

प्रा. रविंद्र द. कुलकर्णी

एम्.टेक., पीएच्.डी.

कुलगुरु

Prof. Ravindra D. Kulkarni

M.Tech., Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor



NAAC : A++ Grade (CGPA 3.65)

Category-I University Status awarded by UGC, 2023

मुंबई विद्यापीठ

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MESSAGE

Dear Members of the Academic Community,

The Indian education system is one of the largest in the world. This sector is undergoing rapid transformation by offering flexible, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary learning to help students develop the skills and competencies required for the twenty-first century. To achieve these goals, MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), virtual laboratories and artificial intelligence have been integrated into the teaching-learning process to make education more learner-centric, accessible and interactive.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 provides a roadmap for the transformation of higher education in India. Its core principles include access, equity, quality, accountability and affordability. It also reinforces students' cultural roots by incorporating Indigenous Knowledge Systems into contemporary curricula, thereby ensuring a balance between Indigenous wisdom and scientific inquiry. Furthermore, the establishment of campuses of leading foreign universities in India has made international education accessible to students. These developments have placed greater responsibility on educational institutions to demonstrate the measurable impact of their educational initiatives through excellence in teaching, research and innovation. Thus, the challenge before higher education institutions is not only to adapt to change but also to lead it by contributing meaningfully to national development and global progress.

This year's theme, **"Libraries: Connecting People, Preserving Knowledge, Empowering the Future,"** accurately captures the evolving landscape of education and information, highlighting the vital role libraries play in contemporary society. Libraries are an important cornerstone of the Indian education system. They are dynamic centres of learning, innovation and discovery. Libraries support teaching, learning, research and innovation by providing equitable access to information and knowledge resources while catering to the needs of students, researchers, faculty members and the wider academic community. They also play an important role in preserving cultural heritage and institutional knowledge for future generations.

Technological advancements and digital technologies have transformed the way information is created, disseminated and accessed, and libraries have embraced these changes with resilience and vision. As research has become increasingly data-driven, collaborative and interdisciplinary, libraries have evolved into dynamic digital knowledge centres by providing access to institutional repositories, electronic resources and a wide range of digital services. In addition to supporting academic pursuits, libraries play a vital role in fostering information literacy, digital literacy, critical thinking and lifelong learning. They empower readers with these essential skills and competencies, enabling them not only to succeed in their academic and professional journeys but also to become informed, responsible, and ethical citizens.

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The evolving educational and information landscape has brought about a remarkable transformation in the role of librarians. Their responsibilities now extend beyond traditional library services to include those of educators, innovators and knowledge professionals who play a crucial role in advancing the academic mission of their institutions. They play a vital role in promoting open access, managing digital repositories, teaching information literacy and designing collaborative learning spaces. They help the academic community navigate an increasingly complex information ecosystem by teaching users how to access, evaluate and use information ethically and effectively. Their dedication to preserving knowledge and empowering learners makes them indispensable architects of a knowledge society.

On this National Librarians' Day, let us acknowledge the invaluable contributions of libraries and library professionals in empowering students, preserving our cultural and intellectual heritage, advancing research and innovation, and equipping present and future generations with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to build a liberal, enlightened and progressive society.

Warm greetings and best wishes to all on National Librarians' Day!

(Prof. Ravindra D. Kulkarni)

Vice Chancellor

