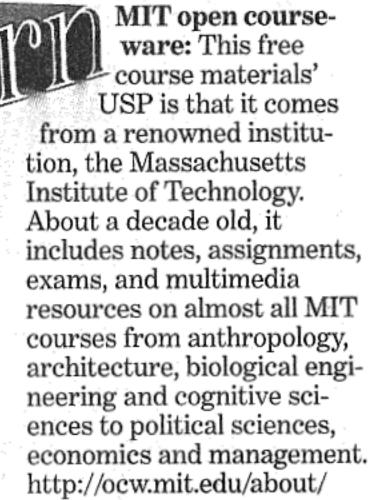
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Science and Culture, New Delhi.

This announcement was made in response to the UN declaration of February first week as "Know Your Neighbours". On this occasion a short-term language programme was inaugurated by VN Rajashekharan Pillai, vice chancellor, IGNOU at the university campus. While inaugurating the programme, Prof Pillai said that the proposal to launch this programme shall be placed at the forthcoming academic council meeting of IGNOU as one of the items. Moreover, the Regional Centres of IGNOU may collaborate with the Russian Centre counterparts.

Prof. G. Chaudhuri,
Director, School of Foreign
Languages, IGNOU
announced that this two
months Russian anguage
and Culture programme
classes — twice a week on
Fridays and Tuesdays — will
be held on the campus.

Khan Academy: The US-based initiative of a man called Khan, a Harvard and MIT alumnus, the virtual academy won Google's Project 10 to the 100 of ideas to change the world. A few algebra videos for Khan's cousins have expanded to more than 2100, plus 100 exercises, and assessments on maths, physics, finance, history and IIT-JEE etc. www.khanacademy.org

The Gutenberg Project: Born in 1997, it hosts more than 33,000 e-books for free download. About 100,000 epublications are available through its affiliates and partners, including wikibooks. Some popular titles are Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, Complete Works of William Shakespeare, and Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka. www.gutenberg.org

WikiEducator: It is supported by a non-profit Open Education Resource Foundation (based at Otago Polytechnic) with financial backing from the Commonwealth of Learning. The foundation now proposes to start an OER University, a virtual institution, informs Savithri Singh, principal, Acharya Narendra Dev College, who is the vice chairperson of the international board of the WikiEducator council. For detailsm check http://wikieducator.org

Connexions: Started at Rice University in 1999, this is a free site "to view and share educational material made of small knowledge chunks called modules that can be organised as courses, books, reports, etc." It has 17,738 "reusable" modules on arts, business, humanities, business, maths and statistics, science and technology and social sciences in various languages and 1,000-plus publications. It boasts more than 2 million users a month. http://cnx.org/

Compiled by Rahat Bano

New Russian language course

Indira Gandhi National Open University's (IGNOU's) School of Foreign Languages plans to soon start a Russian language and culture programme in association with the Russian Centre of