

# Realising the Potential for Excellence



*Two years have passed since I took over the reigns of University of Pune as the 17th Vice Chancellor on August 24, 2006. I came over to the field of higher education with a mission, lots of hope and some trepidation. Looking back, I certainly feel gratification for what has been achieved in the last two years.*

*I place on record my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the guidance received from His Excellency, the Chancellor and Governor of Maharashtra, Shri S.C. Jamir and his distinguished predecessor, Shri S.M. Krishna. I wholeheartedly acknowledge the support that I have received from the Management Team of the University : Dr. Pandit Vidyasagar, Director, Board of College and University Development (BCUD); Dr. M.L. Jadhav, Registrar, (and his predecessor, Dr. D.D. Deshmukh); Shri M.S. Phirange, Controller of Examinations and Shri Sanjay Gawai, Finance and Accounts Officer, (and his predecessor, Shri A.G. Joshi); the Members of Management Council, Academic Council, the Senate, other University Authorities, Bodies and Statutory Committees. My heartfelt appreciation also to all stakeholders the students, teachers, non-teaching staff, management of colleges and recognized Institutions, Vice-Chancellors of other Universities, social organizations in the region and the mass media for their kind support. Special thanks are due to Dr. Vasudha Garde, Director, International Students' Centre and Shri Vikas Patil my Executive Assistant, (and his predecessor Shri Balasaheb Naik), and the staff of the Vice Chancellor's office.*

*I wish everyone associated with this University yet another highly successful year. I urge everyone to work together for improving the quality of our education and make it competitive globally. I am confident that together we can achieve excellence in teaching, learning, research and extension services thus contributing meaningfully and substantially towards educational, economic, technological and social empowerment, thereby facilitating the emergence of India as a global power house.*

*I am truly delighted to release this Report which highlights major initiatives and achievements, decisions taken during my two years as the Vice-Chancellor. I think it would be fair to say that a lot has been accomplished during my two years in the office, although much remains to be done. I am confident that with your help we can realize the University's potential for excellence, and accelerate the pace of development and progress of the University in the coming years.*

**Dr. Narendra Jadhav,**  
Vice-Chancellor

# Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
I STRATEGIC VISION	4
II UNIVERSITY OF PUNE ON THE GLOBAL MAP	4
III ACADEMIC REFORMS	6
IV STUDENT WELFARE	8
V SOCIAL INITIATIVES	10
VI GOVERNANCE	11
VII INFRASTRUCTURE	14
VIII IT INFRASTRUCTURE	14
IX FINANCE	15
X PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL EVENTS	17



# INTRODUCTION

Pune City has traditionally been a hub for education. In fact, one of the earliest institutions of modern education in India was established in Pune way back in 1824, well before the first three Universities in India (i.e., Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai ) came into being in 1857 . What lies at the heart of this Education Hub today is the University of Pune established much later in 1948.

University of Pune has been blessed with towering personalities as Vice Chancellors in its foundation phase. The distinguished galaxy includes- Barrister Dr. M.R.Jaykar, Wrangler Dr. R.P. Paranjape, Prin. D.G. Karve, Dr. Mahamahopadhyaya Datto Vaman Potdar, Dr. N.V. alias Kakasaheb Gadgil and Dr. Dhananjayrao Gadgil. Under their guidance, the University of Pune was firmly established as a premier educational institution in the country, and was often referred to as the “Oxford of the East”.

After the foundation phase of 20 years or so came the expansionary phase. With the concerted efforts of the 10 distinguished personalities that subsequently served as Vice-Chancellors, the University recorded an impressive growth and expansion. Illustratively, during the period 1982 to 2006, the total number of students rose from 59,000 to 4,97,000 (i.e. increase of 742 per cent). The number of affiliated colleges rose from 115 to 433 (i.e. increase of 276 per cent); while the number of recognized Institutes increased from 62 to 232 (i.e. increase of 274 per cent). Notably, the total enrollment of foreign students rose to more than 9000 during the expansion phase upto 2006.

With this rapid growth and expansion, the supporting infrastructure on the Main Campus came under severe pressure. The existing buildings, including the monumental Main Building of the University ( - built in 1864 as the residence of the Governors of Bombay during the British Raj) were crumbling. The acute shortage of working place had led to severe hardships for students, teachers and the non-teaching staff. This was compounded further on account of the large accumulated backlog of teaching and non-teaching staff. In fact, more than one-third of the Teaching Posts sanctioned by the State Government had remained unfilled and there was virtually no change in the number of non-teaching positions (less than one per cent increase over the 25 years period!). Inevitably, the quality of services offered by the University was seriously affected. Consequently, some sheen from the glamour of the University was lost and its status as the 'Oxford of the East' came to be increasingly contested and debated. Indeed, it was in the middle of several controversies surrounding the University that Dr. Narendra Jadhav took over as the 17th Vice Chancellor of the University of Pune in August 2006.

Recognizing the imperative need to re-build the University (literally and metaphorically) and to restore its glorious image, Vice Chancellor Dr. Jadhav took on this formidable task. For the first two years, the attention was focused on consolidation, expansion and diversification, with the following key thrust areas:

- To prepare a **Strategic Vision** for the University;
- To place the University on the **Global Map**;
- To make the University a **Centre of Excellence**;
- To restore and improve the **physical** and **IT Infrastructure**; and,
- To bridge the gulf between the **University and the Society** at large responding to the ever changing societal needs, especially those of the underprivileged strata of the society.

In conformity with these objectives, several far-reaching initiatives were taken and foundations were laid for bringing about a substantial improvement in **access, equity** and **quality** of higher education. Salient features of the results achieved during the last two years may be summarized as under:

- Significant academic reforms including revision of curricula and boost to research activity have been firmly established.
- There is a substantial reduction in the backlog of teaching and non-teaching staff;



- The process of reducing the infrastructure-backlog is well on its way;
- Social connectivity has been restored through number of innovative projects;
- Global outreach has been strengthened and diversified.

