

PREFACE

In the year 2012, Guru Nanak Dev University scaled the new heights of success in the field of academics, culture and sports at the national level. In this year many important decisions were taken for the spread of higher education among the rural masses and in remote areas. In this annual report, brief description related to academics, research and activities of non-teaching departments is presented.

Due to innovative and scientific approach of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ajaib Singh Brar, university has progressed in every sphere, many new projects have been initiated and number of seats has also been increased in some special courses keeping in view the demand of the students.

In order to popularise Punjabi at the International level, Guru Nanak Dev University is the first university of Punjab to make Punjabi as a compulsory subject in under-graduate programme for non-Punjabis. Punjabi subject will also be compulsory for those who have not passed this subject in matriculation. This decision will be beneficial for students seeking job opportunities in Punjab as well as for promoting Punjabi language.

In order to promote research on holy scriptures of Sikh Gurus, Shri Guru Granth Sahib and various religions, MHRD and UGC have established a Centre on studies in Shri Guru Granth Sahib at a cost of Rs 47.05 crores at Guru Nanak Dev University, where teachers and research students are conducting research on different religious areas and to spread the teachings of Gurbani internationally.

At the occasion of 38th annual convocation of university, Shri N.R. Narayana Murthy, chairman emeritus of Infosys Technology Limited, Bangalore was awarded with the degree of Doctor of Science (Honours Causa). Similarly, on the occasion of 43rd Annual Foundation Day Prof. Dev Parkash Agrawal, Chairman, Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi delivered his lecture and Prof. J.S. Grewal, Former Vice-Chancellor of the University and Prof. Jaspal Kaur Singh, Professor English, Northern Michigan University, U.S.A. also presented their views.

In this year, apart from many important events, National Seminar on Socio-Economic Development of Border Areas: Challenges and Prospects; Seminar on "Ikeesvien Shahtabadi key Pehley Dashak Mein Rachit Hindi Sahitya: Chintan aur Mulyankan"; 2-day seminar on "Emerging Trends of Law and Social Justice"; National seminar on "Emerging Dimensions of Law in 21st Century"; Special Programme dedicated to Gurbani ton Gurayee Sanstha and Conference on "Aadhunik Punjabi Galap: Navay Rujhaan" were successfully organized by the university.

More than 20,000 students are receiving quality education from Guru Nanak Dev University Campus, regional campuses and constituent colleges. The university also has two regional campuses in Gurdaspur and Jalandhar. There are 148 colleges and 71 associated institutes of distance education under the jurisdiction of Guru Nanak Dev University. In order to promote education in the rural areas, university has established 2 new regional campuses in rural areas, viz. Sathiala (40 acres) and Fattu Dhinga (45 acres). Apart from this, with the sole purpose of providing education to rural areas of Punjab, 4 new colleges have also started functioning at Verka in Distt. Amritsar, Narot Jaimal Singh in Distt. Gurdaspur, Chung in Distt. Taran Taran and Bebe Nanaki College at Mithra in Distt. Kapurthala.

There are more than 4000 students receiving education in these rural colleges. Similarly, Govt College, Patti and Physical Education College, Patti District Taran Taran have been declared as Guru Nanak Dev University College, Patti.

Guru Nanak Dev University is the first university of the state to introduce on-line admissions to different courses and on-line counselling for State level admissions from this academic session. Admissions are taken on merit basis only. Examination results are available online and O.M.R. sheets has been used for the evaluation purpose.

It is an honour for the university that it has won Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Trophy for 21 times. In the hockey ground new Astroturf has been laid and the facility of flood lights has made it possible to play day-night matches. An International level cycling velodrome has been constructed at the university campus, with a sum of 1.5 crore, where now, international level cycling competitions can be held. This velodrome has been declared the best velodrome among 16 universities of the country.

Guru Nanak Dev University has made tremendous achievements in cultural sector this year. The university hosted 28th North Zone Inter-University Youth Festival *Guldasta Unifest* 2012 and won North Zone Inter-University Cultural Championship 11th time. It has also won the best theatre, fine arts and music trophies. Apart from this, the university has won national cultural championship seven times.

