

प्रगति पथ

विश्वविद्यालय समाचार

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Headquarters

At 75, IGNOU Learner Scripts a World Record in Social Work, Earns Recognition for Early NSS Contribution



Learning, it appears, has no age limit. **Mr. Krishan Kumar Gupta**, one of the oldest learners associated with the **Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)**, has turned his pursuit of education into an inspiring milestone, completing a Master's Degree Programme in Social Work from IGNOU's School of Social Work at the age of 74. His recent achievement was subsequently recognised through a Certificate of Excellence for the world record and global recognition for his dedication towards learning & successfully completing his Master's Degree in Social Work.

Headquarters



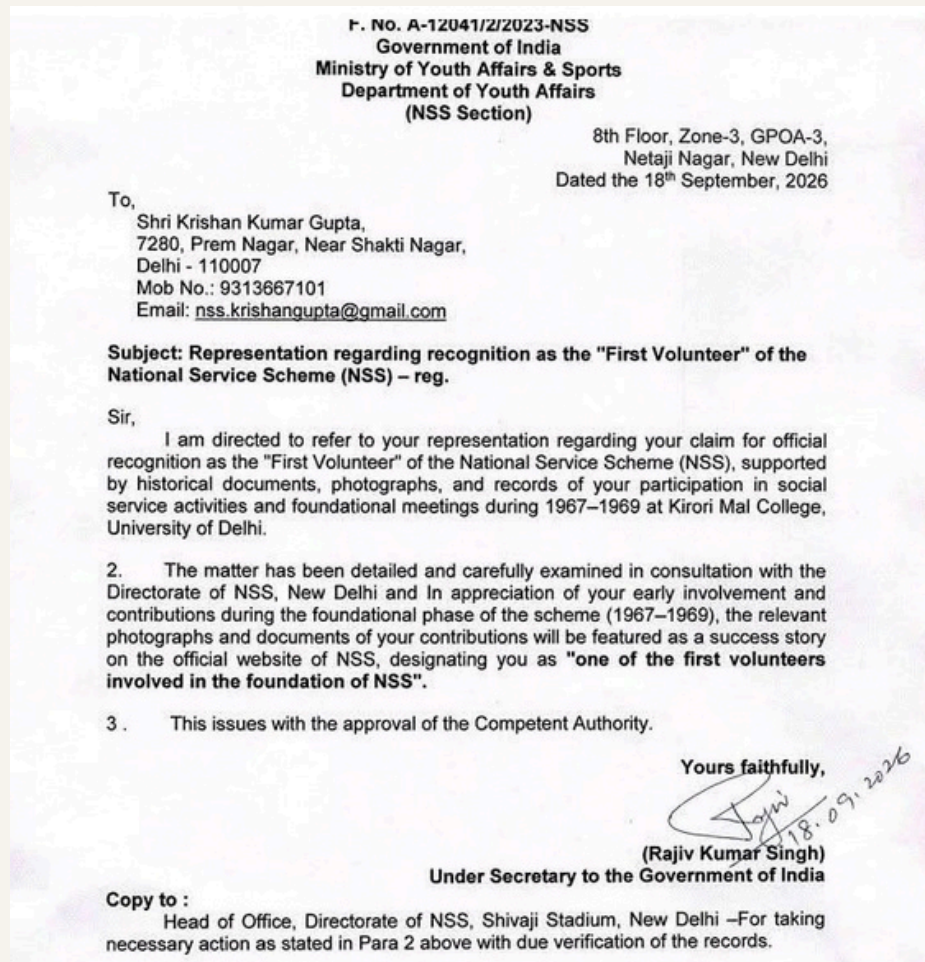
He has been honoured with a **World Record** for being the '**Oldest to Pursue Masters Programme in Social Work**', issued in his name by the **Golden Book of World Records (GBWR)**. The record places his academic accomplishment among the distinctive learner achievements associated with IGNOU and underlines the university's role in making higher education accessible across age groups.

Mr. Gupta's association with Social Service, however, predates his IGNOU journey by several decades. His contribution to the formative years of the **National Service Scheme (NSS)** has now received official recognition from the Government of India.

