



### **Message from Honourable Vice Chancellor ,NSOU**

With great pride and pleasure, the warmest greetings are extended to all as a new academic endeavor is embarked upon at Netaji Subhas Open University in West Bengal. The publication of Volume. 5, No.1 of NSOU Journal of Social Sciences ISSN No. 2581 5512 (Double Blind Peer Reviewed Journal), by the School of Social Sciences gives me immense pleasure. Present volume of the Journal brings together research papers contributed by scholars that critically engage with the theme of *Indigeneity and the Traditional Knowledge Systems*. The articles explore diverse indigenous epistemologies, practices, and cultural expressions, foregrounding the knowledge traditions rooted in local communities and lived experiences. By examining the resilience, continuity, and contemporary relevance of traditional knowledge systems, the volume highlights how indigenous ways of knowing challenge dominant epistemic frameworks and contribute meaningfully to inclusive and pluralistic knowledge production.

Netaji Subhas Open University holds a special place not only as a pioneer in open and distance education but also as a living testament to the transformative power of knowledge. Its sustained commitment to excellence and inclusivity has enabled the University to establish an extensive network of Learner Support Centers across the length and breadth of the state of West Bengal, ensuring that quality education reaches learners irrespective of geographical limitations. This wide outreach reflects the University's enduring dedication to educational equity and accessibility. In the academic domain, the University takes immense pride in being the first State Open University in India to receive NAAC accreditation with Grade 'A'. Further strengthening its institutional standing, the University has recently achieved 12B status from the University Grants Commission (UGC), a significant milestone that underscores its academic credibility, institutional maturity, and unwavering commitment to maintaining the highest standards of teaching, learning, and scholarly engagement.

Heartfelt congratulations are extended to the authors, peer reviewers, faculty members, Editors, members of the Editorial Board, and, last but not least, the Director of the School of Social Sciences for their invaluable contributions to the production of this volume of the Journal. The dedication,

scholarly rigor, and domain expertise of the contributors have significantly enriched the intellectual and academic landscape of the University, particularly in advancing critical engagement with indigenous knowledge traditions.

Present volume of the Journal stands as a testament to the transformative potential of collaborative scholarly endeavour in illuminating the richness, diversity, and resilience of indigenous knowledge systems. By foregrounding traditional epistemologies, community-based practices, and culturally embedded ways of knowing, the contributions collectively highlight forms of knowledge that have often remained marginalised within dominant academic frameworks. The culmination of the Journal reflects tireless research, reflective dialogue, and thoughtful articulation of ideas. These collective efforts have not only broadened the institution's academic horizons but have also added a meaningful and timely chapter to contemporary scholarly discourse on indigeneity and traditional knowledge systems.

Endeavours such as this highlight the crucial role of academic inquiry in recognizing, preserving, and promoting indigenous knowledge and traditional knowledge systems for societal enrichment. As present volume of the Journal is launched, scholars and readers alike are encouraged to cultivate intellectual curiosity, critical engagement, and empathetic understanding, particularly in relation to indigenous communities and their knowledge traditions. May this scholarly legacy at NSOU inspire further collaborative initiatives that bridge academia and lived social realities, foreground indigenous ways of knowing, and address pressing contemporary concerns through the recognition and revitalisation of traditional knowledge systems.

Vice-Chancellor

Netaji Subhas Open University