



Vice President addresses 39th Convocation of IGNOU in New Delhi

Over 3.2 lakh learners receive degrees, diplomas, and certificates at the IGNOU convocation

IGNOU, a pillar of inclusive and accessible higher education, has a learner base exceeding the population of many countries: Vice-President

Modern development must align with traditions; scientific progress should be guided by ethical values: Vice President

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Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan graced the 39th Convocation Ceremony of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in New Delhi today where over 3.2 lakh learners received their degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan graced the 39th Convocation Ceremony of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in New Delhi today where over 3.24 lakh learners received their degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Highlighting the transformative role of IGNOU, the... pic.twitter.com/ltQAx0hnMx

— Vice-President of India (@VPIndia) April 7, 2026

The Vice President noted that since its inception in 1985, IGNOU has empowered diverse sections of society, including working professionals, rural learners, women and economically disadvantaged groups.

Underscoring the importance of technology, the Vice President said that... pic.twitter.com/R12mG8UqR4

— Vice-President of India (@VPIndia) April 7, 2026

Highlighting the transformative role of IGNOU, the Vice President described the University as a pillar of

India's open and distance learning ecosystem, significantly expanding access to higher education across the country. Emphasising its inclusive outreach, he noted that IGNOU has over 14 lakh learners, with 56 percent being women and 58 percent coming from rural and disadvantaged communities. He remarked that the University's learner base exceeds the population of many countries, reflecting its substantial contribution to educational equity, social mobility, and national development. He encouraged students to embrace lifelong learning, uphold values, and contribute to nation-building.

Referring to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vice President observed that IGNOU remained resilient due to its established distance learning model. He noted that the University effectively leveraged digital platforms such as SWAYAM and e-GyanKosh to ensure uninterrupted learning, emerging as a leader in technology-enabled education.

Welcoming the adoption of the National Education Policy (NEP), he noted that IGNOU has introduced four-year undergraduate programmes with multiple exit options, making higher education more flexible and learner-centric. He also commended the integration of Indian knowledge systems with modern education.

The Vice President said that emerging tools such as Artificial Intelligence can enhance learning experiences, improve student support and enable personalised education. He said there is no need to be afraid of modern developments. He noted that there were apprehensions when computers were introduced in the country, with fears that they would take away jobs; however, they ultimately generated more employment and contributed to national growth.

The Vice President added that modern technologies such as artificial intelligence should be approached in a similar manner. He, however, stressed the need for responsible and accountable use of such technologies.

The Vice President said that the greatest strength of Bharat lies in its belief in ethical values. He emphasized that modern development must go hand in hand with our traditions, and that scientific advancement should be guided by ethical values.

Concluding his address, and emphasising collective responsibility, he said that individual efforts, when combined, will contribute towards building a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The Vice President released the certificates on DigiLocker under the National Academic Depository (NAD) to ensure easy access for learners across the country. He further launched the IGNOU Alumni Portal, which has over 5 million registrations.

Lt. Governor of Delhi, Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu; Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU, Prof. Uma Kanjilal; and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

The Vice President also launched the SWAYAM Prabha Studio at Regional Centres across the country on the occasion. The Governor of Tripura, Shri Indra Sena Reddy Nallu, the Governor of Goa, Shri Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, and the Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Dr. Prem Chand Bairwa, and other dignitaries participated virtually from their respective State Regional Centres.

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