

# SWAYAM PRABHA: A PLATFORM FOR LIVE TELECAST OF LECTURES WITH 32 DTH FREE CHANNELS

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**Abstract** *Academic activities are marching towards electronic media due to emergence of information and communication technology applications. Thereby, the things are being changed with jet speed in the twenty first century as performed remotely. Delivery of contents and lectures are being done through different online platforms. This is not due to create advancements only in academic activities but it is the demand of the time as technology is at its juvenility. To cope up and satisfy the ultra modern demands of the users, the things are taking shape in non-print form. In this series in 2015, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi has launched a program i.e. SWAYAM- Study webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (Bharat Program). Under this program a declaration has signed with US Department of State that United States universities have been offering online courses through this platform. To empower such type of activities, one more program has also been launched in July 2017 named SWAYAM PRABHA by the GOI. This platform is having the collection of 32 DTH Free Channels contained high quality academic contents. The present paper will try to give a brief overview of these channels.*

**Keywords:** SWAYAM, GOI, Platform, SWAYAM PRABHA, Online Courses, Channels, 32 DTH

## INTRODUCTION

Swayam-Prabha is really a wonderful initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development under National Mission of Education through ICT. The objective of the program is to deliver the qualitative academic contents up to last zenith of the academic society where there is no facility of proper classroom, academic institutions, and teachers due to any reason. Through technology, they can get the qualitative educational contents even can participate in rapidly changing world and give their contribution also for upliftment of the National in general and their vicinity societies in particular. 32 DTH channels which are accessible 24×7 throughout the year are offering the contents of different disciplines which include arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences and humanities, engineering, technology, law, medicine, agriculture, etc. Moreover, high quality educational programmes are being telecast using GSAT-15 Satellite. GSAT-15 is a very powerful tool to augment the bandwidth of Direct-to-Home television. The contents contributed by the IITs, UGC, NPTEL, IGNOU, NCERT, and NIOS. The INFLIBNET Centre maintains the web portal.

## PURPOSE TO DEVELOP THE SWAYAM-PRABHA PROGRAM

The prime purpose to develop such program is to impart the qualitative education to students particularly those who could

not join their courses regular basis and have been residing in remote areas where institutions and colleges are not easily accessible. This program contained 32 DTH channels which devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programme on 24×7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite. The beauty of the program is that the students can choose the schedule to access the channels according to their convenience as new contents for at least four hours which would be repeated 5 more times in a day. It offers the academic contents from very basic to post graduate level. Even it assists the students of class 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> prepare the competitive examinations. Moreover, it also offers the curriculum based contents.

## SUBJECT COVERAGE BY THE CHANNELS

The 32DTH free channels give wide coverage in fact covers almost all major disciplines like arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences and humanities, engineering, technology, law, medicine, agriculture, etc. All courses would be certification-ready in their detailed offering through SWAYAM, the platform being developed for offering MOOCs courses.

## REGISTRATION

To access these channels, online Registration facility is also available under SWAYM-PRABHA. For the same, few

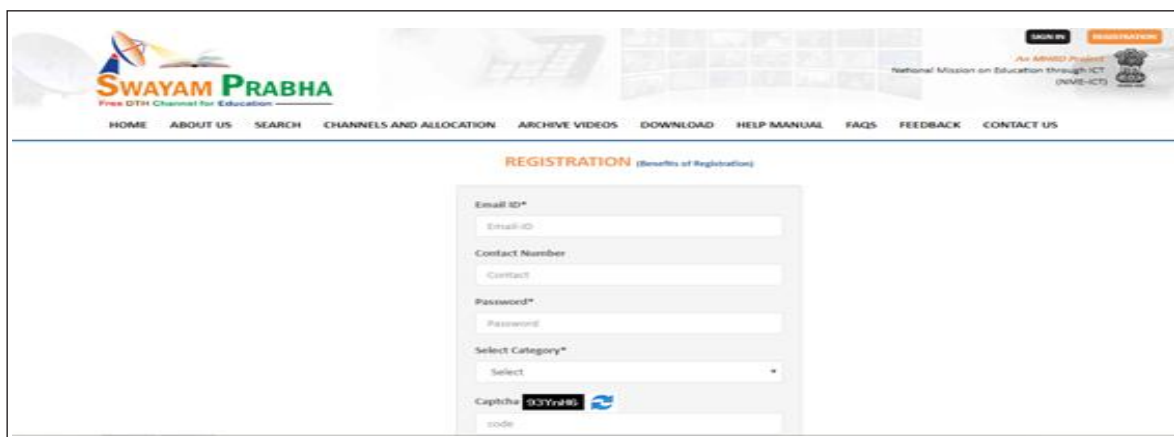
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particulars are needed to be filled by the concerned students. After doing the registration, following services would be started on the mobile number/e-mail of the registered students.