In the year 2012, the placement department has placed more than 600 students in different companies. Earlier, about 1200 students were placed in the year 2011-12 from the university.

The construction work of new buildings and extension of older ones is also underway at a faster pace to accommodate more students. The buildings of Chemistry block, Physics block have been extended with state of the art facilities. A new guest house with thirty rooms has also been constructed. In Maharaja Ranjit Singh Bhawan eight new lecture theatres with 100 seats have been constructed which also have the facility of ramp for physically challenged candidates.

A new floor has been constructed in the IT building of regional campus, Jalandhar and the gymnasium at Amardeep Shergill Memorial College, Mukandpur, has been renovated. New sewerage treatment plant has been installed in regional campus, Jalandhar.

Academic atmosphere of Guru Nanak Dev University is flourishing progressively day by day. With the co-operation and joint hard work of teachers, students and non-teaching staff, this university is continuously progressing.

Dr. Inderjit Singh
Registrar

ABOUT AMRITSAR

Sri Amritsar, known for rich cultural heritage of four centuries, a living symbol of historical and religious traditions of Sikhs tangibly expressed through the divinely-blessed shrines, has rightfully earned for it the sobriquet “religious capital of the Sikhs”. Historically speaking, the fourth Guru, Guru Ram Das Ji, secured the gift of a piece of land from Emperor Akbar, where He built the holy tank and laid the foundation of Amritsar, which became a sacred place for the pilgrimage of the community.

The fifth Guru, Guru Arjan Dev Ji built Sri Harimandir Sahib in the centre of the holy tank. The execution of Guru Arjan Dev Ji in 1606 transformed the religious community into a community of warriors. The process of transformation was started by Guru Har Gobind Ji, the sixth Guru in line who grided two swords around him—one representing his spiritual leadership and the other, a weapon of self defence against aggression, thereby proclaiming the tradition of *miri* and *piri*. He also founded Akal Takhat symbolising the martial defence of the spiritual and pacifist aspect represented by Sri Harimandir Sahib. Since then Amritsar became the nerve centre of Sikh activities and a symbol of abiding faith in the glorious traditions of the Sikhs.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh captured the city in 1805. His first important act was to gild the whole structure of Sri Harimandir Sahib with gold. Sri Akal Takhat and monument of Baba Atal, the tallest building in the city, were also completed and gilded. Flooring of the whole complex was done with white marble which symbolized beauty of purity. Jallianwala Bagh tragedy stands as a singular source of inspiration and strength during the freedom struggle. The inhuman phase of the so called paternalistic British Raj came to be seen by all the Indians and it is from here that the petitioning Indian National Congress became a martial force and converted the elitist movement into a mass movement. Gurdwara Reform Movement was launched from the city in 1920. The movement reached its successful finale in 1925, when impregnable British colonial regime genuflected before the Guru’s warriors who had perfected the art of moral warfare. Mahatma Gandhi exclaimed it as the first moral victory for India’s independence.

After partition, Amritsar has become the gateway of India by land route from Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and other countries on the western side. With its glorious heritage, Amritsar is proudly holding its status of an internationally known city not only historically but also in context of social welfare, philanthropic activity and higher learning. Guru Nanak Dev University located here carries a pleasant melange of all that is worth—SRI HARMANDIR SAHIB, JALLIANWALA BAGH, DURGIANA TEMPLE.

ABOUT US

Guru Nanak Dev University was established at Amritsar on November 24, 1969 to mark the 500th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. It is both a residential and an affiliating university. In conceiving the future course of the University, the objectives enshrined in the Guru Nanak Dev University Act 1969, emphasised that the new University would make provision for imparting education and promoting research in the humanities, learned professions, sciences, especially of applied nature and technology.

The university is successfully catering to twenty thousand students in various faculties at university campuses and constituent colleges. Guru Nanak Dev University is the first university of the region which introduced on-line admissions to its courses, on-line counselling for state level admissions and credit based evaluation system. All the results have been computerized and OMR (Optical Magnetic Recognition) system is being used to bring in more efficiency and transparency. It is again first for any University in the region to have computerized its examination and registration system. The students now have an all time access to their results through SMS service.