Not surprisingly during the last two years, there was more than 30 per cent increase in the number of students, taking the total number to an estimated level of 6.5 lakh students which makes University of Pune as **one of the largest Universities in the world**. Notably, there was more than 40 per cent increase in the foreign students. With more than 14,000 foreign students from 89 different countries, University of Pune has now been established as the **most preferred destination of foreign students** coming to India. In fact, nearly 45 per cent of foreign students coming to India come to the University of Pune alone.

In sum, the University of Pune has now emerged as the **largest University in India** (and among the largest Universities in the world) as measured by the student population. With the Five Star rating by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and the status of University with Potential for Excellence (UPE) accorded by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the University of Pune is the **most highly rated State University** in India. If one University in India is to be chosen as a Global University on the basis of **international linkages and the world-wide outreach**, that unique distinction unequivocally belongs to none other than to the University of Pune.

Major developments in the functioning of the University of Pune during the last two years are reviewed in detail in what follows:

## I. STRATEGIC VISION

One of the earliest decisions taken was to formulate a **Strategic Vision and Action Program** for the University of Pune with participation from all stakeholders. Earlier 'University of Pune Master Plan 2020' had been prepared (April 2006) and was placed on the website of the University. However, serious questions had been raised about its internal consistency, feasibility and even its ratification by the appropriate University Authorities such as the Management Council, the Academic Council and the Senate.

It was felt that wider participation of experts in various related fields was necessary so as to make this important document concise and well balanced. Accordingly, a Committee of Experts from diverse fields was constituted with the following members: Ms. Anu Aga, Dr. Vijay Bhatkar, Dr. Suma Chitnis, Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Shri. Atul Kirloskar, Shri. P.B. Kulkarni, Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, Shri. Ravi Pandit, Shri. Ram Pradhan and Dr. Ram Takawale. Vice-Chancellor Dr. Jadhav chaired the Expert Committee. After a series of deliberations, the Committee prepared a draft entitled, the **University of Pune: Mission, Strategic Vision and Action Program**. The draft document was discussed in the meeting of all the Heads of Departments (HoDs) and the final version, incorporating their suggestions has been placed on the University's website and is being implemented in a phased manner.

Importantly, the Mission Statement for the University of Pune has now been formulated as:

*"The Mission of the University of Pune is to be a global, socially conscious Center of Excellence in the conservation, creation, advancement and dissemination of knowledge, equipped to take up challenges of change and committed to empower its faculty and students to contribute meaningfully to economic, technological and social development and progress."*

## II. UNIVERSITY OF PUNE ON THE GLOBAL MAP

The University of Pune has always had strong linkages with leading educational institutions abroad. These linkages needed strengthening so as to attract more students, by providing new courses and programs and, by extending the areas of cooperation beyond exchange of students to faculty exchange, joint research and even running programs abroad. Vice-Chancellor Dr. Jadhav followed a dynamic marketing strategy so as to place the University of Pune on the Global Map:



- An elegant Brochure of the University of Pune styled, **University-In Profile** has been published and circulated for the first time. The Brochure provides information about the Administration and Management, Campus, Academic Programs, Departments, Schools, and Centres, Admission procedure, Student Welfare and Social Service Programs and the International Students Center of the University.
- The University of Pune is currently in the process of establishing its branch campus at Dubai. The State Government has already accorded a sanction for the proposal and relevant procedural formalities with the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) of the Government of India are being completed. The New campus in the Academic City of Dubai is expected to be operational during this academic year, which would make University of Pune to be the first State University in India to establish a branch campus abroad.
- Delegation and dignitaries from various countries such as Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, France, Korea, Japan, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam and the USA visited the University and held discussions on mutual collaboration in various fields. In fact, the French authorities held an Education Fair on the UoP Campus where 110 French Universities participated. The University of Pune has had the privilege of being invited by the British Council, Delhi to organize and conduct an induction course titled **Understanding India** for 40 British students sponsored under the British Prime Minister's Program called 'Unlocking the Talent'.
- Vice-Chancellor Dr. Jadhav visited Austria, China, Dubai, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, South Africa, Sweden and USA during the two-year period. Many collaborative arrangements with the globally reputed educational institutions are being established and effort is being made to widen their geographical spread and functional scope. In August 2006 when Dr. Jadhav took over, there were 47 MoUs with foreign educational institutions of which, regrettably, as many as 30 had become dysfunctional. While the MoUs which had become moribund are being revived *selectively*, in the last two years 21 New MoUs have been signed : Austria (1), Canada (1 with consortium of 17 Universities), China (2), Finland (1), France (7 including those with network of 75 institutions), Germany (2), Ireland (1), Korea (2), Sweden (1), Taiwan (1), and USA (2). In addition, several more MoUs are in the process of finalisation. Moreover, the University has signed an agreement to participate in the European academic program called ERASMUS MUNDUS, and network called SASNET.
- The University of Pune makes available all its academic programs to international students provided that they fulfill the eligibility norms laid down by the University. In addition, the following special programmes are offered to them by the International Students' Centre: With a view to facilitate the induction of international students coming from non-English speaking countries, English Language Intensive Course for International Students (ELICIS) is conducted regularly three times a year at five different levels. Moreover, customized courses are given to international students visiting the University under the Students Exchange Programmes covering Sanskrit, Pali, Hindi, Environmental Sciences, Economics, Sociology, Indian Art and Culture, and Cinema Studies, depending on their requirement in their home Universities for getting necessary credits. In addition, some foreign students attend courses in subjects such as Economics, Political Science, Physics, Chemistry, etc. for one full Semester through the provisions in the MoUs with the collaborating universities on reciprocal basis.
- Concerted efforts were made in the last two years to streamline the procedural matters relating to international students. Illustratively the University of Pune has introduced a Single Window System for admission to foreign students in collaboration with the local Foreign Registration Office (FRO) which has been working smoothly. More recently, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has formed an Inter-Ministerial Committee to examine the problems faced by the foreign students studying in India. The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) has been asked to conduct these Inter Ministerial meetings and present its report to the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Since more than 45 per cent of foreign students coming to India study at the University of Pune, the University has been working closely with ICCR in



identifying and sorting out the problems related to foreign students coming to Indian Universities.