Aged 75, Mr. Krishan Kumar Gupta is recently honoured by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Department of Youth Affairs** (NSS Section), as '**One of the First Volunteers involved in the Foundation of the National Service Scheme (NSS)**' in India. The Ministry has recognized his early involvement and selfless contribution in social service activities during the foundational phase of NSS from 1967-69 at Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi. The distinction is significant, documenting Gupta's participation in the formative period of a national programme that has since engaged generations of young people in community service.

For IGNOU, Mr. Gupta's journey represents more than an individual academic achievement. It reflects the university's distinctive open and inclusive approach to higher education, where learners can return to formal education at stages of life when conventional academic pathways may no longer be available to them. His accomplishment also brings together two enduring themes, education and social service, that have shaped his public life.

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Mr. Krishan Kumar Gupta has **expressed his gratitude** to the Indira Gandhi National Open University for providing him the opportunity to pursue higher education and said he feels honoured to be counted among the university's distinguished alumni. IGNOU Vice Chancellor **Prof. Uma Kanjilal** congratulated Mr. Krishan Kumar Gupta on his remarkable journey towards earning global recognition for pursuing a Master's in Social Work at an advanced age, and also on being acknowledged for his pioneering contribution to the formative years of the NSS. Praising Mr. Gupta's dedication and efforts, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor mentioned that he is a source of immense pride for IGNOU and his achievements exemplify the enduring spirit of learning, service and perseverance, and stand as an inspiration to learners across generations.

His story offers a compelling reminder that education need not be confined to the conventional years of youth. For an institution built around the principle of widening access to learning, the achievement of a septuagenarian learner on the world-record platform is also a reflection of IGNOU's larger educational philosophy, that the pursuit of knowledge knows no age.

SOFL

IGNOU, French Institute Join Hands to Bring French into B.Ed. Curriculum



In a significant step towards strengthening French-language teacher education in India, the **Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)** and the **French Institute in India** have moved closer to a formal collaboration that will pave the way for the introduction of French in the university's B.Ed. programme.

A meeting between the two institutions was held on 30 September 2026 at the headquarters to deliberate on the Letter of Intent that will formalise the proposed academic partnership. The initiative marks a landmark development for IGNOU and, once implemented, will make its B.Ed. programme in French the first of its kind to be offered by an Indian university. The proposed programme also comes in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and its emphasis on strengthening teacher education, multilingualism and the professional preparation of teachers. For French teachers across the country, the initiative could open a more structured academic pathway for professional training and bring the teaching of French more firmly within the mainstream school education system.

SOFL



The delegates, **Ms Stéphanie Orfila**, Attaché for Cooperation in Education, Embassy of France in India; and **Mr. Jatinder Singh**, Deputy Head, Cooperation in Language and Education, **French Institute in India**, New Delhi, were warmly welcomed by senior IGNOU officials from the **School of Foreign Languages (SOFL)**, **School of Education (SOE)**, and **International Division (ID)**.

IGNOU Vice Chancellor Prof. Uma Kanjilal, during her interaction with the visiting delegates, underscored the University's commitment to forging meaningful international academic partnerships and developing innovative, professionally relevant programmes. She said the proposed collaboration with the French Institute in India would add a significant new dimension to IGNOU's teacher-education portfolio and contribute to strengthening the ecosystem for French-language teaching in India.

The meeting brought together representatives of SOFL, SOE, and ID, including **Prof. Mohammad Saleem**, Director, SOFL; **Prof. Deepanwita Srivastava**, Head, Discipline of French, SOFL; **Prof. Amitav Mishra**, Director, SOE; **Prof. D. Venkateshwarlu**, Programme Coordinator, B.Ed., SOE; **Prof. N. K. Dash**, Professor, SOE; and **Prof. Pema Eden Samdup**, Director, International Division.

The discussions focused on three broad areas of collaboration. On the academic front, the two institutions discussed the revision and sharing of course material developed by the University Centre of French Studies (CUEF), Université Grenoble Alpes, for incorporation into the IGNOU programme.

SOFL



The French Institute in India is also expected to provide academic and operational support for the implementation and maintenance of the programme across the country. A major component of the proposed collaboration will be the development of a digital repository of educational resources. This will include recorded lectures, specialised video material, and expert sessions on Français langue étrangère (French as a Foreign Language). The proposal also envisages the online engagement of experts based in France and the recording of lectures at IGNOU's Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC) when visiting French experts are in India, with a view to enhancing the quality of training offered to IGNOU B.Ed. learners in French.