The university has risen to 16th rank in the top 50 universities of the country, as per recent survey conducted by 'India Today' and has achieved 11th Position, out of the 500 universities, in Publications in science. The university has won the highest sports award in the country, the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy, for a record of 21 times. The university has won National Championship in Inter-University Youth Festivals in the year 2012. The university has been national champion for 8 times. The university has also won the North Zone Inter-University Cultural Championship for the 12 times this year.

Studies and research on the life and teachings of Guru Nanak, in addition to working towards the promotion of Punjabi language and spreading education among educationally backward classes and communities were the other commitments. In consonance with these expectations, the University in its eventful history of 43 years has taken long strides in spreading the message of the Guru and promoting education in such fields as sciences, arts, management, information technology, industrial technology, environment, planning and architecture. To fulfill its commitment, the tuitions fee charged from the students of the departments of Guru Nanak Studies and the School of Punjabi Studies has been waived. This year, this university has been declared University with Potential for Excellence by University Grants Commission, New Delhi to establish Centres of advanced Studies in Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Sciences and Comparative Literature. The university is accredited with a CGPA of 3.5 out of 4 with 'A' Grade, highest for any University by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council and Academic Staff College of the university placed at 12th rank by NAAC, Bengaluru.

The motto of the university as engraved on its emblem **Guru's wisdom illumines** all speaks of the vision and idealism for which the university stands. Spread over a stretch of 500 acres towards the west of the city, Guru Nanak Dev University presents a picture of modern architecture. Traditional red brick geometrical blocks represent its regard for time-honoured values and commitment to scientific advancement. Making its humble beginning in an annexe of the adjoining Khalsa College, the university today boasts of 35 academic departments at the University Campus and 148 affiliated colleges and 71

Associate Institutes, most are situated in the rural areas, but a large area is still beyond the reach of the rural poor. It has been the effort of the University to be proactive in its reach to the rural masses. Starting of rural colleges in Chungh, Mithra, Verka, Narot Jaimal Singh and Patti under the Punjab Govt./UGC scheme at a cost of Rs. 1.5 Crore for each college; and two Regional Campuses - one at Sathiala (with cost of Rs. 9 Crore for the Centre and 5 Crore for Hostel) and Fattu Dzinga (Sultanpur Lodhi), Distt. Kapurthala. Introduction of new professional courses in Shaheed Ram Singh Pathania Memorial University College, Niari, the constituent college of the university. All this shows the concern of the university for the upliftment of rural backward areas.

The university has succeeded in creating a niche for itself in the country over comparatively shorter period of time. It was in acknowledgment of our strengths that we have had the honour to host the 28th North Zone Inter-University Zonal Youth Festival 'Guldasta' under the aegis of Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India. University also hosted 4-day international conference sponsored by Indian Academy of Neurosciences: "Unraveling Mysteries of Brain in Health and Disease."

The university has endeavored to reach out to the rural poor, with the launch of an organization named the Progressive Education Society to help and train children from poor families of the rural Punjab, and to equip them to crack IIT-JEE and other national tests. The students undergo their studies for plus one and plus two classes at the Khalsa College Public School. They are getting this training without paying a single penny. The society financed by the Govt. and other sources takes care of all the needs of these students.

We are continuously adding to the infrastructure to promote various sports activities on the campus. A new synthetic turf was laid for hockey and a new velodrome conforming to international standards is recently inaugurated by Sardar Sikandar Singh Maluka, Minister of higher education and languages of Punjab. We are aware of our rich cultural heritage which is getting in to oblivion at a fast pace. A heritage village is being constructed for a show case of our rich cultural heritage in on an 11 acre piece of land.