- With a thrust on improving the standard of higher education, the Government of India is working on a proposal to set up 14 World-Class Universities across the country, out of which one University is going to be in Pune. The University of Pune plans to submit a proposal through the State Government to the Government of India for conferring the World-Class status on the University of Pune.

### III. ACADEMIC REFORMS

#### i) Revision of Curricula

University of Pune and its affiliated colleges offer 400 plus Courses (2500 plus papers) at the Post-Graduate and Under-Graduate levels. Curricula for most of them have not been revised for years, in some cases even for 10-15 years. This has raised a serious issue of relevance.

In order to redress this problem of paramount importance, the Vice Chancellor launched an **extraordinarily ambitious program of revising all curricula in a time bound manner**. A mechanism has been put in place with the involvement of various Boards of Studies, Deans of Faculty, Heads of Department, Senior Professors, and leading Industry experts (for peer review wherever relevant). By end June 2008, 222 curricula of the first year Under Graduate and first year Post Graduate courses have been revised thoroughly with a bottoms-up approach and with involvement of the relevant industry experts and have been placed on the University's website. The work relating to the revision of the remaining curricula is currently underway. In addition, **Workbooks** relating to various courses are being prepared and would be published by the University. Before this ambitious project is brought to a successful conclusion (by end June 2010), a mechanism would be put in place for a periodic revision of curricula every three years in future.

#### ii) Teachers' Training

A disconcertingly large proportion of college teachers seem to be unaware of the recent advances in their own subjects. There is therefore, an imperative need for a comprehensive Teachers' Training Program. Accordingly, the University is strengthening the Academic Staff College. Importantly, a **Comprehensive Plan** is being formulated for Teachers' Training using world class resource persons in various fields, which would be implemented when **Triple Connectivity** (i.e. data, audio and video) is established across all the affiliated colleges.

#### iii) New Courses and Faculties

In order to bring academics closer to the evolving industrial needs, the University has instituted a new **MBA++ Program in place of the** conventional MBA program, with effect from the academic year 2007-08. The structure of the new program has been formulated in close consultation with select experts from industries as well as the academicians with wide experience in their related fields keeping in view the current and emerging needs of various industrial sectors in the region. Under this unique program, students are free to choose any one of the 30 combinations available one from the 5 **Functional** specializations and one from the 6 **Sectoral** specializations. Building on the success of the MBA++ program another distinctive program i.e., **Executive MBA** for working professionals has been launched from the academic year 2008-09 and has also received an overwhelming response. The **other new courses** launched include: M.Tech. (Bio informatics), M.A. (Mass Relation), M.Lib. Sc. (Information Science), M.Phil (Information Science), B.Ed. (Virtually Impaired), M.Phil (Vacation) and Diploma in Modeling & Simulation.





The University has signed a MoU with Global Talent Track (GTT) on August 23, 2008 to introduce comprehensive **Information Technology Enabling Services (ITES) courses** with certification by University of Pune, GTT and CISCO. These courses would be launched in the immediate future for students as well as teaching staff of the University and affiliating colleges. With this significant initiative, the University would be taking a quantum leap in ITES education by covering an estimated 30,000 students this year.

In spite of the fact that nearly one-third of the overall student population comes from 'Commerce', a separate University Department of Commerce was not established until recently. During the year 2007-08, a Post Graduate Department of Commerce was established on the Campus. Furthermore, the **Faculty of Physical Education** was made operational and, a separate University Department of Physical Education was established in the University for the first time.

#### iv) **Research Environment**

University of Pune took a **major step in inculcating research orientation at the affiliated college level**, which has received an overwhelming response. In fact, more than 1000 research projects have been selected, of which more than 70 per cent are from the affiliated colleges in rural areas. Each project received funding ranging from Rs.50,000 to Rs.3,00,000, thus disbursing around Rs.8 crore from the University funds. University of Pune is the only University which has undertaken and implemented such a program to enhance the research activity at the College level and on a scale unparalleled in the history of any University in India; the same amount i.e. Rs. 8 crore has been provided for research in the budget for the year 2008-09. A Research Conference of University and College Teachers was held on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007. Around 600 College Teachers participated. In the year 2008-09 it has been planned to organize nine regional conferences for the College and University teachers which will culminate in the first ever Research Conference at National level for University and College teachers to be held in January 2009.

The first **National Students Research Convention** was organized by University of Pune during the 17-19, May 2008. The aim of this Convention titled **Anveshan**, was to accelerate scientific research and innovation and their application towards community development percolating to the grass root level. This would also help in identifying the young and rising talents who could be promoted through proper encouragement and incentives. The Convention was organized jointly with the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). AIU had organized four regional competitions at Ranchi (East), Hyderabad (South), Punjab (North) and Nagpur (West Zone). About 20 best projects were selected from each zone for the National competition **Anveshan**. About 100 innovative projects from all over country were presented to the National Students Research Convention. In collaboration with The Indian Entrepreneurs (TIE), the University of Pune took special efforts to organise the researchers' interface with the industry representatives.

The University participated in the first ever **Inter-University Research Competition** for students termed **Avishkar**, initiated by His Excellency, Governor of Maharashtra held at Nagpur (February 15-17, 2007). In the run-up to the State level competition, several regional competitions were organized by the University of Pune in its jurisdiction which ensured widespread participation. With unusual emphasis on research even at the college level, it was not surprising that **University of Pune won the Overall Championship for the first two years in a row**.