SOFL



The meeting also examined the eligibility requirements and academic framework of the proposed B.Ed. programme. Faculty members from IGNOU's School of Education explained how the initiative could contribute to the professional development of French teachers and facilitate their integration into the broader school education system. The discussions also touched upon the potential for greater parity in service conditions, including salary and promotional avenues, with teachers of other school subjects.

The visiting delegates expressed appreciation for the work being undertaken by IGNOU's School of Foreign Languages, particularly its Discipline of French, in promoting the language and its academic study in India. The French Institute expressed confidence that the proposed B.Ed. programme could establish new benchmarks for French-language teacher education in the country.

With the substantive aspects of the proposed collaboration discussed, the meeting concluded on a positive note, laying the groundwork for the formal signing of the agreement between IGNOU and the French Institute in India. For IGNOU, the proposed programme represents more than the addition of another language to its teacher-education portfolio. It signals the University's continuing efforts to connect international academic partnerships with the changing needs of India's education system and to create wider, professionally recognised pathways for teachers of foreign languages.

SOCE

IGNOU's School of Continuing Education Celebrates Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2026



SOCE Faculty with Anganwadi workers and beneficiaries



Faculty of Nutritional Sciences and Ph.D. scholars interacting with pregnant mothers

The **Discipline of Nutritional Sciences, School of Continuing Education (SOCE)**, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), organised nutrition awareness and community engagement activities at the **Anganwadi Centre** in Freedom Fighter Enclave, New Delhi, on 29 September 2026, as part of **Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2026**. The programme witnessed active participation from the Director, faculty members, and Ph.D. scholars of SOCE.

The theme for Poshan Maah 2026, **"Humari Anganwadi, Hamari Jimmedari"**, highlights the shared responsibility of communities in strengthening Anganwadi services and promoting better nutrition. Continuing its participation in the celebrations for the fifth consecutive year, the Discipline organised activities focusing on healthy eating, nutrition education, and community engagement.

The programme commenced with a welcome to children, mothers, pregnant women, and Anganwadi workers, followed by an educational game through which pre-school children learned to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy food choices.

SOCE



A preschool child sharing her views with faculty and PhD scholars



PhD scholar interacting with pregnant mothers and children



PhD scholar interacting with pregnant mothers and children



SOCE Faculty with Anganwadi workers

Dr. Namrata Singh, Dr. Shalini Kushwaha, and Dr. Ankita Gupta, faculty members of the **Discipline of Nutritional Sciences**, demonstrated four nutritious and locally appropriate recipes: Paushtik Roti, Banana-Sattu Smoothie, Healthy Sprouts, and Ragi-Moong Dal Cheela. The demonstrations highlighted practical ways of incorporating nutritious ingredients into everyday family diets.

Prof. Heena K. Bijli, Director, SOCE, engaged the children through discussions on healthy food choices. The children also showcased their talents, while mothers, Anganwadi workers, and adolescent girls actively participated in the interactions. Ph.D. scholars from SOCE highlighted the importance of a balanced diet and demonstrated simple ways to replace less healthy food choices with healthier alternatives.

Crayon colours were distributed among the children, while bananas and chaach were provided as refreshments. The programme benefited more than **45 pre-school children** and **35 mothers** and **pregnant women**. The event was facilitated by the Anganwadi Supervisor, Anganwadi Workers, and Helpers. The initiative reinforced the importance of nutrition education and community participation in promoting healthier dietary practices.

RC- Khanna

IGNOU Regional Centre Khanna Organises Swachhata Rally under Swachhata Hi Seva 2026



IGNOU Regional Centre Khanna organised a **Swachhata Rally** on 29 September 2026 as part of the **Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS)** Campaign 2026, themed “**Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat**”. The initiative focused on promoting youth participation, community engagement, and the role of cleanliness in sustainable development, with emphasis on Swachh Paathshala: Yuva for Swachhata, Jan Bhagidari for Swachhata, and Swachhata se Samriddhi.

