

A Report on

“Celebrating the Power of Knowledge: National Librarians Day and Book Exhibition – A Community Knowledge Outreach Initiative by MITS Community Radio 90.8”

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Introduction

Libraries are fundamental institutions for the creation, preservation, organization and dissemination of knowledge. In an era characterized by rapid technological advancement, digital transformation and easy access to information, the importance of libraries continues to remain significant. Libraries provide learners, researchers, faculty members and the wider community with structured access to reliable information, books, journals, e-books, databases and other learning resources.

In recognition of this important role, **MITS Deemed to be University** organized a special programme to commemorate **National Librarians Day** on 12th August 2026 observed in Honor of **Dr. S. R. Ranganathan**, widely regarded as the Father of Library Science in India. The programme was conducted along with a **Book Exhibition**, creating an opportunity for students, faculty members and visitors to interact with books, publishers and various knowledge resources.



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MITS Community Radio 90.8 was associated with the programme for broadcasting and community-oriented documentation. Through its broadcasting platform, the Community Radio highlighted the importance of libraries, reading habits, knowledge acquisition and lifelong learning.

The programme served not merely as a ceremonial celebration but as a meaningful knowledge-awareness initiative. It emphasized the continued relevance of libraries in the digital age and encouraged students and faculty members to make effective use of both physical and electronic library resources.

The event also provided a platform for eminent academicians and experts to share their perspectives on the evolution of librarianship, the contribution of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the importance of reading and the changing role of libraries in contemporary education.

Objectives of the programme

The National Librarians Day and Book Exhibition programme was conducted with the following objectives:

1. **To create awareness about the importance of libraries and librarians** in education, research, innovation and lifelong learning.
2. **To commemorate the contributions of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan**, the Father of Library Science in India, and highlight his contribution to the development of modern librarianship.
3. **To promote reading habits among students and faculty members** and encourage them to utilize library resources effectively.

Participation of Eminent Dignitaries and Experts

The programme brought together university leadership, library professionals, academicians and eminent experts from the field of education and library science.

The programme featured the presence and addresses of distinguished personalities including:

- **Dr. C. Yuvaraj**, Vice-Chancellor, MITS Deemed to be University
- **Dr. D. Pradeep Kumar**, Registrar, MITS Deemed to be University
- **Dr. N. Gangesh Reddy**, Professor-in-Charge, Central Library
- **Dr. N. Suresh Babu**, Head, Central Library
- **Dr. N. Panchanadam**, Vice-Chancellor, Kandigram Rural Institute – through virtual mode
- **Dr. Ajit Kumar**, Former Vice-Chancellor, Agriculture University – through virtual mode
- **Dr. N. Sudarshan Rao**, Eminent Professor in Library Science – through virtual mode

The participation of eminent academicians and library professionals enriched the programme by providing different perspectives on the historical development, contemporary relevance and future of library services.



Welcome address and significance of National Librarians Day

The programme commenced with a welcome address highlighting the fundamental role of libraries in society.

The address emphasized that:

“A library is not merely a storehouse of books. It is a gateway to knowledge, wisdom, innovation and lifelong learning.”

This message established the central theme of the programme. Libraries were presented as dynamic knowledge centres that support academic learning, research, innovation and personal development.

The programme also highlighted the significance of National Librarians Day as an occasion to recognize the invaluable services rendered by librarians. Librarians are no longer limited to maintaining bookshelves and issuing books. Their responsibilities increasingly include information management, digital resource management, research support, information literacy and facilitating access to scholarly resources.

The celebration therefore provided an opportunity to recognize librarians as important contributors to the academic ecosystem.

Contribution of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan

A major focus of the programme was the contribution of **Dr. S. R. Ranganathan**, whose birth anniversary is commemorated as National Librarians Day in India. The speakers highlighted Dr. Ranganathan's pioneering contribution to library science and his role in transforming librarianship into a systematic and scientific profession. His contribution continues to influence library organization, classification, cataloguing, information services and library management. The programme highlighted how the foundations laid by Dr. Ranganathan contributed to the development of library science education and professional library services across India. The discussions also emphasized that the principles developed during the early evolution of library science continue to have relevance even in today's digital environment. His vision demonstrates that libraries should not simply preserve books but should facilitate the effective movement of knowledge from information resources to users.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS: LIBRARIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE

The address by **Dr. C. Yuvaraj, Vice-Chancellor, MITS Deemed to be University**, focused particularly on the changing nature of information access and the importance of maintaining a reading culture. The Vice-Chancellor reflected on the transformation from traditional library-based information access to today's digital environment. He recalled that during earlier generations, students had to physically visit libraries, search catalogues and spend considerable time locating books and information. The absence of technologies such as Google, Wi-Fi, smartphones and artificial intelligence meant that libraries were central to the learning process. Today, information can be accessed within seconds through search engines, digital databases and artificial intelligence-based tools. However, the Vice-Chancellor emphasized that the availability of digital information should not result in the decline of reading habits.