#### V) **Semester and Credit System**

Semester system has been introduced in the University of Pune in respect of the Science and Engineering Faculties, at the Under Graduate (UG) and Post Graduate (PG) level (on the Campus and in PG Centres at affiliated colleges). Efforts are currently



underway to extend the same to the Under Graduate level. Credit system has been introduced on the Campus for PG level in all Faculties. The system is being extended to PG Centres in affiliated colleges in the next academic year. Similarly, extending the credit system to the Under Graduate level is under consideration.

vi) **Perspective Plan**

The University prepared a Perspective Plan for the period 2006 - 2010 identifying the need for colleges under different faculties (i.e. Arts, Science, Mental and Moral, Education, Law, Engineering, Pharmacy etc.). Earlier such Plans were made at the District level. It was for the first time that a Comprehensive Perspective Plan was prepared considering **Taluka** as a Unit. Several other Universities in Maharashtra are now using the University's Plan as a model.

vii) **Quality Improvement Program**

University of Pune has a special program under which funds are provided to the affiliated colleges for organizing Conferences and for buying teaching and research aids. Annually, Rs.2 crore are provided for this purpose. Recently sports equipment has been added to the list; each college will be provided Rs.60,000/- for the purchase of non-consumable sports equipment under Scheme. Deviating from the past practice of disbursal only once during the year which had led to crowding of Conferences towards the end of the financial year, the disbursal is now being made twice.

vii) **Lecture Series**

**A Lecture Series in honour of the First Six Vice Chancellors of the University** (i.e. Barrister Dr. M.R. Jaykar, Wrangler Sir R.P. Paranjpye, Prin. D.G. Karve, *Mahamahopadhyay* Dr. Datto Vaman Potdar, Dr. Kakasaheb Gadgil and Dr. Dhananjayrao Gadgil) was launched on August 14, 2007. The First Oration in Barrister Dr. M.R. Jayakar series was delivered by Justice P.B. Sawant on 'Law and Social Justice'. Dr. R.A. Mashelkar presided over the function. Under this series, Public Lectures would be organized in Law; Science; Arts, Fine Arts and Languages; Commerce; Management and Mental, Moral & Social Sciences.

## IV. STUDENT WELFARE

i) **Earn and Learn Scheme**

Inspired by *Karmaveer* Bhaurao Patil, several Universities in Maharashtra have introduced '**Earn and Learn Scheme**' which has been very useful in extending a helping hand to the students from poor and the underprivileged strata of the society. While the University of Pune has had a long tradition, of implementing this Scheme, its reach was rather limited. During the last two years, the Vice Chancellor strengthened the Scheme significantly. In fact, the allocation under the Scheme was raised from Rs.1.5 crore per annum to as much as Rs.5 crore per annum. (No other State University in Maharashtra has been spending more than Rs. 25 lakh annually under the Scheme). At the Campus level, this has taken the form of "**Education Guarantee Scheme**" wherein '**Work on Demand**' has become operational for all students. This is being progressively extended to all affiliated colleges, and the share of the University contribution has been raised to 60 per cent (90 per cent in the case of colleges catering mainly to *Aadiwasi* students). Moreover, the remuneration to students has been hiked progressively from Rs.15 to Rs.20 per hour. In addition, conscious efforts have been made to widen the skill-set of the participating students. This Scheme of the University has been making a singular contribution towards improving and retaining access to higher education for the underprivileged youth.

ii) **Soft Skills Development**

In the last two years, the University of Pune has launched yet another **unique**





**and innovative SoftSkills Program for Personality Development** of the students. Under this program, students from **rural areas, socially disadvantaged groups and economically poor strata of the society** were chosen for an intensive fifteen-days training program wherein outside experts were invited to impart training on Conversational English, Techniques of Interview and Group Discussion and Overall Personality Development. At the pilot stage, eleven such programs were conducted, 3 in Pune, 4 in Ahmednagar and 4 in Nashik. A batch of 50 students from the final year of Undergraduate Program was chosen in each of these colleges of which **more than 50 per cent were girls**. The pilot stage was completed with an overwhelming response and these programs marked the establishment of **Personality Development Centers** at their respective colleges with investment almost entirely by the University.

During the year 2007-08, Personality Development Centers were established in as many 190 colleges. During the summer, Training Camps were conducted in Pune, Nashik, Ahmednagar and Baramati for 660 teachers (i.e. 3 from each of 220 colleges). These Trainers in turn, were instrumental in establishing the Personality Development Centers in respective colleges, with financial assistance from the University. The University provides financial assistance of Rs. 5,000/- for each batch conducted (maximum 3 batches per academic year) to meet the expenditures incurred. All these colleges having Personality Development Centres also have established language laboratories. For this, the University has provided financial assistance of Rs. 60,000/- per college (for colleges from *Aadiwasi* region) and Rs. 25,000/- (for other colleges). Apart from this, the University is also providing 25 language improver machines to each of these colleges. By the end of the academic year 2008-09, all colleges affiliated to the University will have their own Personality Development Centers, imparting communication skills especially to the underprivileged students and contributing thereby to their employability and realisation of their potential.

**iii) Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule Scholarships**

Another path-breaking decision taken by the Vice Chancellor was to provide **scholarship of Rs. One crore to the girl students** at the Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate levels. Under the Scheme, scholarship of Rs. 5000/- are awarded to 2000 girl students per year. A special feature of this Scheme is that 30 per cent of the total amount has been specially reserved for **daughters of Devadasis, Prostitutes and women affected with HIV**. For the year 2008-09, the budgeted amount for this Scheme has been raised to Rs. 2 crore.

**iv) Sports Scholarships**

With a view to promote the student participation in games and sports, the University took a major step by announcing Sports Scholarships from the academic year 2007-08. To begin with these Scholarships are being awarded to those students securing first, second or third position (individually and in team events) in All-India Inter-University Sports Meet. The University has thus become the first one in the country to offer such scholarships.

**v) Campus Placement Centre**

Corporate entities in the booming economy of the Pune region typically refrain from going to rural areas for recruitment. As a result, deserving students from the rural areas often miss out on the opportunities for gainful employment. In order to address this important problem, the University of Pune has taken a decision to establish a Campus Placement Centre which could facilitate the interaction between prospective employers and students through Campus Interviews.



vi) **No Fee Hike**

In terms of a decision taken in 2002, the Tuition, Laboratory and Other Fees of various aided and un-aided courses offered by the University were supposed to be increased by 10 per cent every two years. The University Authorities revised this decision in May 2008 so as to ensure that no increase in such fees would be made effective this year. The same principle has been applied to examination fees. With effect from the academic year 2008-09, the fees for the non-aided courses conducted by the affiliating colleges have been rationalized.

vii) **Stipend for M.Phil and Ph.D.**

The stipend paid to the selected M.Phil and Ph.D. students which was stagnant at Rs.1,500/- and Rs.3,000/- per month, respectively, for eight years was doubled with effect from the year 2007-08. This is expected to contribute substantially to promotion of research by students.