In the field of science and technology our university is one of the leading institutions in North India. Our faculty members have bagged prestigious projects from the apex bodies like the DOT, CSIR, BARC and other organizations worth crores of rupees. Recently BARC has established a nodal calibration centre at the campus. This is one of the four centres established all over the country. The University has purchased instruments worth 70 crore under different schemes. Track record of employment of our students by big business Houses and Multi National Companies has been very satisfactory. Our students of engineering and commerce field are employed by companies in India and abroad. They are all contributing to the credit worthiness of the University by their hard work and diligence. In the last year alone, almost all our Engineering students were recruited by various companies through campus placements.

The credit of success goes to the students, faculty and administration of this university who have worked untired for a better Punjab and civilized society.

VISITORS OF THE UNIVERSITY

1. Dr. P.C. Kashyap, Executive Director (Teams), Sports Authority of India, New Delhi inaugurated All India Inter-University Artistic Gymnastics (Men & Women), Rhythmic Gymnastics (Women) and Malkhamb Championship 2011-12 on January 3 by unfurling the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) flag. On this occasion, Mr. Ashish Kumar, Arjuna Awardee 2011 was also present.
2. Dr. Narayana Murthy Chairman-Emeritus, Infosys Technologies Limited, Electronics City, Bangalore visited the Faculty of Sports Medicine & Physiotherapy of the University on February 3.
3. Hon'ble Justice Mrs. Sabina, Judge, Punjab and Haryana High court was the Chief Guest in two-day National Seminar on the "Emerging Trends of Law and Social Justice" organized by the Department of Law 4 February.
4. Prof. Yashpal, Former Chairman of University Grants Commission visited University and released a Book titled "Profound Pursuits" on Prof. Brar about the journey of a rural background boy to the position of Vice-Chancellor has been released by, on February 8. This book is dedicated to the journey of Professor Ajaib Singh Brar from a rural background to the position of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lucknow and Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.
5. Dr. B.K. Thelma, Head, Department of Genetics, University of Delhi, South Campus, Delhi visited University and delivered the keynote address in UGC-SAP sponsored National Seminar on "Genomics of Complex Diseases" on March 2.
6. Renowned cytotoxicity expert Dr. Michael Fenech (CSIRO – Common Wealth Industrial and Research Organization, Adelaide, Australia delivered invited lecture on "Public Health Genomics and DNA Damage Prevention" in the Department of Botanical and Environmental Sciences on March 2.
7. Renowned Cricket Player, Padamshree Bishan Singh Bedi presented prizes to the winners At the 42nd Annual Sports Prize Distribution Function (2011-12) of the University on March 15.
8. Dr. Ajit Verma, Director General, Amity Institute of Microbial Technology, Amity University, Noida delivered the keynote address at 2-days National seminar on "Current Scenario of Microbiology" on March 19.
9. Hon'ble Education Minister, S. Sikandar Singh Maluka visited to the University Regional Campus, Sathiala (Guru Teg Bahadur College, Sathiala) on April 4 and also was the chief guest of the valedictory function of 28th North Zone Inter-University Youth Festival-Guldasta 2012.

