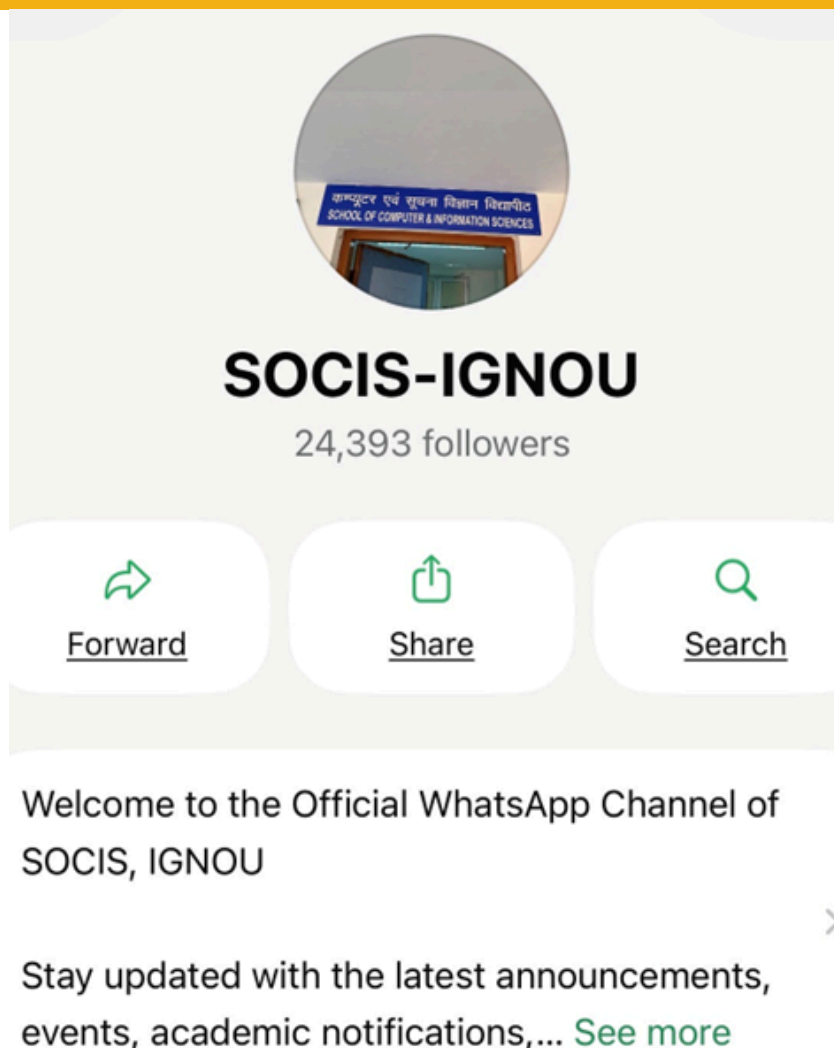
Programme Coordinator(s)
Prof. Divakar Yadav
Prof. Sandeep Singh Rawat

SOCIS-IGNOU WHATSAPP CHANNEL: AN INNOVATIVE DIGITAL CONNECT

Recognizing the need for faster, simpler and more accessible communication with a large and geographically dispersed learner community, SOCIS created its **Official WhatsApp Channel – SOCIS-IGNOU** on **23 October 2025**.

The channel has developed into an important **digital communication** platform and, as reflected in the supplied channel snapshot, has reached **24,393 followers**. It provides a convenient mechanism for sharing academic notifications, admission and examination updates, programme developments, workshops, events, opportunities and highlights of SOCIS activities.

The initiative represents SOCIS's effort to move **beyond conventional communication** mechanisms and use a widely accessible digital platform to establish a direct, timely and learner-friendly connect across programmes and locations.



Infographic: SOCIS-IGNOU Official WhatsApp Channel — channel snapshot showing followers and creation date 23 October 2025.