## V. SOCIAL INITIATIVES

i) **Samarth Bharat Abhiyan**

With the initiative of the Vice-Chancellor, University of Pune launched a comprehensive program styled "**Samarth Bharat Abhiyan**" in May 2007 **recognizing the growing disconnect between the youth and the society, and the need to reorient the youth power towards constructive engagement especially in the rural areas.** Under the Abhiyan, each of the colleges affiliated to the University adopted one village in its vicinity and several large University Departments also adopted a village each. Of the targeted 500 villages, 480 villages have already been adopted. An ambitious 15 - point program of action for **integrated rural development** has been formulated. The program includes primary and secondary education, sanitation, tree plantation, watershed management, environment, GIS mapping, soil and water testing, writing local history, ensuring communal harmony and the like. Under each point, an Action Group has been formed with participation from University Teachers and outside experts from Government, NGOs and general public. These Groups have formulated their respective Action Programs. With the overwhelming participation from students, teachers, non-teaching staff, Government machinery, social organizations and the general public, the *Abhiyan* has been spreading very fast and has already assumed the scale of a 'movement'.

Under the tree - plantation program, slogan given was '**Each one, Plant One**', i.e., about 5 to 5.5 lakh saplings were supposed to be planted. With the tremendous response from all, more than 8 lakh saplings were planted in 2007. Under the environmental program of the Abhiyan an Environmental March through the Pune City was organized on August 09, 2007, wherein more than 7,000 students participated. The March culminated in a rally where the Vice Chancellor made a power point presentation regarding the evils of global warming and an oath was given to students regarding their civic duties which could help contain the adverse effects of global warming. Additionally, during the first year of the operation of the *Abhiyan*, 4300 toilets were constructed and 16 villages were made *Nirmal Grams*. Local history writing has been completed for 58 villages. Socio-economic survey has been completed for 200 villages while the GIS mapping has been completed for 23 villages.

ii) **Senior Citizen Centre**

In May 2008, the University of Pune launched yet another socially relevant unique program: **Senior Citizen Centre**. The Center is going to cater to the felt needs of the large and growing body of Senior Citizens.



The Center would engage Senior Citizens in five different activities:

- (i) One-day workshops on health and personal financial management;
- (ii) Three months Certificate Programs of their choice (e.g. Indian History, Culture, Philosophy, Religion and the like);
- (iii) A special Ph.D. Program for senior citizens with relaxed entry norms ;
- (iv) Teaching under Adult and Continuing Education Program, and
- (v) Working as volunteers in the *Samarth Bharat Abhiyan*

Under this unique Scheme, Senior Citizens Cell has already been established on the Campus and three Workshops for the senior citizens have been held so far. Decisions have also been taken for amending the entry norms for Ph.D. by senior citizens, as also for instituting two Lecture Series : *Sant Gadagebaba Vyakhanmala* (wherein senior citizens would deliver lectures under the Board of Extra-Mural Studies) and *Dr. Dhnanjayrao Gadgil Vyakhanmala* (wherein leading experts in various fields would deliver lectures under the Board of Extra-Mural Studies).

**iii) Career and Education Fair**

The University took an unusual initiative the first of its kind, in organizing a three-day **Career and Education Fair** on the Campus (June 11-13, 2008). During this Fair, career and education counselling was offered to students entering college (and their parents) by Deans of Faculty and other leading experts. The response to the Fair was phenomenal more than 100,000 students and parents participated.

**iv) Entrepreneur and Technician Development Centre**

The University is planning to establish a Entrepreneur and Technician Development Centre through collaboration with *Jan Shikshan Sanstha* (established in every district by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India). The proposed Centre would impart short term training in **income-generating skills for students as well as school / college drop-outs**. To begin with, the Scheme would be operational in 48 colleges and cover 18 different income-generating courses. Subsequently, the Scheme would be extended progressively to other colleges as well as to other income-generating courses.

**v) Cultural Festival**

As part of the Commonwealth Youth Games festivities, a major Cultural Festival is being organized on October 8, 2008. More than 5000 students are expected to participate in this grand event.

## **VI. GOVERNANCE**

**i) Administration**

- a) On taking the charge of the University, the Vice-Chancellor held discussions with all stakeholders in the University system, such as Principals, Heads of the University Departments, Teachers and Non-Teaching staff, their associations as well as Officers of the University. He also held meetings of the Deans of the Faculties, the Academic Council, the Management Council, the Senate, the Board of Examinations, the various Boards of Studies, the Board of College and University Development, the Finance and Accounts Committee, the Purchase Committee, the Buildings and Works Committee and the Library Committee.

These authorities/bodies were **activated and the frequency of their meetings was increased** in many cases. In most cases except the Senate and the Academic Council, it was decided that there should be at least one meeting every



quarter. As regards the meetings of the Management Council, it was decided that its meetings should be held **generally once in a month**, although the University Act provides for not less than four meetings in a year. At the beginning of each academic year, a one-day Workshop for Principals of all affiliated colleges organized.