The rally commenced from the Regional Centre campus and proceeded towards Government High School, Bulepur, and the village chaupal of Bulepur, an Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)-networked village. **Dr. Manju Goel**, Regional Director, **Dr. Pramesh Chandra**, Assistant Regional Director, **Sh. Parget Singh**, Assistant Registrar, and other staff members participated in the rally.

The Principal, teachers, and students of the school joined the rally, along with Sarpanch **Mrs. Harveet Kaur**, other Panches, and local residents. Carrying placards and raising slogans on cleanliness and environmental protection, participants highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in maintaining a clean and sustainable environment. More than 150 people participated in the rally.

Dr. Manju Goel, Regional Director, also addressed the participants and encouraged them to take responsibility for maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in their homes and communities.

RC- Shimla

IGNOU RC Shimla Celebrates Hindi Pakhwada-2026, Participates in IPMCC Meeting



IGNOU Regional Centre Shimla celebrated Hindi Pakhwada-2026 from 15 to 29 September 2026, with active participation from staff and learners. Various activities and competitions were organised during the fortnight to promote the use of Hindi in official work and encourage its wider appreciation among staff and learners.

The closing ceremony was held on 29 September 2026 at the Regional Centre. **Dr. Joginder Kumar Yadav**, Senior Regional Director, welcomed the Chief Guest, **Shri Raj Kumar Rakesh**, noted writer, literary critic, and retired officer of the Himachal Pradesh Administrative Services. Addressing the gathering, Shri Rakesh emphasised the importance of Hindi as a language of everyday communication and its role in representing India at the national level.

Dr. Swapnil Gupta, Assistant Regional Director, coordinated the programme. Staff members were felicitated with certificates of participation for their involvement in various activities organised during Hindi Pakhwada. **Dr. Sandeep Gupta**, Regional Director, proposed the vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, staff, and learners for their participation.

RC- Shimla



On the same day, **Dr. Swapnil Gupta**, Assistant Regional Director and Nodal Officer, **Inter Media Publicity Coordination Committee (IPMCC)**, participated in the Committee's second meeting for Himachal Pradesh, held virtually through Google Meet. Organised by the **Press Information Bureau (PIB)**, Shimla, the meeting provided a platform for participating departments and organisations to share their activities and coordinate publicity initiatives.

During the meeting, Dr. Gupta requested PIB to provide suitable slots in electronic and print media for promoting IGNOU's programmes, important admission dates, learner services, and other institutional initiatives. PIB representatives positively received the request and agreed to facilitate suitable media opportunities. The participation is expected to strengthen coordination between IGNOU Regional Centre Shimla and PIB and enhance the outreach of the University's educational initiatives in Himachal Pradesh.

RC- Lucknow

IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow Organises Online Induction Meeting for July 2026 Certificate and Semester-Based Programme Learners



IGNOU Regional Centre Lucknow organised an **online induction meeting** for learners enrolled in Certificate and Semester-Based Programmes for the July 2026 session on 25 September 2026 through Google Meet. The meeting was attended by Dr. Anil Kumar Misra, Senior Regional Director and Head; Dr. Reena Kumari, Dr. Anamika Sinha, and Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Directors; Dr. Nishith Nagar, Assistant Registrar; Coordinators from various Learner Support Centres; and more than 110 learners.

Dr. Anil Kumar Misra welcomed the learners and provided an overview of IGNOU's organisational structure and functioning. He emphasised the importance of completing Certificate Programmes within the minimum prescribed duration.

Dr. Reena Kumari briefed the learners on assignments, synopses, projects, and pre- and post-examination activities. She also introduced them to the social media platforms of Regional Centre Lucknow, including Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube.

Dr. Anamika Sinha demonstrated the IGNOU website and explained how learners could access assignment question papers, examination-related information, counselling schedules for theory and practical sessions, and online study materials. She also informed them about counselling through the Swayam Prabha channels.

Dr. Jai Prakash Verma discussed the student support services available at Learner Support Centres and the Regional Centre. He also briefed the learners on activities organised by the Innovation and Start-up Cell, Regional Centre Lucknow. Dr. Anamika Sinha moderated the meeting, while Dr. Parvat Singh proposed the vote of thanks.