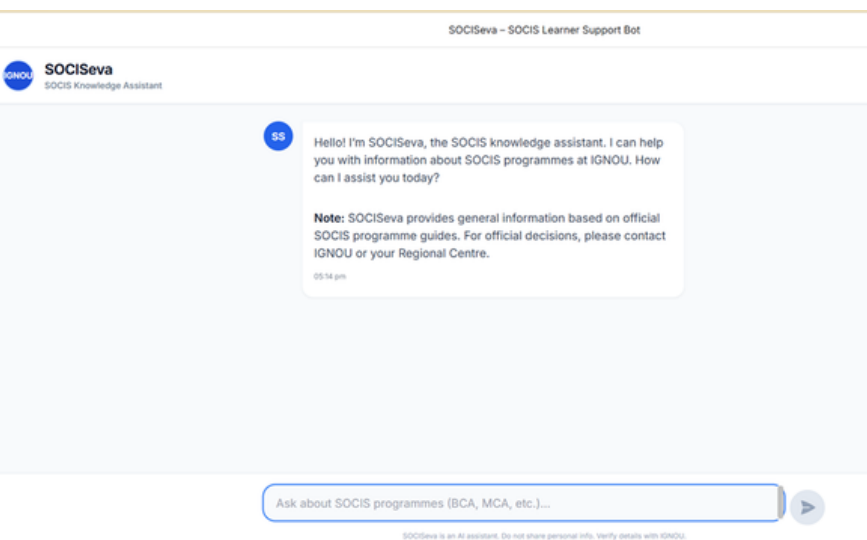


SOCISEVA: AI-POWERED LEARNER SUPPORT KNOWLEDGE BOT

As part of its digital transformation initiatives, the School of Computer and Information Sciences (SOCIS), IGNOU has introduced **SOCISeva**, an **AI-powered Learner Support Knowledge Bot** designed to provide learners with quick and convenient access to programme-related information.

Developed using **Google AI Studio**, SOCISeva uses **Artificial Intelligence** to make academic and programme information more accessible through an interactive, conversational interface. It is envisioned as a digital first-level support mechanism, enabling learners to obtain relevant information without navigating through multiple webpages, documents or conventional communication channels.

SOCISeva can assist learners in accessing information related to SOCIS programmes, courses, academic processes, programme requirements, learner support and other frequently sought information, based on the knowledge resources made available to the bot. The initiative reflects SOCIS's efforts to move towards a **24×7**, self-service and AI-enabled learner-support ecosystem, particularly important for **IGNOU's large and geographically dispersed learner community**.



SOCISeva – Bringing Intelligent, Accessible and Learner-Centric Support to SOCIS.

Key Features

- AI-enabled conversational learner support
- Quick access to programme and academic information
- Simplified navigation of extensive academic resources
- A single digital interface for frequently required information
- Support for learners across SOCIS's diverse programmes
- Progressive enhancement with programme documents, FAQs and learner-support resources

A Step Towards Intelligent Learner Support

SOCISeva represents SOCIS's endeavour to harness Generative AI for improving learner experience and academic support. Together with the SOCIS-IGNOU WhatsApp Channel, it forms part of the School's broader digital initiative to establish more accessible, responsive and technology-enabled communication and support mechanisms.

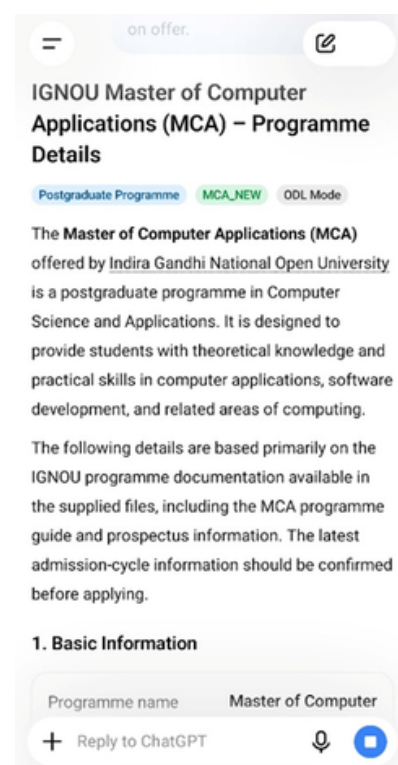
IGNOU-SOCIS ADMISSIONS CHATBOT

The IGNOU-SOCIS Admissions Chatbot is a **student-friendly** digital support initiative designed to assist prospective and current learners with admission-related queries for the School of Computer and Information Sciences (SOCIS), IGNOU.

It provides clear and accessible guidance on programme details, eligibility criteria, fee structure, admission procedures, important notifications, document requirements, re-registration, and common application-related issues. By offering **step-by-step assistance** and directing students to official IGNOU sources for verification, the chatbot aims to simplify the admission process, improve access to information, and support learners in making informed academic decisions.



