

# Mission Education

**T**he Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), with its country-wide network of Regional Centres and over 3,000 Study Centres, has the greatest potential in this country to address the alarming issue of skill deficit.

“These Regional Centres and Study Centres can network with local educational and training institutions for providing modular skills in different trades and vocations. Linking with the activities of the local micro, small and medium enterprises and grassroot-level civil society organisations, skill upgrading initiatives should be taken up by the various units of our University,” says Vice Chancellor Prof V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai.

## AIMING INCLUSIVE GROWTH

“Our Government has declared 2010-2020 as the ‘Decade of Innovation’. We need to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth in education, skill development, health care, energy, agriculture and infrastructure. New solutions in many areas are necessary to reach such targets in expedient ways. We have the largest youth population in the world. We need to explore all possible ways and means to provide them education and employable skills.”

“Creating opportunities for our youth to become the largest pool of skilled and technically trained human resource is the greatest challenge before us in this decade. It is estimated that India has the capacity to create 500 million certified technicians and skilled workers by 2020. This would provide employment opportunities to our young people and the large number of school drop-outs,” Prof Pillai adds.

“While enhancing the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in the higher ed-

## FUTURE AHEAD

**500 million** people to be skilled/upskilled by **2022** as envisaged in the 11th **Five Year Plan**

**15 million** people to be trained by the National Skills Mission annually, from the present capacity of **3.1 million**

**45 percent** school drop-out rates by **2022**, a decline of **15 percent**

**47 million** working force to be trained and certified as technicians

**4,15,000 teachers** to be trained annually by **2022**

ucation sector, as an Open University with flexible and innovative educational, training and skill-building capabilities, we need to lay more emphasis on these objectives of the National Skills Mission.”

IGNOU has a plethora of programmes that cater towards achieving this mammoth goal. The results are quite encouraging.

“The Study Centres of different kinds, the Community College Centres, the two-year Associate Degree programme by a credit accumulation process, Vertically Integrated Engineering Programme, Assessment and Certification of Prior Learning and the Telecentre Movement for Skill-upgradation, the Village Knowledge and Resource Centres and the collaboration with the rural NGOs are the

**IGNOU'S SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES ARE CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TOWARDS REALISING NATIONAL SKILLS MISSION GOALS OF MAINSTREAMING YOUTH ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

recent IGNOU interventions in the skill-development sector. Coordinated and focussed activities of the Schools, Centres and our large network of different Study Centres are contributing significantly towards the National Skills Mission,” emphasises Prof Pillai.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Latha Pillai adds: “IGNOU plans to create a formal mechanism, which provides for certification of prior learning so that the skills available with workforce may be assessed, given due recognition and avenues for life long learning are created. IGNOU also plans to enhance its competencies in providing technology-enabled learning and strengthening student support services through proper monitoring and timely response.”