- Students may get SMS alert of maximum 20 upcoming topics and the alert will receive on the same day at 8

AM when topic will telecast on DD Free Dish TV. This is very prominent service.

- Through SMS alert the students can prepare their schedule accordingly to attend the channels.



{Source: <https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in/index.php/registration> accessed on December 18, 2017}

## CHANNELS AND ALLOCATIONS

The description of the channels and their allocation have mentioned at the web-site of the SWAYAM-PRABHA. This categorization of channels gives a semantic approach

about the channels study material. In addition, the presenter name, designation, and e-mail address are also mentioned over there so that the users may contact, if they want to clear their doubts. The users can access and listen the channel(s) contents and get benefitted, accordingly.

|   |                                                                                                                |                                              |                                                           |                         |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Channel 01: CEC/UGC: Humanities-1, Language and Literature                                                     | Director I/c, EMMRC, EFLU, Hyderabad         | tnreflu@gmail.com,<br>director.emmrc.eflu@gmail.com       | Prof T. Nageswara Rao   |
| 2 | Channel 02: CEC/UGC: Humanities-2, Arts, History,Philosophy and related Subjects                               | CEC, New Delhi                               | drsunilmehru@gmail.com                                    | Dr. Sunil Mehru         |
| 3 | Channel 03: CEC/UGC: Social Science -1, Sociology, Political Science and related subjects                      | CEC, New Delhi                               | emmrcjnvu@gmail.com                                       | Prof. Akhil Ranjan Garg |
| 4 | Channel 04: CEC/UGC: Social Science - 2, Education, Psychology, Home Science and related subjects              | CEC, New Delhi                               | ritadhar2000@yahoo.com                                    | Ms. Rita Dhar           |
| 5 | Channel 05: CEC/UGC: Social Science - 3, Management, Library Science, Information Science and related subjects | EMRC / MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi | iftekarhftii@yahoo.com,<br>mrcr@jmi.ac.in                 | Prof. Iftekar Ahmed     |
| 6 | Channel 06: CEC/UGC: Social Science - 4, Law, Legal Studies, Human Rights and related subjects                 | EMRC, Punjabi University, Patiala            | emmrc.patiala@gmail.com,<br>directormediacentre@gmail.com | Dr. Gurmeet Singh Maan  |
| 7 | Channel 07: CEC/UGC: Economics, Commerce and Finance                                                           | EMRC, Gujarat University,Ahmedabad           | emrcabadad1@bsnl.in                                       | Prof. B. V. Patel       |
| 8 | Channel 08: CEC/UGC: Physical sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and related Subjects                   | EMRC ,University of Calicut                  | damodar.prasad@gmail.com,<br>emmrcalicut@yahoo.co.in      | Mr. D. Damodar Prasad   |
| 9 | Channel 09: CEC/UGC: Life Sciences, Botany, Zoology, Bio-Science and related subjects                          | EMRC, Kashmir University, Srinagar           | salimaemrc@gmail.com,<br>emmrc@kashmiruniversity.net      | Dr. Salima Jan          |

