

SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY

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Shivaji University, established in 1962, is named after the Great Maratha Warrior and founder of the Maratha empire Chhatrapati Shivaji. It was inaugurated on 18th November, 1962 by Dr. Radhakrishnan, the then President of India. One of the major objectives behind foundation of this University was to cater to the regional needs of South Maharashtra. The jurisdiction of the University is spread over three districts viz. Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara with strength of about 3,00,000 students studying in 271 affiliated colleges and recognised institutes. This region of Maharashtra boasts of rich and varied socio-cultural heritage. Under the innovative and socially reformist leadership of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, the princely ruler of Kolhapur, the city had become at the beginning of this century, a focal point of educational opportunities for all classes and communities of South-Western Maharashtra, and northern parts of neighbouring Karnataka. This is also land of Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil, who struggled for taking education to the masses by his innovative 'Earn and Learn' scheme. When the University was founded by the Shivaji University Act of 1962, the objectives set before the University included making opportunities of higher education accessible to rural youth, conducting fundamental and applied research in the field of science and humanities to ensure regional growth and development. In 1962 the University started functioning with 34 affiliated colleges and about 14000 students with 5 Post-graduate Departments on the campus. Today the number of affiliated colleges has gone upto 225 and students strength upto 2,00,000 with 34 Postgraduate Departments on campus. The University imparts education in 10 major faculties of Arts, Social Science, Science, Commerce, Education, Fine Arts, Law, Medicine, Ayurvedic Medicine, Engineering and Technology. During initial two decades the efforts were concentrated on expansion of higher education and foundation of new colleges in different parts in the four districts under its jurisdiction. The University consolidated its base in this phase by 'taking education to the people'. The decade of 1980s saw a major expansion, especially the growth of professional faculties like Engineering, Education, Management and Medicine. The recent phase of the University can be termed as "a pursuit of academic excellence". Since last 4-5 years, several attempts are being made to overcome the image of University as a regional University. Several steps have been taken to raise the standards of teaching and research so as to measure upto global standards. This is being achieved by exploring new areas of higher learning and research in rapidly emerging fields like Industrial Chemistry, Space Science, Environmental Science, Bio-Chemistry, Sericulture, Polymer Chemistry and Computer Science, in addition to basic science disciplines.