- b) All decisions taken by the then acting Vice-Chancellor immediately preceding the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Jadhav were thoroughly re-examined. Some of the earlier decisions were modified, amended and some were ratified while several others were reversed. Major decisions which were reversed, included : (1) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) for Botanical Garden (As per this MoU, 16 acres of land in prime location on the University Campus was to be handed over to the PMC and financial burden of Rs. 1 crore at initial stage was to be borne by the University). (2) MoU between the University of Pune and the Science and Technology Park (STP) (As per this MoU, the University was to give 12 acres of land to the STP and the possession of SET Guest House was also handed over to the STP. As per the MoU, the financial burden on the University at initial stage was going to be Rs. 5 crore and overall burden was going to be of the order of Rs. 25 crore for Project Management)
- c) Other major administrative decisions included the following :
- The Deans Committee was divested of the responsibilities to appoint members on the Local Enquiry Committees (LICs) for affiliated colleges and recognized institutions on behalf of the Academic Council and, in accordance with the Act, two separate sub Committees, one to appoint members on the LIC Committee for affiliated colleges and another to appoint members on LIC Committee for recognized institutions, were constituted instead. The two new Committees have started functioning smoothly while rectifying, in a transparent manner, the asymmetric distribution of LIC responsibilities that prevailed earlier.
  - Two separate new Committees, one for **budget formulation** and another for **budget monitoring**, have been constituted for smooth formulation and implementation of the budget.
  - As per the Statute, there is a provision to assess the work of a teacher for his or her confirmation by a committee. This practice of assessing the work of teachers for confirmation was discontinued during the last 4-5 years. Now for confirmation of teachers, their work is assessed by the Committee as stipulated in the relevant Statute.
  - The Vice Chancellor took yet another historic decision to **modernize the University Press**. For this purpose, a beginning has already been made by investing in the state-of-the art machinery. The University also plans to appoint competent technical persons to run the modern Press.
  - With a view to strengthen the Sub-Centres at Nashik and Ahmednagar, the Vice-Chancellor has appointed **full time Directors** at these Centres. At Ahmednagar Centre, the University has launched a teaching program in Mass Relations. Discussions with relevant Government authorities are currently underway to obtain suitable plots of land for strengthening these sub-Centres.

## ii) Recruitment

The long awaited critical issue of assessment and review to sanction the State Government approved teaching posts in the University was finally resolved in 2007 and the Government sanctioned 371 teaching posts proposed by the University, subject to some conditions. Accordingly, a Recruitment Drive on an unprecedented scale was



launched, which received excellent response. As a matter of fact, the University has succeeded in recruiting teaching staff covering a large part of the accumulated backlog for over 10 years. During the last two years, the following appointments of the teaching staff were made :

<b>Professor</b>	: 16 (including 8 on contractual basis and 3 by promotion)
<b>Reader</b>	: 42 (including 7 by promotion)
<b>Lecturer</b>	: 105 (including 15 by promotion)
Coordinator	: 2
Research Associate	: 1
<hr/>	
Total	: 166

Advertisements for the remaining 101 more vacancies are expected to be released within next one month and the entire backlog (upto end March 2009) is expected to be fully covered in the next few months.

In view of the fact that the number of non-teaching staff has remained virtually unchanged for the last 25 years, a historic decision has been taken to create and recruit upto 400 persons on non-teaching positions. This recruitment would take place in a phased manner. In the meantime, so far, in the last two years, as many as 159 non-teaching staff positions have been filled including Class I (29), Class II (17), Class III (88) and Class IV (25). Furthermore, 77 non-teaching staff have been promoted : Class I (10), Class II (14), Class III (35) and Class IV (18).

At present, there are 20 Chairs established in the University. Earlier decisions to fill up some of the Chairs had led to controversies. During the period under review, the University took a decision, for the first time, to formulate explicit criteria for filling up such vacancies of Chairs. As per the criteria approved by the Management Council, 7 Chair Professors, out of 10 Chairs vacant as on March 31, 2007, have been filled anew while recruitment under the remaining Chairs is currently under process.

### iii) **Staff Welfare**

- (1) A decision was taken to felicitate University officers and non-teaching staff, at the time of their retirement with a **10 gm. Gold Coin** among other things, to recognize their contribution.
- (2) A long pending issue of **ex-gratia payment** of Rs. 1,500/- was resolved and this payment to the University non-teaching staff has been made.
- (3) The issue of payment of conveyance and petrol allowance was rationalized and **Uniform Family Welfare Allowance** of Rs. 500/- is being paid to the non-teaching staff with effect from March 2007.
- (4) A decision was taken to provide **uniform, shoes and goggles** etc., to Class IV employees wherever working conditions so warrant.
- (5) An amount of Rs. 2.20 crore was sanctioned for **construction of residential quarters of Class IV employees**.
- (6) The University's scheme for **Career Advancement for College Teachers** had become somewhat dormant. During the period under review, the Scheme was activated and a number of camps were organised at the District level, for the purpose. Such camps were not held for the past 5 years.





- (7) The University staff in all categories are being given **interest-free loan** of Rs.30,000 from Bank of Maharashtra for purchasing laptop computers. While employees are being given the laptops directly, the interest burden on the loans is being borne by the University.
- (8) University employees have been given 2 per cent **interest subsidy** on their housing loans taken from designated financial institutions.
- (9) Non-teaching staff is being given **educational advance** for their children under specified guidelines.
- (10) **Group Mediclaim Insurance Policy** and **Group Personal Accident Insurance Policy** for the employees is being strengthened substantially and is being extended for the first time, to specified dependents of the employees.

## VII. INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1) The University is symbolically identified with the **Main Building** a most elegant structure with 80 feet tall tower projected into the sky bearing the Flag of the University. This monumental structure has been crumbling after years' neglect. Following a series of collapses, all offices in the Main Building including that of the Vice Chancellor have been vacated and a **massive structural restoration and reconstruction exercise is currently underway.**
- 2) A comprehensive **Campus Make-over Plan** has been formulated aimed at major repairs of the existing structures, possible extensions of some buildings (wherever foundation permits), construction of several new buildings and hostels besides landscaping and beautification of the University Campus. With a carefully designed strategy, these tasks have been undertaken with the help of reputed agencies as Project Management Consultants.

During the year 2008-09, as much as Rs.109 crore are likely to be spent on as many as 68 different projects, as under :

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| • Expediting the Works carried forward | (15) : Rs. 35 crore |
| • Maintenance and Repair Works         | (17) : Rs. 9 crore  |
| • New Works (already commenced)        | (06) : Rs. 19 crore |
| • New Works (commencing shortly)       | (30) : Rs. 46 crore |

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Rs. 109 crore

Clearly, much of the accumulated massive backlog of infrastructure is going to be covered in the next year or two.

## VIII. IT - INFRASTRUCTURE

### 1) **University Website**

The website of the University is being overhauled with a view to make it up-to-date, efficient and user-friendly. In fact, admissions to Post-Graduate courses conducted by the University were carried out by providing on-line support to various University Departments. The procedure developed has been most effective and a very large number of students have benefitted.