10. Prof. Dr. G.L. Khanna, Dean, Applied Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Manav Rachna International University, Faridabad explained the planning of discussion and demonstration of Exercise prescription and training for the two days CME programmes of Department of Sports Medicine and Physiotherapy organized on “Physiological Basis of Exercise Prescription and Training” on April 21 and 22.
11. Prof. G.M. Bhat, Head of Department of Economics of University of Kashmir, Kashmir visited University and delivered his keynote address at the inaugural session of National Seminar on Socio-economic Development of Border Areas-Challenges and Prospects on September 7th.
12. Padamashree Professor Dr. RNK Bemezai, Vice-Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, Jammu visited University and delivered his keynote address in the inaugural session of National Seminar on Genetics of Mendelian and Complex Diseases on September 18.
13. Padmashri Prof. Satyavrat Shastri, Former Vice-Chancellor from Delhi University, Delhi visited University and delivered his presidential address at the inaugural session of National seminar on “*Relevance of Nitigranthas*”.
14. Shri Krishan Lal Zakir Vice President of Haryana Urdu Academy and an eminent Urdu poet and writer visited University and delivered the key note address in the two day Seminar on ‘History Literature and Punjabi Society’ on September 19.
15. Renowned Neurosurgeon, Prof. A.K. Mahapatra, Director of AIIMS at Bhubaneswar and Prof. Phillip J Robinson of Children Medical Research Institute, NSW from Australia delivered their Lecture on 30th Indian Academy of Neurosciences meet and an International Symposium with the theme ‘Translational Neurosciences: Unraveling Mysteries of Brain in Health and Disease’ on October 27th.
16. The 28th North Zone Inter-University Youth Festival Guldasta 2012 inaugurated by Dr. S. N. Puri , Vice-Chancellor, CAU and President Association of Indian Universities (AIU) on this occasion Mr. Sampson David, Deputy Secretary of AIU was also present. In this festival alumni of the University and world famous folk Singers, Jasbir Jassi, Amrinder Gill, Sarabjit Cheema and Satinder Satti also performed the inaugural function on November 7th, 2012.
17. Dr. Richard J. Fugo, a world renowned ophthalmologist and Director Fugo Eye Institute, Pennsylvania, USA who is the inventor of Fugo Blade visited University and delivers a lecture on “Invention of Fugo Blade and its Applications”.
18. Eminent Sufi Singer, Rabi Shergill performed in Refresher Course on Visual and Performing Arts on December 17th.

SEMINARS AND FUNCTIONS

30th Indian Academy of Neurosciences meet

Research and discovery should be promoted in sciences. Epilepsy needs newer treatments and Indian kids don't have access to several epileptic drugs available in the developed world as they are expensive and pharmaceutical giants have not foraged into this line of therapy here yet. Lets make science attractive to the youth, encourage fellowships abroad for Indian Ph.D. students so that they train and interact at a global level for some good 3 years and then come back to their country and promote & apply their new skills for the welfare of the needy patients back home. Thirdly, PROMOTE Aussie Indian ties into research for co - funded projects, promote research collaborations and initiate a new era in "welfare medicine".

These views were expressed by galaxy of neuro scientists who gathered at the Valedictory function of 4-day 30th Indian Academy of Neurosciences meet and an International Symposium with the theme 'Translational Neurosciences: Unraveling Mysteries of Brain in Health and Disease' in the Guru Nanak Bhawan Auditorium of the University. This mega event was organized by the Department of Biotechnology of the University under the aegis of Indian Academy of Neuro Sciences (IAN). More than 400 delegates including many neuroscientists from all over the World and India participated.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A.S. Brar presided over. Dr. Raj Kumar from AIIMS, Rishikesh, Uttrakand delivered the valedictory lecture. Prof. Gurcharan Kaur, Organizing Secretary presented a concise report of all the proceeding of the Conference. Prof M.K. Thakur, BHU, Varanasi, President IAN delivered a report about the various oral sessions of the Conference. Special remarks were given by treasurer Dr. A.K Aggrawal, lucknow about the conference. Dr. Pankaj Seth, General Secretary, IAN, honoured the newly elected fellows of IAN-2012 Dr Preety Joshi and Dr. Gurcharan Kaur. On this occasion, the winning participants from the conference were also honoured.

Experts also concluded that neuro disorders are not only in India but increasing at International level because of lethargic life style. The scientists suggested that stress and anxiety needed to be avoided and healthy life style with yoga and natural food needed to prevent neuro disorders. They were also of the view that mass campaigns are needed to be launched to create awareness.

They were also of the view that real translation of the neuro problems should be done at national and international level with collective efforts by scientists. They also pleaded that funding agencies should come forward to promote neuroscience and research in education. They said that at some era neuro sciences was at peak but during last ten years connectivity is missing between the funding agencies and the neuro sciences. They also said that young scientists should be made aware of new findings and fellowships, so that they could purse their studies.

Dr. Raj Kumar in his key note address advocated the conversion of basic sciences into concrete outputs in the form of results. He said that there should be re-assessment for re-audit of grants on-going scientific projects.

With special respect to podiatric neurology, he mentioned that the complicated nature of such surgical treatments in which tumor removal from brain and spinal cord is made possible is due to advance technology and access to the latest techniques.

