

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VICE – CHANCELLOR



Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, one of the most respected scientists of India, was asked by a correspondent about how the academic institutions could prepare for change, required to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. He said, "You need the right kind of leadership for this. Gujarat Technological University (GTU) is doing this." That was published in the Mumbai edition of Economic Times of 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

The Principal Secretary to Government of Karnataka, Education Department, wrote that a presentation would be made on the experience at GTU in involving technical students for taking up innovative projects. This was in a notice dated 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014 for a meeting at the Karnataka State Higher Education Council.

Dr. Akhilesh Pandey, Chairman of the MP Private Universities Regulatory Commission, Bhopal said, "If the Universities adopt the innovative projects, being operated at GTU, it would be beneficial for them." This was reported in Daily Bhaskar of Bhopal on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

When our students, faculty members and we at GTU office learn about the unsolicited praise, being given by eminent persons, outside Gujarat, we feel good. Such praise should immediately remind us about the large gap between what we are able to do today and what the students and faculty members are able to achieve at the great universities of the world. We completed the examinations in June 2014. This year for the first time, we have been able to declare the results within about a month of the last date of the examinations. But the issues are about the quality of our output.

Each one of the faculty members has to ask himself/ herself the following questions: Were we able to set up papers, which evaluated the understanding rather than rote-learning? Did we assess the answer-books with due care? Did we conduct the practical examinations and viva-voce examinations so that we were able to evaluate every student fairly? Were we able to provide excellent education to our students? Every one of the students has to ask himself/ herself: Did we acquit ourselves well in the examinations? Had we studied every day during the semester, without missing a single class

or laboratory or workshop? Did we behave courteously with all in our class and in our college and did we maintain appropriate discipline?

We at the University have to ask ourselves: Are we continuously improving our systems for delivery of proper service to all our stake-holders? Are we receptive to feedback, particularly the one, which shows our shortcomings? If a stake-holder, be he/ she a student or a parent or a faculty member, comes to any office of the University, does he/ she go back with satisfaction or not?

The new academic year has started for most of the classes in most of the programs. The first year classes would start on 24<sup>th</sup> of July after the admission is declared by ACPC on 21<sup>st</sup> of July. Let us all work so that at the end of the semester, we all should be able to answer the above questions in a positive and satisfactory way. If we are able to do so, we would have moved our University further on the path to becoming a great University.

Dr. Akshai Aggarwal  
18th July 2014