

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI

36th CONVOCAATION – 03rd APRIL 2023

REPORT BY

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SENIOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Very Good Morning to one and all present here and I am extremely happy to welcome you all to the 36th Convocation function of Indira Gandhi National Open University which is the largest University in India and one of the largest Universities in the World in terms of its enrolment.

I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the Guest of Honour for today's convocation function Prof. S. Arumugam, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Open University. He is a renowned Professor of Physics who has put in 30 years of service in Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli. I am really indebted to him for his ready acceptance of our invitation to grace this occasion.

I extend my welcome to the Distinguished Guests, Co-ordinators of IGNOU, Academics and Officials from Tamil

Nadu Open University, members of press and media and the graduands, Parents to this Convocation function.

Around 2,79,917 IGNOU graduates are receiving their degrees, diplomas and Certificates in the country in the 36th Convocation. All these students are awarded Block-chain based digital degree. Under IGNOU Regional Centre Chennai, around 1411 students are eligible to receive their degrees/ diplomas and certificate in person and in absentia. I congratulate them for their remarkable achievement.

As you all know that IGNOU was established by an Act of Parliament in the year 1985. It is the only Open University in India to have been accreditation with the highest A++ Grade by National Assessment and Accreditation Council. It is also exempted from applicability of UGC Regulations 2020 (Open and Distance Learning Programme and Online Programme). The Degrees/ Diplomas/ Certificates awarded by IGNOU are recognised by all the member institutions of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and are at par with the corresponding Degrees/ Diplomas/ Certificates issued by all Indian Universities.

In the past 38 years, since its establishment, IGNOU has contributed significantly in democratizing higher education in the country thereby creating opportunities for lifelong learning. As per the mandate of the University it adopts a learner centric, flexible, and cost-effective approach to impart quality education, with a focus on equity, access and quality.

IGNOU has been providing education to all through the extensive network of 69 Regional Centres and around 2063 Learner Support Centres. It has a significant International presence with 25 Overseas Study Centres spread in 15 countries. As of now, 86,069 (cumulative) international students are enrolled in different programmes of the University through these 25 Overseas Study Centres. IGNOU believes in providing education to all and has been extending its outreach to learners in jail, rural/remote areas, defence personnel, SC/ST learners and transgender population.

During the last academic year, IGNOU has implemented many recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) of Government of India through its pan-India spread of Regional Centres and Study Centres. The University has set up a NEP cell at the University to implement the National

Education Policy. The University is moving ahead in introducing various UG/PG and new skill-based courses.

The University Grants Commission entrusted the responsibility to IGNOU to implement the National Training Programme on the implementation of NEP-2020 (NEP-PDP) for University and College teachers. Till date, 71,711 teachers from all over the country have registered, 42,211 teachers have been admitted and 19,722 teachers have been certified.

The University is continuously encouraging the faculty/ academics for undertaking research and innovation. Realising the need of the hour, IGNOU is moving forward with innovative and cost-effective measures to strengthen the learning process by introducing online initiatives in various learning and teaching activities.

As part of the implementation of the policy of using ICT countrywide for educational purposes, IGNOU coordinates four channels of SWAYAM PRABHA. The IGNOU is also the National Coordinator for Design and Delivery of MOOCs courses for Certificate and Diploma level under the SWAYAM portal of Government of India.

IGNOU is providing Student Support Services with its learner centric, low cost and technology-based teaching-learning support system. IGNOU offers digital content on the IGNOU e-content app, facilities for tele-education through 24 hours Gyan Darshan channels, radio broadcast and Interactive radio counselling through Gyan Vani/FM radio stations and has a good repository of digital learning resources on e-Gyankosh.

In last three decades, the University is committed to quality in teaching, research, training, and extension activities making the institute as one of the mega universities in the World. Over the years, IGNOU has lived up to the country's expectations to provide education to the marginalised sections of society and thereby conforming to its mandate of 'Reaching the unreached'. It provides fee exemption to jail inmates and SC/ST students across the country. A large number of students from SC/ST and other marginalized segments of society were admitted in academic programmes offered by the University.

The IGNOU has an Alumni strength of 38.9 lakh students, which is perhaps the world's largest alumni base of any

single institution. The connect with alumni is further strengthened by our registered alumni association. Every Sunday, the Online Alumni Meetings with the learners of various academic Programmes of the University is being conducted in which the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Nageshwar Rao interacts with the Alumni along with the faculty members from the various Schools of Studies.