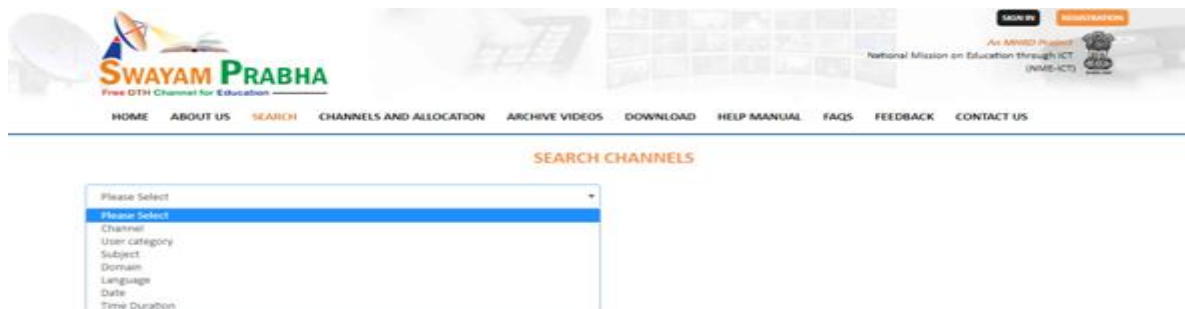
|    |                                                                                                           |                                |                                                                                |                                                                        |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 | Channel 10: CEC/UGC: Applied Sciences, Allied Physical and Chemical sciences and related subjects         | EMRC, Anna University, Chennai | sgowri@annauniv.edu,<br>gowri48@gmail.com                                      | Dr. S. Gowri                                                           |
| 11 | Channel 11: NPTEL: Chemical Engineering, Chemistry and related Subjects                                   | IIT Kharagpur                  | sunando@che.iitkgp.ernet.in                                                    | Prof. Sunando DasGupta                                                 |
| 12 | Channel 12: NPTEL: Civil Engineering and related subjects                                                 | IIT Delhi                      | bishwa@civil.iitd.ac.in                                                        | Prof. B. Bhattacharjee                                                 |
| 13 | Channel 13: NPTEL: Computer Science and Engineering                                                       | IIT Kharagpur                  | anupambas@gmail.com                                                            | Prof. Anupam Basu                                                      |
| 14 | Channel 14: NPTEL: Electrical engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering and related subjects | IIT Delhi                      | shouri@ee.iitd.ac.in                                                           | Prof. Shouri Chatterjee                                                |
| 15 | Channel 15: NPTEL: Engineering Sciences and general subjects for engineering                              | IIT Madras                     | mangal@iitm.ac.in                                                              | Prof. K. Mangala Sunder                                                |
| 16 | Channel 16: NPTEL: Humanities, Social Sciences and Management                                             | IIT Kanpur                     | mjha@iitk.ac.in                                                                | Prof. Munmun Jha                                                       |
| 17 | Channel 17: NPTEL: Mechanical Engineering and related subjects                                            | IIT Kanpur                     | bhatacs@iitk.ac.in                                                             | Prof. Shantanu Bhattacharya                                            |
| 18 | Channel 18: NPTEL: Mathematics, Physics, Metallurgy and related subjects                                  | IIT Tripathi / IIT Madras      | tsniit@iittp.ac.in                                                             | Prof. T. S Natarajan                                                   |
| 19 | Channel 19: IIT PAL: Biology                                                                              | IIT PAL 1 IIT Delhi            | amittal@bioschool.iitd.ac.in                                                   | Prof. Aditya Mittal                                                    |
| 20 | Channel 20: IIT PAL: Chemistry                                                                            | IIT PAL 2, IIT Delhi           | ravips@chemistry.iitd.ac.in                                                    | Prof. Ravi P. Singh                                                    |