RC- Aligarh

IGNOU Regional Centre Aligarh Organises Workshop under Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 2026



Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India 
Virasat Cultural Centre, 4/1478e, Jamia Urdu Rd, Jamia

IGNOU Regional Centre Aligarh, in collaboration with **Jamia Urdu College**, Aligarh, organised a one-day workshop under the Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 2026. **Dr. Ajay Vardhan Acharya**, Regional Director and Head, IGNOU Regional Centre Aligarh, who also serves as the Nodal Officer for **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan 2026**, attended the programme as the Chief Guest.

Dr. Acharya delivered a lecture on the theme, '**Role of Youth in Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign**', highlighting the importance of youth participation in promoting cleanliness and civic responsibility. He also conducted the Swachh Paathshala activity, titled '**Yuva for Swachhata**', engaging students in the campaign's objectives. The programme also featured the Swachhata Hi Seva pledge, administered to the staff members and students of Jamia Urdu College, reaffirming their commitment to cleanliness and hygiene.

Prof. (Dr.) Mohd. Sadiq Ali Khan, Principal, along with **Dr. Arif Hussain**, **Dr. Rashida Irfan**, **Dr. Usma Waseem**, **Dr. Mohd. Shahrar**, **Ms. Asma Khatoon**, **Dr. Ilma Arshad**, **Dr. Mohd. Mohtaram Danish**, and **Dr. Mohd. Danish Khan**, attended the programme. The workshop highlighted the role of educational institutions and young people in fostering awareness and collective responsibility towards cleanliness.

RC- Delhi 2

IGNOU RC Delhi 2 Hosts Induction Meet for Certificate and Semester-based Programme Freshers at SGTB Khalsa College



The IGNOU Learner Support Centre (LSC-29069), Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College, University of Delhi, successfully organized an **Induction Meeting** for Fresh Learners of the Certificate Level and Semester-based Programmes enrolled in the July 2026 Session. The Induction programme was held on 25 September 2026 at the Master Tara Singh Auditorium in the college premises.

The programme was organized to warmly welcome and orient newly enrolled learners and familiarize them with the academic framework, support services, and various processes associated with their learning journey at IGNOU. The event witnessed an impressive participation of around **800 learners** from diverse academic backgrounds enrolled in programmes such as **M.Com., BCA, MCA, MBA, CPLT, M.Sc. (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning), and M.Sc. (Data Science and Analytics)**.

The occasion was graced by **Dr. Shyni Duggal**, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Delhi-2, as the esteemed Guest of Honour. The occasion was further enriched by the presence of **Prof. Gurmohinder Singh**, Principal, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College, who welcomed and felicitated Dr. Duggal. Prof. Singh acknowledged Dr. Duggal's continued support and guidance in strengthening the academic and learner-support activities of the Study Centre.



RC- Delhi 2



Dr. Priyanka Srivastava delivered the welcome address for the learners, dignitaries, faculty members, and staff. She informed learners about the programme and gave an overview on the history, functioning, and academic activities of LSC-29069. Dr. Srivastava also familiarized the learners with the various programmes offered through the Study Centre and the academic and learner-support facilities available to them. Followed by the welcome address, **Prof. Sukhvir Singh**, Coordinator of the LSC-29069 interacted with the learners and highlighted the significance of pursuing education at an institution named after Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, the Ninth Sikh Guru, and emphasized the values of courage, compassion, sacrifice, and commitment to humanity associated with his legacy. He also elaborated upon the rich academic heritage and learning environment of **Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College** and highlighted their relevance to the academic and professional development of learners. He encouraged the learners to approach their academic journey with sincerity, commitment, discipline, and enthusiasm.

Addressing the august gathering, **Dr. Shyni Duggal**, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Delhi-2, highlighted the **vision and mission of IGNOU, and its** flexible, accessible, learner-centric and inclusive model of higher education. Dr. Duggal also focused on anchoring role of the Learner Support Centres in ensuring quality and delivering effective academic support services to its learners.