He pointed out that digital devices may create distractions through advertisements, notifications and other interruptions. In contrast, reading a physical book can provide a more focused learning environment.

The message was particularly relevant to the present generation of students: **technology should complement reading, not replace the culture of reading.**

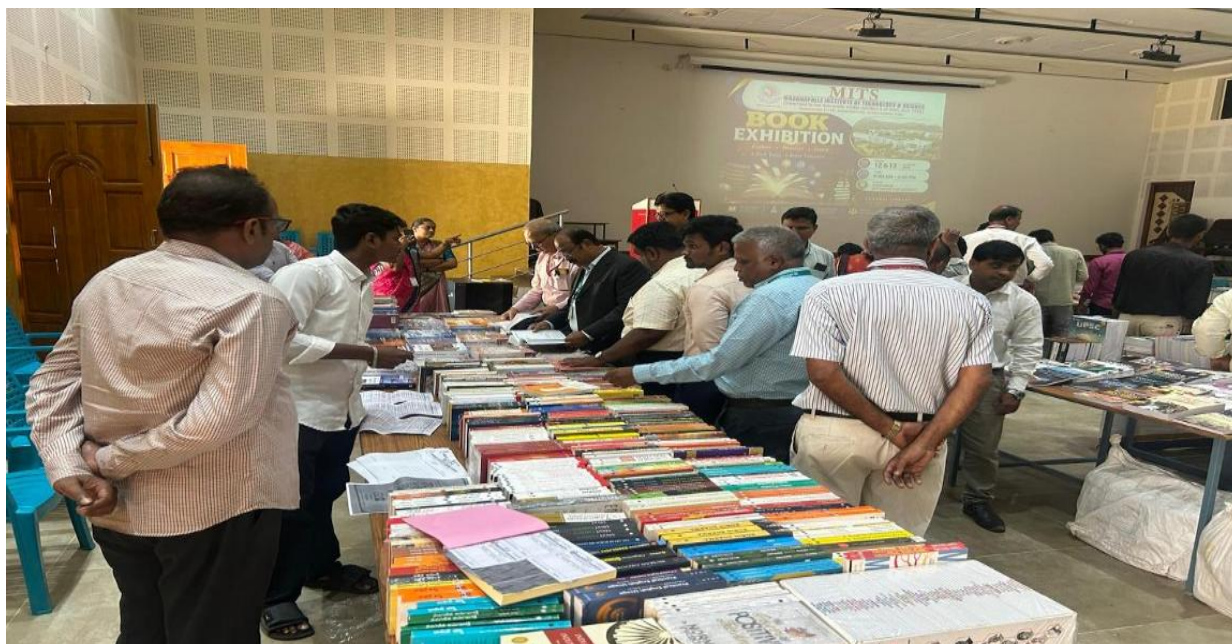
Encouragement to utilize Library Resources

One of the key messages delivered during the programme was the need for students and faculty members to make better use of the resources already available in the university library.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the university provides substantial library facilities and extended access hours. Students were encouraged to utilize the library after regular class hours rather than spending excessive time on unproductive activities.

Book Exhibition

A significant component of the programme was the **Book Exhibition**, where publishers displayed a variety of books and academic resources. The exhibition provided students and faculty members with an opportunity to explore books beyond their prescribed curriculum. The exhibition complemented the National Librarians Day celebration by converting the concept of reading and library utilization into a practical experience. Participants were encouraged to visit the exhibition and make use of the opportunity to explore available resources.



Expert address: Libraries as knowledge-preserving institutions

The expert addresses delivered during the programme highlighted the broader social and educational role of libraries. One of the important messages was that National Librarians Day is not simply a day for honoring librarians. It is also a celebration of:

- The power of knowledge
- The culture of reading
- Information organization

The speakers emphasized that libraries preserve and organize knowledge for present and future generations. They also discussed the contribution of Dr. Ranganathan to different areas of library science. His contributions helped establish the foundations upon which modern library science developed.

Importance of Libraries for Education, Research and Innovation

The programme emphasized the multidimensional contribution of libraries to higher education.

1 Academic Learning

Libraries provide students with resources that supplement classroom teaching and enable them to study beyond prescribed textbooks.

