

GND University attains Highest Status of University with Potential for Excellence

Becomes one of the best 6 universities in India and only one in Punjab to acquire this status

Shall get an amount of Rs. 50 crores from UGC



In a major achievement, Guru Nanak Dev University has attained the highest status of University with Potential for Excellence (UPE) which is the highest status awarded by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

With this rare honour, the University has become one of the best 6 universities in India, in the XI plan and the only university in Punjab to acquire this status.

While communicating this decision, the Commission authorities expressed their happiness and said, "Your University could achieve the UPE status due to the hard work done by you, your predecessors, teaching staff, students and non-teaching staff in the past and at present."

It further assured, "...with the award of UPE status to your University, which will entail grants upto Rs 50 crores under the scheme, the University shall be in a position to achieve greater heights in the areas chosen by you in the focused area and for holistic development".

Earlier, certain departments of the University had gained the status as Centre with Potential for Excellence. The University is rated as the best in India in sports; and second best in India in cultural activities.

A total number of 31 universities including 3 universities from Punjab with intense research activities sent their proposals. The UGC Standing Committee on UPE short-listed 10 universities based on the eligibility criteria as prescribed in the XI Plan Guidelines. The Commission approved the recommendations of the Standing Committee for the award of UPE status to 6 universities including Guru Nanak Dev University which ranked third in the list.

Elaborating on the status awarded to the University, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) A.S. Brar said that the focused area of research would be Materials Science. Development of new materials and devices with desirable applications is the essence of technology which plays a key role in the betterment of human life.



"GND University will carry out research for the development of materials for energy conversion and storage, and electronic and opto-electronic materials. New materials will be developed such as polymer electrolyte membranes, photovoltaic devices, Molecular Sensors, Inorganic Films for Sensors, Memory Devices, Magnetic Materials, Organic Solar cells, protective and corrosion resistant cutting tools", Prof. Brar said.

In addition, research will be carried out in, Health Care, Drug Development and Sports Medicine. New chemical entities as anti-cancer, antimicrobial and anti-malarial agents will be developed. The specific research areas include design, synthesis and evaluation of biologically active molecules, screening of natural products for biological activities, human genetics, investigations on host-pathogen interaction and development of newer diagnostic protocols. Bio-mechanic, physiological and biochemical studies will be undertaken to understand and improve the performance of sports persons.

Another thrust area for research would be Environmental Management in respect of Punjab with emphasis on environmental monitoring and remediation, and biodiversity assessment and conservation. The study would focus on improving the status of environment in the State. Moreover, the language departments of the University shall collaborate to carry out interdisciplinary study on language, literature and culture. In addition, studies would be undertaken in diverse areas of studies in the University, he said.

The University Departments have already gained the status as Centre with Potential for Excellence in Sports Sciences, Centre for Advanced Studies in Chemistry, Centre with Potential for Excellence in Life Sciences, Centre on Studies in Sri Guru Granth Sahib, Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policies, Centre for immigrant Studies, 12 UGC, DRS, DSA Assisted Departments, 8 DST-FIST Sponsored Departments, DST-PURSE sponsored University, DBT sponsored Department of Biotechnology and DISC and DST Sponsored PG programme under Nano Mission.

Earlier, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) re-accredited the University with CGPA of 3.5 out of 4 point scale at 'A' grade highest in the region.

The University has on its faculty teachers of proven capabilities, many of whom are fellows of international and national academics, and have won several awards in research. During the past few years, several sophisticated instruments have been purchased by the University, which has increased the standards of its research publications.

