With vast collection of books, 118-yr-old Dhananjayrao Gadgil Library still holds its own

DEVANSHISRIVASTAVA

PUNE, DECEMBER 2

BACK WHEN census data, annual government budgets and gazettes, United Nations reports and research journals were not digitised or available on the internet, it was the Dhananjayrao Gadgil Library on the campus of from foreign institutes and banks the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics that proved to be Machiavelli published in 1608, the a treasure trove for researchers, library features a collection like no

118-year-old library still holds the country which would reguthe distinction with a collection larly receive the latest publications of 2,85,000 books, rare documents, census records, surveys, Nations," Shewale adds. research material and national and international government committee reports, of which 35,000 are digitised and are freely available to all on their digital library.

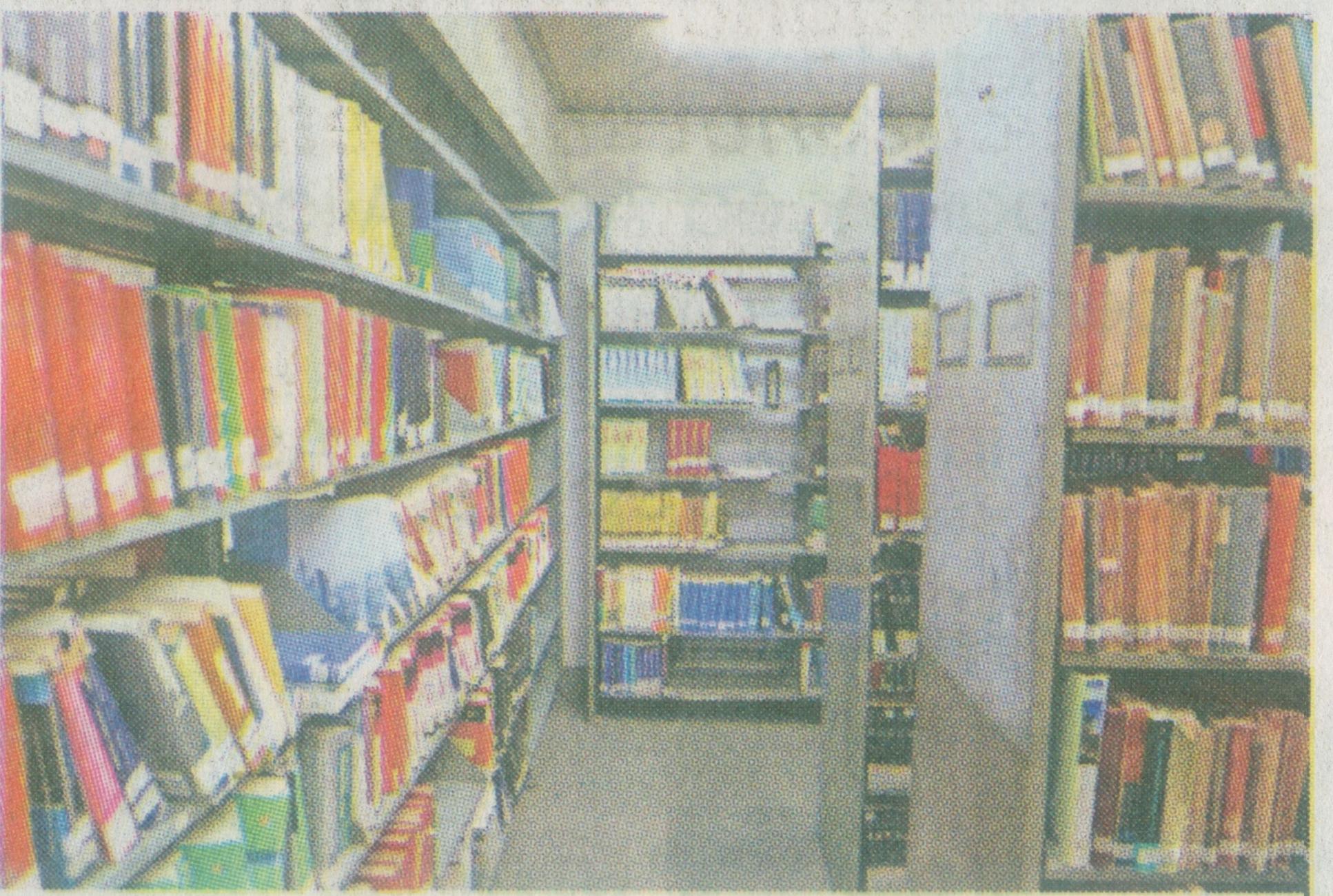
Digitisation began in

"To improve the accessibility to books in keeping with the times, the digitisation process of our books was started in 2009," says the librarian Nanaji Shewale.

"This library has been one of great repute. From government committee reports to gazettes, census records as old as the first in 1872 to documents and research as well as a rare set of the works of students and the public in Pune. other," he explains. "Starting 1945, Well into the digital age, the it was one of the only institutes in of the various bodies of the United

> Hardbound versions of these and more, including research journals, financial newspapers like 'The Financial Express' and 'Economic Times' from the 1960s onwards, PhD dissertations and 2,85,000-strong collection.





Dhananjayarao Gadgil Library, established in 1905, at Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics. Pavan Khengre

Free and open public access has been one of its basic features, right from the time it was founded by the Servants of India Society as a volunteer-run library in 1905.

A casual-member fee of Rs 20

week. A yearly membership is the library Wi-Fi. open to the public for Rs 700 and a lifetime membership for Rs 7,000. Institutional access is also granted at nominal prices.

Anyone who visits the library theses written at the institute are is charged for a day-long visit to also gets free access to online restored as part of the library's the library which stays open from sources, including journals like and nationalist leader Gopal as the SIS building are within the 9.30 am to 8 pm, six days of the JStor, on their own device through Krishna Gokhale, the library is 25 campus. In 1965, the library was

Gokhale's vision

Founded as the Servants of India Society (SIS) Library on the top floor of a building right oppo-

years older than the Gokhale Institute which was started in 1930. "Gokhale's vision was that before we get Independence, we should be literate enough to handle our country well." Shewale



shifted to a new three-storey building which has five levels, adjacent to the SIS office. It was then that it was renamed after the renowned economist Dhananjay Ramchandra Gadgil.

Wide collection of economic literature

Because it grew in proximity to the Gokhale Institute, the library mostly has an extensive collection of economic literature. From the state of the Indian library has been able to hold as economy in times of Ashoka or much relevance for knowledge-Akbar to pre-war European seekers in the present as it did economies as well as economic in the past.

turbulences in the African continent or political economies of South American nations, the collection spans history and geography. There are also small but niche collections of politics, sociology, gender, history and lin-

Digitisation broadened the horizons of the library. "As our digital collection grew, people approached us to add the archived publications they have. So we also have some obscure Marathi periodicals and old, short-lived newspapers," Shewale says. "Earlier people would travel from all over Maharashtra and often farther to visit our library, and today people from all over the world are accessing our digital content."

With over 500 procurements every year and an increasing digital collection, the





