*IGNOU-SOCIS
Admissions Chatbot
can be accessed by
scanning the given
QR code.*



INDUSTRY-LINKED MICRO-CREDENTIALS WITH HP THROUGH SWAYAM

As part of its commitment to industry-oriented, competency-based and future-ready learning, the School of Computer and Information Sciences (SOCIS), IGNOU, in collaboration with **Hewlett-Packard (HP)**, is promoting opportunities for learners to acquire focused, industry-relevant skills through **micro-credentials offered through the SWAYAM platform**.

HP: From Code to Creation: Mastering Game Programming

NSQF Level: 4 | Notional Learning Hours: 30 | Credits: 1



- Programming Fundamentals
- Game Development Concepts
- Coding Techniques
- Interactive Game Creation
- Practical Application

SWAYAM COURSE LINK
https://swayam.gov.in/hp_game_programming
 (Click to view course)

HP: A Complete Guide to Game Design

NSQF Level: 4 | Notional Learning Hours: 30 | Credits: 1



- Fundamentals of Game Design
- Game Concepts & Mechanics
- Creative Design Processes
- Interactive Experiences
- Practical Approaches

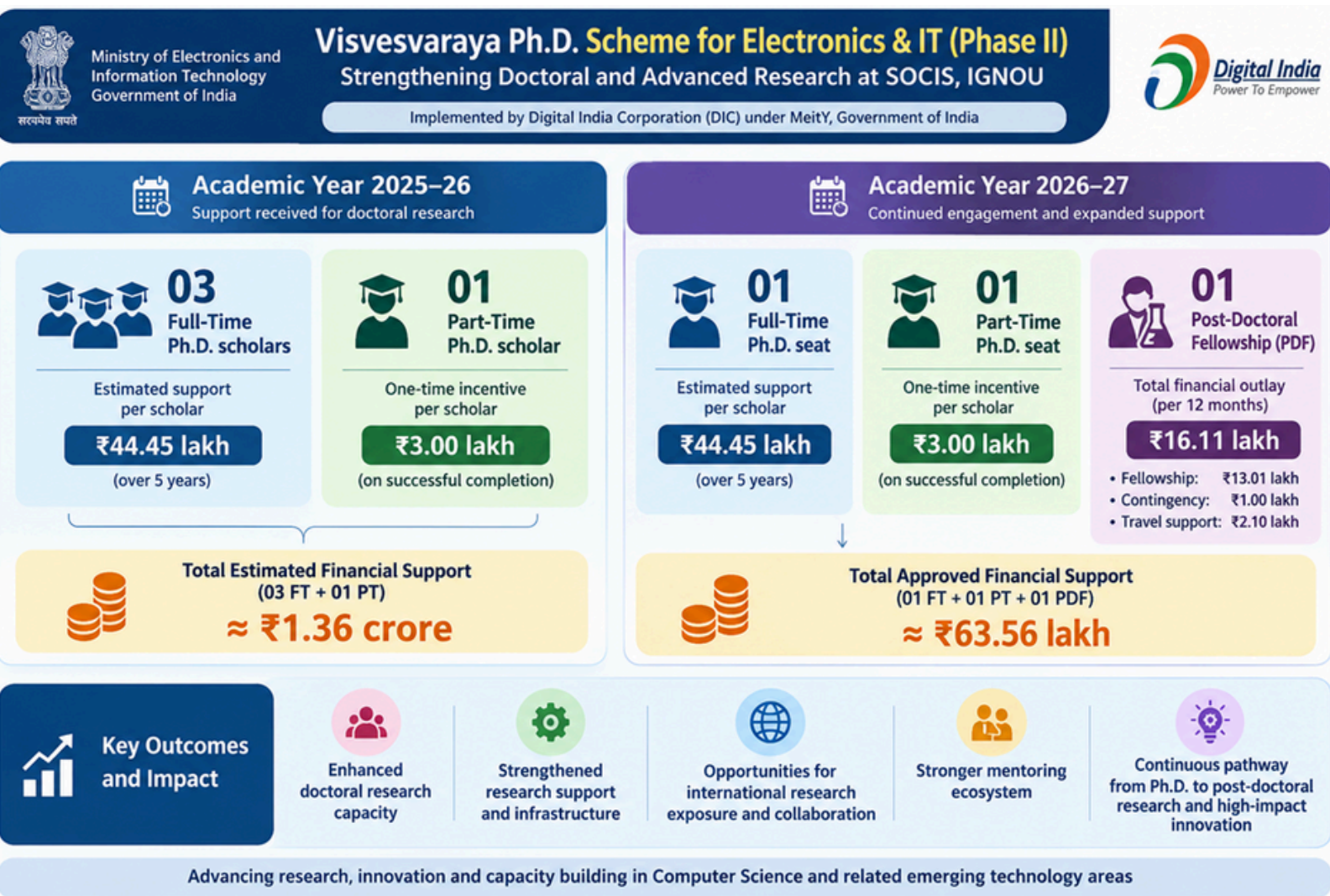
SWAYAM COURSE LINK
https://swayam.gov.in/hp_game_design
 (Click to view course)