### 2) **Triple Connectivity and University of Pune Network:**

The University is currently formulating an ambitious plan of establishing Triple



Connectivity (i.e. audio, visual and data) linking the Main Campus with all affiliated colleges, recognized Institutes and international locations, and creating in this process, a network of the University of its own.

This would be a quantum leap in the IT infrastructure which would enable launching of several path-breaking initiatives as illustrated below:

**(a) Teachers' Training Program**

Leading authorities in each subject would be invited to give seminars on recent advances in their subjects which through the virtual classrooms would benefit all teachers of that subject across the spread of the University in an interactive manner. This would give a tremendous boost to updating the knowledge of teachers.

**(b) Learning Management System**

The University can enter the world of web-based learning in a big way by converting all distance learning programs into the e-learning mode and by introducing a range of new courses in consonance with evolving industry needs.

**(c) Workflow Management**

The governance of the University set up could be improved a great deal (possibly by a factor of five!) through better workflow management across the affiliated colleges and recognized Institutes.

**(d) Knowledge Bank and Centralized Data Base**

Centralized Data Base would be built for better efficiency along with a Knowledge Bank a repository with search engine.

**(e) Student Facilitation Centre**

Student services could be streamlined through improved communication between student, staff and teachers over an integrated e-mail solution. Online admissions, examinations and announcement of results could be facilitated.

The Process of establishment of Triple Connectivity has already begun and is being implemented in a phased manner.

## IX. FINANCE

During the last two years, Vice Chancellor took a series of measures to streamline several major financial issues, placing the University finances on much sounder footings.

**i) Streamlining the UPE Scheme**

The University Grants Commission (UGC) had identified the University of Pune way back in 2000 as one of the (first) five Universities under the Scheme : **University with Potential for Excellence (UPE)**. Financial support of Rs.30 crore was assured, of which Rs. 20 crore were provided to the University. **The implementation of the Scheme at the University was, however, not effective, nor was it transparent.** In fact, of the Rs.20 crore received, less than Rs. 10 crore were actually spent in the first 4 ½ years of the five-year Scheme. Vice Chancellor took a series of measures to place the Scheme on track for the benefit of the University :

- a) A time extension was obtained from the UGC for spending the unspent balance from Rs. 20 crore;
- b) A request was made to release the remaining Rs.10 crore (from Rs.30 crore assured). Accordingly a UGC Peer Review Committee made a visit to the University, approved the streamlining of the Scheme and these funds were released



to the University;

- c) A stage has now been set for a larger claim for financial assistance from the UGC in the Second Phase of the Scheme.

**ii) Budgets (2007-08 and 2008-09)**

The University Budgets for 2007-08 and for 2008-09 were presented and duly approved by the Management Council and the Senate. A snapshot of the Budgets for the last three years are presented below :

(Rs. Crore)

	<b>2006-07 (Actual)</b>	<b>2007-08 (Revised)</b>	<b>2008-09 (Budgeted)</b>
Receipts	142.09	150.63	155.27
Expenditure	102.29	199.95	285.57
Deficit/Surplus	+40.67	-49.32	-130.30

On the receipts side, there has been a notable increases in the amount of grants received from various funding agencies (i.e. UGC, Government of India, CSIR etc.), from the annual average for three-years (2003-04 through 2005-06) of Rs. 19 crore to Rs. 34.4 crore in 2007-08. Additionally, conscious efforts are being made to reconcile various accounts with the affiliated colleges (in respect of examination advances and various fees) and with the Government of Maharashtra (in respect of salary grants) which has been pending for more than 10 years. As a rough and ready estimate, accumulated dues from the affiliated colleges are placed at more than Rs. 10 crore whereas accumulated arrears from the Government of Maharashtra are expected to be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 20 crore. Special camps held recently for reconciliation of examination advances have yielded encouraging results. Similar follow-up is being made in respect of other dues as well.

On the expenditure side, there has been a significant increase in the last two years. The large increase in 2007-08 was mainly on account of building construction and infrastructure (Rs.40 crore) and student welfare schemes (Rs.8 crore). In the Budget for the year 2008-09 the unprecedented level of the deficit (i.e. Rs.130 crore) is explained mainly by the exceptionally large provision of Rs.109 crore for building construction and infrastructural facilities.

**iii) Annual Accounts and Audit**

Finalization and adoption of Annual Account and Audit were in arrears for a long time. The Vice Chancellor took the necessary steps in this regard. In August, 2006 when the Vice Chancellor took over Audit was completed upto the year 2003-04 but Audit Committee Reports were adopted by the senate only upto the year 1996-97. During the last two years

- (a) Audit has been completed for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06. The Audit for the year 2006-07 is about to be completed and for the year 2007-08 reputed Auditors have been appointed.
- (b) The long pending adoption of the Audit Committee Reports by the Senate was completed for the five years : 1997-98 through 2001-02. The Audit Committee Reports for the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 are being finalized and would be



submitted to the Senate later this year. The work on the subsequent Reports for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 has been initiated.

This is yet another area where the **accumulated backlog of many years has been cleared in the last two years.**

## **X. PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL EVENTS**

### **i) Farmers' Suicides Report**

In the context of alarming incidence of farmers' suicides in Vidarbha, the Government of Maharashtra had appointed a **One Man Committee** (November 2007) under the Chairmanship of Dr. Narendra Jadhav. The Committee has submitted its detailed Report to the Government of Maharashtra.

### **ii) Social Programs and Lectures**

The Vice Chancellor participated in numerous social programs and delivered several Memorial Lectures and Special Addresses relating to education, economics and social issues during the last two years.