RC- Delhi 2



She explained various aspects of the IGNOU learning system, including its multimedia-based approach, counselling sessions, Self-Learning Material (SLM), and digital repositories of study material. The learners were comprehensively briefed about the preparation and submission of assignments, including the procedure and timelines for online submission. They were also informed about the procedures relating to online re-registration and submission of examination forms. The various grievance redressal mechanisms and support channels available within IGNOU were also explained to enable learners to seek timely assistance whenever required. Emphasizing the importance of taking ownership of their academic journey, Dr. Duggal encouraged the learners to remain focused, proactive, and regular in fulfilling their academic responsibilities. She highlighted the importance of discipline and essential soft skills such as time management, problem-solving, adaptability, effective communication, and self-management for academic as well as professional success. In her address, Dr. Duggal urged the learners to make effective use of available academic and learner-support facilities and to complete all academic requirements within the prescribed time-frame. An interactive session was later organized, providing learners with an opportunity to interact with Dr. Duggal and seek clarification regarding their academic and administrative queries. The queries raised by the participants were addressed comprehensively, thereby providing greater clarity regarding various academic procedures, facilities, and learner-support services available through IGNOU and the Study Centre.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by **Dr. Anjana Sagar**. The event was efficiently coordinated and hosted by **Prof. Sukhvir Singh**, Coordinator, LSC-29069, along with the Assistant Coordinators **Prof. Jagir Kaur**, **Prof. Kuldeep Kapil**, **Dr. Anjana Sagar**, **Dr. Priyanka Srivastava**, **Dr. Tarun Kumar**, and **Dr. Amarendra Kumar Pandey**. The administrative and office staff of the Study Centre also made significant contributions towards ensuring the smooth and effective organization of the programme. The Induction Meeting concluded on a positive, encouraging, and motivating note, marking the beginning of the learners' academic journey with IGNOU and LSC-29069.

RC- Portblair

इग्नू क्षेत्रीय केंद्र पोर्ट ब्लेयर में 'हिंदी पखवाड़ा' (14-30 सितंबर, 2026) मनाया गया



'हिंदी पखवाड़ा' के अवसर पर इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय (इग्नू) के क्षेत्रीय केंद्र-पोर्ट ब्लेयर, अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह द्वारा विभिन्न प्रकार के कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए गए जिनमें हस्ताक्षर अभियान, राष्ट्रीय वेबिनार तथा अन्तर-महाविद्यालय निबंध / भाषण प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया।

कार्यक्रम का समापन 29 सितंबर, 2026 को प्रातः 11:30 बजे टैगोर गवर्नमेंट शिक्षा महाविद्यालय, श्री विजयपुरम् के सहयोग से आयोजित 'पुरस्कार वितरण समारोह' से किया गया। इस समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में भारतीय मानव विज्ञान सर्वेक्षण केंद्र, श्री विजयपुरम् के क्षेत्रीय निदेशक डॉ. सात्यकी पाल तथा विशिष्ट अतिथि के रूप में टैगोर गवर्नमेंट शिक्षा महाविद्यालय, श्री विजयपुरम् की प्राचार्या प्रो. मंजुलता राव और अंडमान लॉ कॉलेज के प्राचार्य प्रो. पी. वी. एन. शर्मा उपस्थित रहे।

इग्नू के क्षेत्रीय निदेशक **प्रो.(डॉ.) सुनील जैकब** ने सभी अतिथियों का स्वागत किया और शिक्षकों, छात्र-छात्राओं तथा उपस्थित अतिथियों को हिंदी पखवाड़ा के अवसर पर बधाई देते हुए उन्हें हिंदी के महत्त्व से परिचित कराया।

इस अवसर पर इग्नू के सहायक क्षेत्रीय निदेशक **डॉ. उदय कुमार** ने इग्नू क्षेत्रीय केंद्र-पोर्ट ब्लेयर में मनाए गए हिंदी पखवाड़ा की संक्षिप्त रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की और विभिन्न महाविद्यालय में आयोजित निबंध प्रतियोगिताओं में सफल रहे प्रतिभागियों के नामों की घोषणा की।

समारोह में प्रतियोगिता में भाग लेने वाले प्रत्येक महाविद्यालय के प्रथम, द्वितीय और तृतीय स्थान पाने वाले प्रतियोगी को मेडल एवं प्रमाणपत्र दिए गए। इस अवसर पर विभिन्न राज्यों से कुल 16 महाविद्यालयों के लगभग 654 प्रतिभागियों ने भाग लिया।

समारोह का समापन **सुश्री अस्मा बीबी** के धन्यवाद ज्ञापन के उपरांत हुआ।