

Professor A.K. Grover

*Vice Chancellor*



PANJAB UNIVERSITY

CHANDIGARH, India 160 014

**From the Desk of the Vice-Chancellor**

Panjab University (PU) has strived to remain at the forefront in serving as an intellectual, cultural and educational resource for the country since its inception in 1882 at Lahore. History of PU is an embodiment and a continuation of social and cultural ethos of liberal and holistic education.

As 12<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor of PU after independence in India, it is my privilege to present the Self Study Report (SSR) of PU to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) for re-accreditation and also to highlight significant contributions made in the last five years.



In the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings Survey, powered by Thompson Reuters, PU stands placed amongst topmost Indian institutions of higher learning in 2013 as well as 2014. PU is ranked at the 13<sup>th</sup> place amongst the universities from BRICS and twelve other emerging economies, and at the 32<sup>nd</sup> rank amongst the Asian Universities. The ASSOCHAM adjudged PU as the Best Government University of the year 2014. The Chairman, UGC recently addressed the University Communities via a National Knowledge Network webcast from the PU Campus on the title 'Impetus to Research in Indian Universities: Strategic Planning and Work Plan'. A national level Discussion Meeting has been convened in October 2014 to draft a concrete proposal for presentation to UGC before the end of the Diamond Jubilee year of the Commission in December, 2014.

PU took initiative to nucleate Chandigarh Region Innovation and Knowledge Cluster (CRIKC), which has brought together fifteen academic institutions and national laboratories in and around tricity Chandigarh to share their research infrastructure and expertise to enable each of the institutes to perform at a higher level of excellence. The UGC, MHRD, Planning Commission, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) of Union Government have taken cognizance of the potential of CRIKC to nurture excellence. DST and DBT have respectively entrusted the tasks of promoting Academia-Industry interactions to a new 'Centre for Policy Research' and of incubating new ideas to a new 'Centre for Innovation Cluster in Biotechnology' being set up at PU Campus. DST-DAE have asked PU to create and coordinate 'Centre for High Energy Physics Detector and Instrumentation' on behalf of the Indian Universities as a part of larger Indian Institutions Fermi Laboratory Collaboration under the DAE-DOE (Department of Energy of USA) Strategic Research Initiative.

PU was accredited by NACC with five star rating in 2004 and re-accredited with 'A' grade rating in 2009. Department of Science and Technology, G.O.I., New Delhi has selected PU for the *PURSE (Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence)* award for the second time. The university has been recognized by the UGC as the "University with Potential for Excellence in Bio-Medical Sciences" with facilities for 'Stem Cell Research and Drug

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*Development', "Centre of Excellence" in 'Application of Nano Material, Nano Particles and Nano Composites', and "Centre of Excellence" in 'Cultural Fixation on Honour: A gender Audit of Punjab and Haryana'.*

Some of our other highlights include:


- ✓ Initiation of monthly Colloquia Lecture series with the objective of providing a platform for discussion and deliberations to academia and igniting mind of the young students and persuade them to innovate and research.
- ✓ Organized a seminar (Oct 24–26, 2013) on the issue of "The Making of Modern Punjab from 1850 to Contemporary Times, in the background of 150 years of Higher Education in Punjab" as part of the celebration of the **Foundation Day of the university** and the commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of eminent scholar Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni.
- ✓ Collaboration with national as well as international institutions through MoUs
- ✓ Organizing annual Chandigarh Science Congress (CHASCON) and Chandigarh Social Science Congress (CHASSCONG) regularly since 2006 in collaboration with different academic institutes in the Chandigarh region
- ✓ Launching of new courses to teach students
- ✓ Preparing students to excel in job market through Campus Placement Cell and skill development activities
- ✓ Strengthening of physical as well as IT enabled infrastructure to enhance teaching-learning experience
- ✓ Introducing of Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) in the University Institute of Engineering & Technology as well as School of Communication Studies

PU has embarked upon a path of continuous assessment of its programmes and practices and taken decisive steps to build good physical infrastructure, excellent human resource, adherence to academic calendar and above all, emphasis on work culture and ethics of our teaching and non-teaching employees. This SSR is the summary of our efforts, hard work, concern, and commitment.

I certify that the data included in this SSR are true to the best of my knowledge. This SSR is prepared by the institution after internal discussions, and no part thereof has been outsourced. I am aware that the peer team will validate the information provided in this SSR during the peer team visit.

Place: Chandigarh

Date:

  
(Arun Kumar Grover)