The University currently has a cumulative student strength of over 3.7 million (37 lakhs) learners. According to data on enrolment, 48.5% of those enrolled are women, 49.9% live in rural areas, and 1.4% students are living in tribal areas of the country. In total, IGNOU offers 306 academic, professional, vocational, awareness and skill-oriented programmes of study at the Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral levels. IGNOU is now offering 43 online programmes on its own Learning Management System (LMS).

In the year 2022, the University launched 38 programmes in ODL mode and 16 programmes in online mode. The focus of these programmes is to meet the diverse academic and employment needs of the people, especially the disadvantaged sections of society. A number of programmes

have been designed to meet the requirements of continuing education and training of in-service people for their professional growth.

IGNOU Regional Centre Chennai

I am happy to present to you a brief report on the activities and achievements of the IGNOU Regional Centre, Chennai during the last one year.

The Regional Centre at Chennai was established in the year 1988 for the State of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Island Union Territories. In the year 2006, from Regional Centre Chennai, two new Regional Centres, one at Port Blair to take care of the ODL needs of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and another one at Madurai were carved out to take care of the ODL requirements of southern parts of Tamil Nadu. Now, IGNOU Regional Centre Chennai is catering to the needs of the ODL requirements of the learners in 20 districts in Tamil Nadu including the Union Territory of Puducherry including Karaikal.

The Chennai Regional Centre is currently operating with 17 Study Centres established in reputed Colleges and

Universities in the region and 3 Special Study Centres inside the Central Prison premises of Puzhal and Vellore, catering to the educational needs of the Jail Inmates for both Men and Women. Till date 1248 Jail Inmates enrolled for Degrees and Diploma Programmes through IGNOU in Chennai Region alone. There is one more Study Centre specifically established for educating Scheduled Tribes community in the Yealigiri Hills of Tirupattur District.

Of the total enrolment of Regional Centre Chennai, in the year January 2022, 47% of the students are women candidates and in July 2022, 49% of them are female candidates. On this auspicious occasion, I am very happy to announce that one of our learners Ms. Madumitha Maheswari is receiving the Gold medal in this 36th Convocation for having stood first in MBAHRM at All India level and she is present here to receive her Gold Medal. I congratulate her on this grand success and a true model for a winning Woman and for giving a proud moment to Chennai Region.

We have conducted various online meetings for admission with the students of premier educational institutions, NGOs, SC/ST organizations for educational development of SC/ST, women prospective learners with an objective to enrol prospective learners from SC/ST communities, to enrol

women prospective learners from rural areas and to enrol regular conventional students for add-on skill-oriented short-term programmes.

We are also extensively using Social Media Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, etc to publicise the IGNOU Programmes among the younger generation through Digital Promotional Materials.

IGNOU Regional Centre Chennai has given an important assignment of conducting Programmes under Swatch Bharat, Har-Gar-Janda, Ek-Bharath Shreta-Bharath with participation of students regarding Food, Culture, Festivals and Tourism of Tamil Nadu.

Under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, the Chennai Regional Centre has adopted 5 villages in Kancheepuram District namely MANIMANGALAM, KARASANGAL, VALARPURAM, NEMILI and MANNUR and we have organized Medical camps at and other social educational development activities.

We have successfully handled the academic activities during Covid-19 pandemic period and extended uninterrupted Students Support Services on counselling sessions, induction meetings, grievance redressal meetings, submission and evaluation of assignments through online mechanism. We

have organized around 500 such meetings through online. At Chennai, we have a unique distinction that we are one of a few Regional centres in the country to be identified to conduct Academic programmes in Tamil medium through Swayam Prabha Channel.

In the days to come, our endeavour is to achieve the high enrolment of students by establishing more Study Centres in the region particularly in the districts in which we have not yet established IGNOU Centres, to reach the unreached. We have plans to translate the IGNOU Study materials in Tamil Medium to offer the benefits to the aspiring students to learn various Academic Programmes in Tamil medium.

I congratulate all the Graduands of 36th Convocation for successful completion of their programmes and getting the Degrees and Diplomas. On this occasion, I wish to encourage the learners to practise the knowledge gained for the welfare of the society. It is also believed that actions speak louder than the words. "If you practise your passion, that will become your profession".

As you leave this Convocation ceremony and embark on the next chapter of your lives, remember that you are capable of doing great things. Remember that you have the power to

make a difference in the world. Remember that you are part of a larger community of scholars, leaders, and change-makers who are working continuously, to create a better future for all of us.

I thank every one of you present here for your kind gesture and positively responded to our invitation to grace this occasion.

Congratulations once again on your remarkable achievements and best of luck in all your future endeavours. Thank you.