Infographic: Micro credential at Glance

These micro-credentials provide learners with an opportunity to complement their formal academic qualifications with **industry-relevant, credit-enabled and competency-based learning**. They also reinforce SOCIS's broader emphasis on emerging areas such as **Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Science**, digital technologies and application-oriented computing skills.

The initiative complements SOCIS's academic expansion through the **M.Sc. (Data Science and Analytics)** and **M.Sc. (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)** programmes launched in 2026.

VISVESVARAYA PH.D. SCHEME: STRENGTHENING DOCTORAL & ADVANCED RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM



SOCIS has strengthened its doctoral research ecosystem through participation in the **Visvesvaraya Ph.D. Scheme for Electronics and IT**, implemented by **the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India**.

The initiative enhances **SOCIS's doctoral research capacity**, strengthens research support and infrastructure, promotes advanced research exposure and collaboration, and establishes a structured pathway from **doctoral research** to **post-doctoral and high-impact innovation**.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER SERIES: BUILDING ACADEMIA-INDUSTRY CONNECT

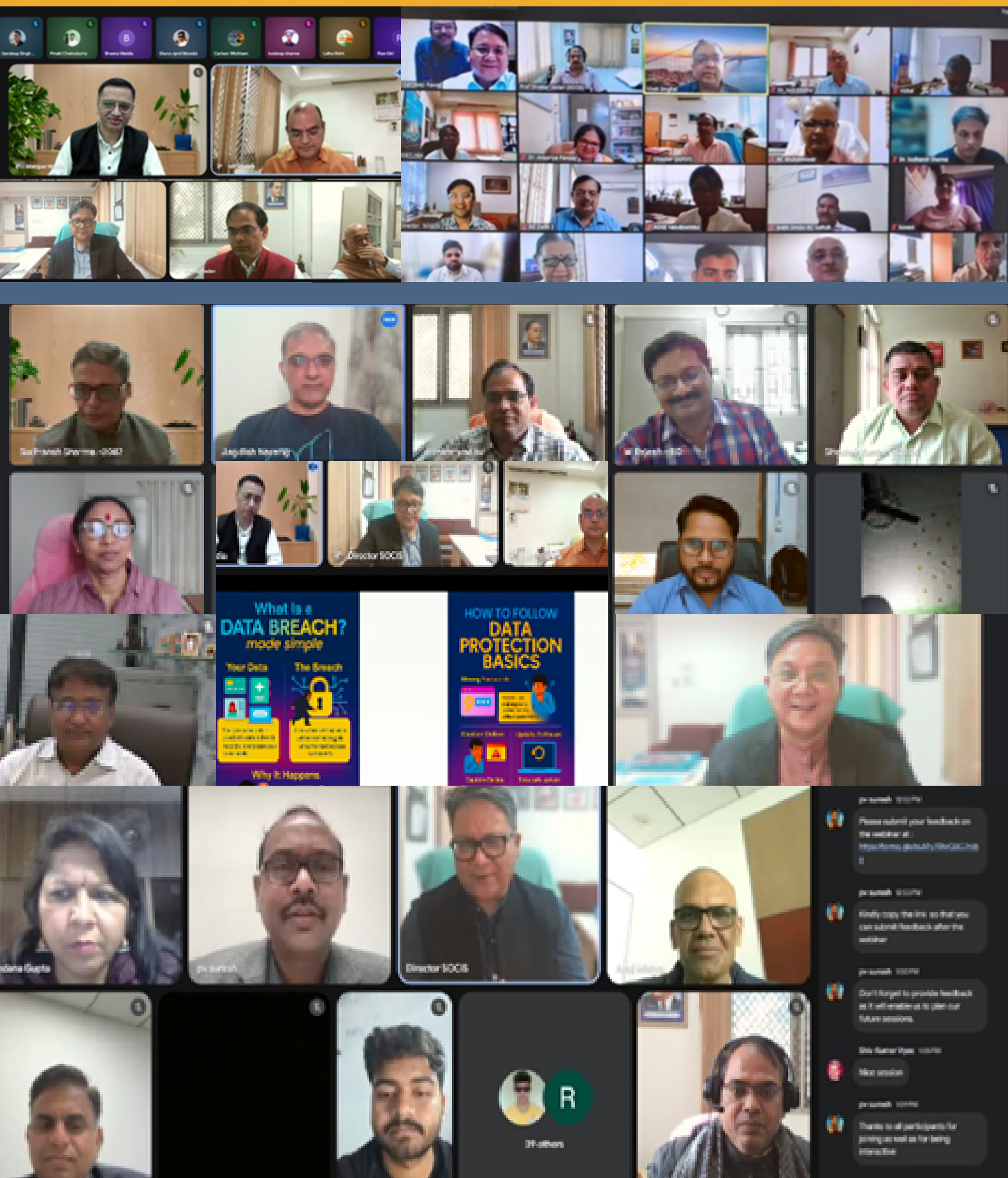
SOCIS has initiated the **Knowledge Transfer Series (KTS)** as a platform for **continuous interaction among faculty, learners, researchers and industry experts**. The initiative brings contemporary technology developments and professional perspectives into the academic environment.