### **iii) Memorial Lectures Delivered**

During the two year period (2006-08), the Vice Chancellor delivered nine prestigious Memorial Lectures. The details of these Memorial Lecture are as follows:

- 1) Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial lecture organized by Elphinstone College, Mumbai (29<sup>th</sup> April 2008).
- 2) Memorial Lecture on 'Global Warming' (47<sup>th</sup> Prof. S.P. Agharkar Memorial Lecture) at Agharkar Research Institute, Pune (18<sup>th</sup> November 2007).
- 3) Memorial Lecture on '*Me Asa Ghadalo*' at Late Sau Kaku and Nana Kshirsagar Memorial Celebration at Beed (8<sup>th</sup> October 2007).
- 4) 'Labour in the context of Globalization', Fourth Gulzarilal Nanda Memorial Lecture, Maharashtra Labour Institute, Mumbai (April, 2007).
- 5) 'Role of Higher Education in India's Economic Growth', Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)-Address As Guest of Honour for Convocation (March 2007) 18th Tele-Convocation (17th March 2007).
- 6) 'Globalization and Challenges of Higher Education In India', Principal C.B. Joshi Memorial Lecture, Mumbai (2007).
- 7) 'Economic and Social Change in India', VKRV Rao Endowment Lecture, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore (2006).
- 8) 'Empowerment of Dalits and Adivasis: Role of Higher Education in Re-emerging India', First Annual Shri. K. R. Narayanan Memorial Lecture, IIM Kozikode, (Dec, 2006).
- 9) 'Globalization, India and Maharashtra', Yashwantrao Chavan Memorial Lecture, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Mumbai, (23 Nov. 2006).

### **iv) Special Addresses**

During the two year period, the Vice Chancellor delivered the following twenty six Special Addresses :

- 1) Special Address to Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (IDFC), Mumbai, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008.
- 2) Lecture on 'Formulation of Economic Policy Role of RBI' organized by Reserve Bank of India, Pune, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008.



- 3) Speech on 'Higher Education Opportunities in India *vis-a-vis* in USA, Dubai on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2008
- 4) Lecture delivered at Nagpur University, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008.
- 5) Lecture to Rotary District Assembly, Nashik, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2008.
- 6) Lecture organized by *Bharat Itihas Sanshodhak Mandal*, Pune, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2008.
- 7) Lecturer Series organized by Rajiv Gandhi College of Engineering, Research and Technology, Chandrapur, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008.
- 8) Lecture on '*Bhartiya Arthavyavastha and Shetiche Bhavitavya*' in Vasant Vyakhanmala, Pune, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008.
- 9) Lecture on 'Reforming University Sector in India' at Swedish Agency at Vienna, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2008.
- 10) Participation in NDTV show titled "We the People" as a Lead Speaker on issue of "OBC Quota", 13<sup>th</sup> April 2008
- 11) Lecture on 'Education in Era of Liberalization and Globalization at Gomant Vidyaniketan, Mahila and Nutan English High School, Goa on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2008.
- 12) Keynote Address at Programme organized by National Women Organization, Pune on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008.
- 13) Keynote Address at NIPM Western Regional Conference on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008.
- 14) Special Lecture on 'Indian Economic Scene' at Army War College, Mhow on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008.
- 15) Keynote Address on '*Samakalin Badalte Vastav and Navi Arthvyavastha*' at the lecture series organized by Mahatma Phule Adhyasan, University of Pune, on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2007.
- 16) Special Lecture on 'Challenges in Social Commitments of Higher Educational Institutes' in International Conference organized by Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute, Matunga, Mumbai on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2007.
- 17) Keynote Address at Plenary Session of Rotary Institute 2007 at Goa on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2007.
- 18) Special Lecture for 10<sup>th</sup> year celebration of Shri Siddhivinayak Ganpati Cancer Hospital, Sangli, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2007.
- 19) Keynote Address at the Seminar on 'Restructuring Indian Education System - Challenges and Opportunities' at BITSAA Delhi Chapter Golden Jubilee Celebration on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2007.
- 20) 'Skill Acquisition Education: Responding To Socio-Economic Needs', Plenary Session - Vocational Training Education, India Calling Conference, South Africa, July 2007.
- 21) '*Hey Vishwachi Maazhe Ghar...Setu Bhandhare*' at Brihan Maharashtra Mandal (BMM), 13th Biannual Convention, Seattle, USA, June 2007.
- 22) 'Positioning Mumbai As The Regional Finance Hub' Maharashtra Investment Forum, New York, June 25-26, 2007.
- 23) 'Internationalization of Higher Education: Indian Scenario', Seoul, Korea- 2007
- 24) 'Equitable Education for Equitable Society', Special Lecture National Learning Conference, NIMHANS, Bangalore 2007.





- 25) 'Women In The Third Millennium -Winds Of Change', Keynote Address,- All India Conference Organized By Indian Federation Of University Women's Association 16th March 2007.
- 26) 'Interface Between Institutes Of Higher Education And IT-BT Industry', at Conference on 'IT-BT: Emerging Opportunities And Challenges' at Pune Vyaspeeth, Oct.2006.

v) **Awards Received**

During the two years (2006-08), the Vice Chancellor received eleven prestigious awards :

- i. **Justice M.G. Ranade Award** by *Rashtriya Samajik Parishad* (to be presented on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008)
- ii. **Yashwantrao Chavan Puraskar** by Ahmednagar District Central Co-operative Bank, Ahmednagar (2008)
- iii. **Samajik Krutadnyata Puruskar** by *Janseva Vyakti Vikas Pratishthan*, Pune (2008)
- iv. **Mahatma Phule Award** by Mahatma Phule Mandal, Pune (2008)
- v. **Bharat Jyoti Award** by India International Society (2007).
- vi. **Srimanta Malojiraje Smriti Puraskar by Malojiraje Smriti Pratishthan**, Phaltan (2007).
- vii. **Kritadnyata Gaurav Puraskar** by Preeti Sangam Dyanprobodhini Sanstha, Karad (2007).
- viii. **Samajik Nyaya Puraskar** by Nyaymoorti Ramshastri Prabhune Pratishthan (2007).
- ix. **Swami Vivekanand National Award** by Ramkrishna-Vivekananda International Foundation (2007).
- x. **Vocational Excellence Award** by Rotary Club (2007).
- xi. **Netaji Subhashchandra Bose Sahitya Gaurav Puraskar** by Jaihind Foundation, Satara (2007)