| 21 | Channel 21: IIT PAL: Mathematics                                                                          | IIT PAL 3, IIT Delhi           | niladri@maths.iitd.ac.in                                                       | Prof. Niladri Chatterjee                                               |
| 22 | Channel 22: IIT PAL: Physics                                                                              | IIT PAL 4, IIT Delhi           | jpsingh@physics.iitd.ac.in                                                     | Prof. J.P. Singh                                                       |
| 23 | Channel 23: IGNOU: Liberal Arts and Humanities                                                            | IGNOU, New Delhi               | asgupta@ignou.ac.in                                                            | Prof. Anju Sehgal Gupta                                                |
| 24 | Channel 24: IGNOU: Agriculture, Vocational and Allied Sciences                                            | IGNOU, New Delhi               | mksalooja@ignou.ac.in                                                          | Prof. M. K. Salooja                                                    |
| 25 | Channel 25: IGNOU: Culture                                                                                | IGNOU, New Delhi               | rukshanazaman@ignou.ac.in,<br>monikamisra@ignou.<br>ac.in,mitoodas@ignou.ac.in | Dr. Rukshana Zaman, Dr. Monika Misra and Dr. Mitoo Das Culture Channel |
| 26 | Channel 26: IGNOU: State Open Universities' programs                                                      | IGNOU, New Delhi               | pkbiswas@ignou.ac.in                                                           | Prof. P. K. Biswas                                                     |
| 27 | Channel 27: NIOS: Secondary School Education                                                              | NIOS, New Delhi                | skp@nios.ac.in                                                                 | Sh. S. K. Prasad, JD (CBC), NIOS                                       |
| 28 | Channel 28: NIOS: Higher Secondary School Education                                                       | NIOS, New Delhi                | sandhyakumar@nios.ac.in                                                        | Dr. Sandhya Kumar, DD (Academic), NIOS                                 |
| 29 | Channel 29: QEEE: QEEE 1 (Live classes in Engineering and Technology)                                     | IIT Madras                     | ashok@ee.iitm.ac.in                                                            | Prof. Ashok Jhunjunwala                                                |
| 30 | Channel 30: NPTEL: Mathematics                                                                            | IIT Madras                     | ashok@ee.iitm.ac.in                                                            | Prof. Ashok Jhunjunwala                                                |
| 31 | Channel 31: NCERT: School and Teacher Education                                                           | NCERT, New Delhi               | rajaramsharma@gmail.com                                                        | Prof. Amarendra Behera and Prof. Rajaram Sharma, Joint Director Sharma |
| 32 | Channel 32: IGNOU and NIOS: Teacher Education                                                             | IGNOU and NIOS, New Delhi      | gaurinedu@ignou.ac.in                                                          | Dr. Gaurav Singh, SEO, IGNOU                                           |