The **KTS 2.0** series further extends this initiative through expert-led sessions on contemporary themes. The series provides opportunities for participants to gain insights into **emerging technologies, industry practices, professional requirements** and **real-world applications** beyond the conventional curriculum.

-  Facilitates knowledge exchange between academia and industry.
-  Provides exposure to emerging technologies and current professional practices.
-  Encourages interaction with technology experts and practitioners.
-  Supports continuous learning and professional development.
-  Complements formal academic programmes with contemporary industry perspectives.

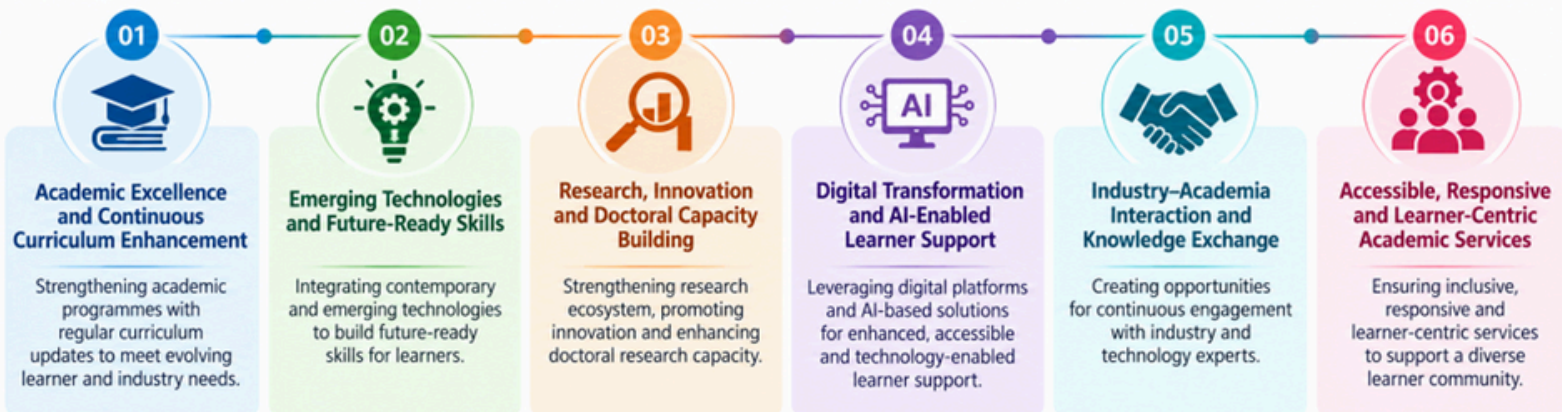


SESSION SNAPSHOTS: KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER SERIES



LOOKING AHEAD

Going Forward: Key Focus Areas for SOCIS



The recent developments represent an **important phase** in the **continuing evolution of SOCIS**. The School is simultaneously **expanding its academic portfolio**, strengthening doctoral research, adopting innovative digital communication mechanisms, and creating opportunities for continuous interaction with industry and technology experts.

The **launch of MSCDSA and MSCAIML**, the growing learner base, the SOCIS-IGNOU WhatsApp Channel, participation in the Visvesvaraya Ph.D. Scheme and the Knowledge Transfer Series collectively reflect the School's continuing efforts to build a contemporary, **technology-enabled and learner-centric academic ecosystem**.