2 Research Support

Journals, databases, reference books, e-books and other scholarly resources support faculty members and research scholars in developing quality research.

3 Innovation

Access to diverse sources of knowledge enables students and researchers to identify new ideas, technologies and solutions.



4 Lifelong Learning

Libraries encourage individuals to continue learning beyond formal education.

5 Information Literacy

Modern libraries help users identify, evaluate and effectively use information.

6 Intellectual Development

Reading develops critical thinking, analytical ability, creativity and intellectual curiosity.

Therefore, libraries remain essential even in a highly digitalized educational environment.

ROLE OF MITS COMMUNITY RADIO 90.8

MITS Community Radio 90.8 played an important supporting role in the programme by associating with the event for community-oriented broadcasting and knowledge dissemination. Community Radio serves as an accessible communication platform for sharing educational and socially relevant information with a wider audience. The National Librarians Day programme provided an appropriate opportunity for MITS Community Radio 90.8 to communicate messages related to Importance of Reading and Library Utilization Through radio broadcasting; the key messages of the programme can reach audiences beyond those physically present at the university. This demonstrates how **higher education institutions can use Community Radio as an outreach and knowledge-sharing mechanism**. The association of MITS Community Radio 90.8 with the programme also strengthened the University's commitment to community engagement, education and public communication.

Key highlights of the Programme

The major highlights of the programme were:

1. Celebration of National Librarians Day.
2. Commemoration of the birth anniversary of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan.
3. Recognition of the contribution of librarians to education and research.
4. Address by the Vice-Chancellor emphasizing the importance of library utilization.
5. Participation of senior university administrators.
6. Participation of eminent academicians and library science experts.
7. Virtual addresses by distinguished external experts.
8. Organization of a Book Exhibition.
9. Display of books and academic resources by publishers.
10. Promotion of reading habits among students and faculty.



Major outcomes of the programme

Outcome 1: Enhanced Awareness of Library Resources

The programme increased awareness among students and faculty members regarding the availability and importance of physical and digital library resources, including books, journals, e-books and e-journals.

Outcome 2: Promotion of Reading and Lifelong Learning

The programme encouraged participants to develop regular reading habits and utilize the library for self-learning, academic enrichment, research and lifelong learning.

Outcome 3: Increased Recognition of Librarians and Library Science

The celebration created greater appreciation for the professional role of librarians and highlighted the pioneering contribution of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan to library science in India.

Outcome 4: Strengthened Knowledge Dissemination through Community Radio

Through the association of MITS Community Radio 90.8, the programme extended its educational message beyond the physical venue and demonstrated the role of Community Radio as a platform for knowledge dissemination, education and community outreach.

Alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The National Librarians Day and Book Exhibition programme contributes to multiple **United Nations**

Primary SDG: SDG 4 – Quality Education

SDG 4 is the strongest alignment because the programme directly promotes access to educational resources, reading, academic development, research support and lifelong learning.

Secondary SDG: SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

The integration of physical library resources, e-books, e-journals and digital information services reflects the importance of knowledge infrastructure in supporting innovation and research.

SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Libraries function as inclusive knowledge institutions that facilitate access to information and promote informed learning and responsible knowledge use.

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

The involvement of university leadership, library professionals, external experts, publishers and MITS Community Radio demonstrates collaboration and partnership for knowledge dissemination.

Conclusion

The celebration of **National Librarians Day and the Book Exhibition at MITS Deemed to be University** was a meaningful academic and knowledge-oriented initiative. The programme successfully highlighted that a library is much more than a physical collection of books. It is a center for knowledge, learning, research, innovation, information access and lifelong intellectual development. The addresses delivered by university leaders and eminent experts reinforced the importance of maintaining a strong reading culture even in the era of digital information and artificial intelligence. While digital platforms



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provide rapid access to information, focused reading and systematic engagement with reliable academic resources remain essential for meaningful learning. The programme also highlighted the enduring contribution of **Dr. S. R. Ranganathan** to library science and recognized the professional importance of librarians in supporting education and research. The **Book Exhibition** provided a practical opportunity for students and faculty members to explore diverse academic resources, while the participation of publishers and external experts enriched the overall learning experience.

The association of **MITS Community Radio 90.8** added an important outreach dimension to the programme. By supporting broadcasting and knowledge dissemination, the Community Radio helped extend the message of the event beyond the physical boundaries of the university. Overall, the initiative demonstrates the power of combining **libraries, education, technology and community communication** for creating a culture of knowledge and lifelong learning.