Source: [https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in/index.php/ch\\_allocation](https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in/index.php/ch_allocation) accessed on December 18, 2017

## SEARCHING FACILITY

Availability, accessibility, and accountability are the three basic and fundamental parameters to measure the success index of any program. Availability shows that quantitative of the material under the program. Secondly, accessibility is prominent parameter which gives freedom to users to access the available material without wasting the time. Many agencies are investing on the same concept to make more

facilitating and reliable as user(s) time is very precise. Last, the accountability leads the originality of the contents which earn the faith of the users towards offered academic contents. Considering these facts, the SWAYAM-PRABHA program is also being followed the same pattern. Many different tools have been introduced; thereby the users may search the channel and material according to their requirements and time suitability.

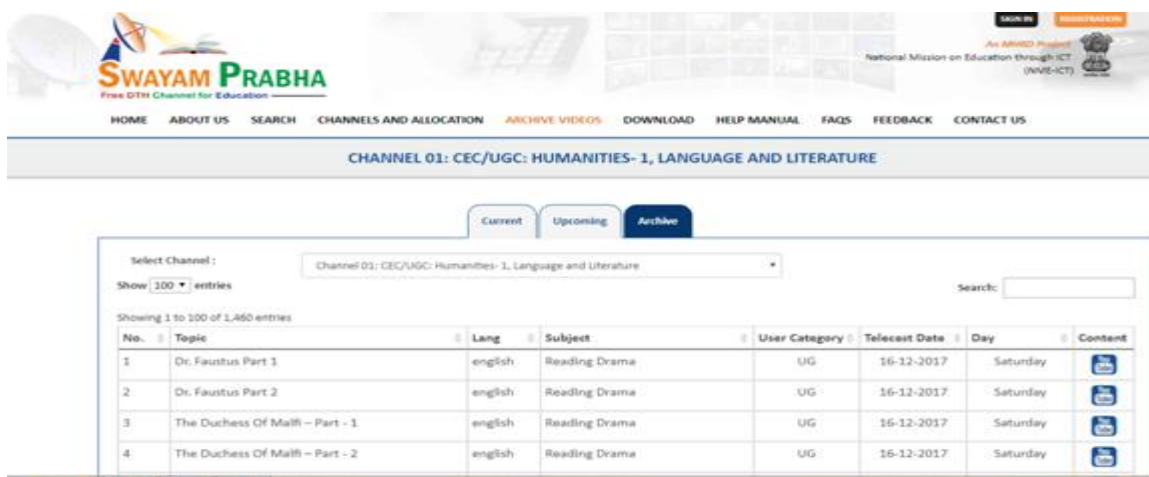


{Sources: <https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in/index.php/search> accessed on December 18, 2017}

## ARCHIVE VIDEOS

One more facility i.e. telecast videos are available in the archive of the program which gives the opportunity to those students and users who could not attend the live. As India is a developing country, therefore the basic IT infrastructure

is lacking in many areas even regular electricity supply is another issue. Hence to cope up with this problem, archive videos play a significant role and attract the users towards availability. This feature contains the videos and gives the information in three ways i.e. current, upcoming and archive of all channels.



{Source: <https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in/index.php/program/archive/1> accessed on December 20, 2017}

SWAYAM-PRABHA Mobile App

INFLIBNET Centre has introduced SWAYAM-PRABHA Mobile App facility. This app will keep up date to every

registered user about the channels programmes i.e. current and upcoming. To install the same, 4.3 and up android is required.



{Source: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bisag.introslider&hl=en> accessed on December 20, 2017}

## CONCLUSION

It is substantial step of GOI to establish such a giant program which has been proving mile stone in Indian academics. This program gears the under-privileged academic institutions and users. Under this platform, students can interact with the best faculties of their core areas which shall help to spark the mind of the students. Thereby in future, they can contribute to frame the better policies which may lead socio-economic development of the country. In addition, the students from different disciplines may access the channels as maximum disciplines have been covered under this program. Schedules of the programmes have also been well defined and will be repeated five times in a day. Therefore, accordingly students can prepare their schedules and attend the channels. Searching facility is very convenient. SMS alert facility is also available along with the mobile app which will guide the users and keeps update with the current and upcoming programmes. The delivered contents are really qualitative & quantitative.

## SUGGESTIONS

SWAYAM-PRABHA is a wonderful initiative of GOI and having all merits but author personally admits some suggestions which may be used to explore and for further improvement.

- So far only few institutions have installed the DTH in their academic premises. Some are in process to install the same. However, maximum are not aware about how to install the DTH. Therefore, MHRD has to take some hard step(s) and will have to direct to all funded institutions to install the same; otherwise their grant may be stopped in future.

- One more sensational fact has been realized i.e. institutions feel that it is on payment basis. Hence, MHRD must campaign that it is free, however to access the channels the concerned institutions have to install the DTH by their own.
- Some orientation programs have to be organized just to create the interest of the students towards channels contents even teaching fraternity has to take the pain in the form of assignments as students may be engaged to complete their assignments on these channels so that they may familiar with the contents and convey the message among other students.
- MHRD has to take the compliance report time to time from the institutions so that exact picture may be cleared and some remedial steps, if require may be taken in anticipation.

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