Lack of awareness and contemporary life style responsible for neuro disorders - Prof. Mahapatra

Neurosciences problems are not only in India but it is a global issue so the subject experts from all over the world should come together on a single platform to resolve this issue. An awareness campaign regarding this is the need of hour.

These views were expressed by renowned Neurosurgeon, Prof. A.K. Mahapatra, Director of AIIMS at Bhubaneswar and Prof. Phillip J Robinson of Children Medical Research Institute, NSW from Australia while addressing the media-person in the Committee Room of the University.

This press conference was organized by the Department of Biotechnology on the eve of 30th Indian Academy of Neurosciences meet and an International Symposium with the theme 'Translational Neurosciences:

Unraveling Mysteries of Brain in Health and Disease' from October 27th to 30th, 2012 by the Guru Nanak Dev University.

Dr. T.R. Laxmi from Department of Neurophysiology, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore; Dr. G.N. Pandey from Department of Psychiatry, University of Illinois, Chicago; Dr. B.N. Dhawan from CDRI, Lucknow; Prof. Subrata Sinha from NBRC, Manesar; Dr. Sarah Dunlop from University of Western Australia and Organizing Secretary, Dr. Gurcharan Kaur were also present.

Prof. Mahapatra said that contemporary life styles along with lack of awareness are the major reason from neuro disorders. He said that the major cause of depression among youth is lack of social bounding which some times leads them towards the tendency of suicide. He said that the need of hour is to create awareness among masses about the neuro diseases. He said that more and more doctors are also need to be trained in this regard. He said that during depression medicine should be avoided instead proper counseling from trained Psychiatrist should be encouraged.

He said that research in brain is still in its juvenile stage and the neuro aspects for therapeutics have to be explored. He talked about translational medicine which basically refers to research done in lab translated into medical health for patients. He drew attention to the Indian scenario where research is still a thrust area for the government and there is lack of corporate involvement in it. He said that the brain health and disease is not given its due share of importance in India just as cancer and heart disease is highlighted.

Prof. Robinson said that the financial crunch is not only in India but all over the world. He said that the solution to neuro problems should be sought with the help of the scientists all over the world. He also suggested that the qualified doctors should come forward for further research in neuro science.

He said that all funding involved in research work is generated from public, so, this needed that the research results and benefits should be ensured to reach general masses. He also advocated proper research for proper treatment.

While talking about the stem cell therapy, Prof. Sinha said that the research form stem cell is still under process which is needed to regenerate the capacity of brain cells but some private organizations are generating money by misguiding general masses.

Prof. Gurcharan Kaur stressed on the fact that this conference was a very strong effort to bring together some 300 budding future scientists and organization on a scale of 20 sessions including 40 chairpersons who will present their summary on the last day of the meet which will be heard over by the DBT advisor and this would lead to fund re-allocation in neuroscience. She pleaded the media to deliver this message to the masses that basic research and translational neurosciences, hand in hand, are required to provide awareness about neuro health.

Dr. Pandey highlighted the neuro health disorders like depression, suicidal patterns increasing among the youth and old alike. He advocated a holistic approach and compared the approach variance between a developed nation, like the USA, and a developing nation, like India. The key focal area remained research and investment into basic sciences and translating this for public welfare.

Dr. Dhawan laid emphasis on various brain disorders and the difference of government and private attitudes to brain disorders. Prof. Subrata Sinha drew special attention to nervous disorders in kids like autism, dyslexia and cerebral palsy.

Dr. Sarah Dunlop rooted for public participation and awareness into neuroscience research and discussed that events like science congress should be held more often so that the public awareness is enhanced.

Organized special programme dedicated to *Gurbani ton Gurayee Sanstha*

A Special Programme dedicated to *Gurbani ton Gurayee Sanstha* was organized by the Centre on Studies in Sri Guru Granth Sahib of the University in the Guru Nanak Bhawan Auditorium. Singh Sahib Giani Gurbachan Singh, Jathedar, Sri Akaal Takhat Sahib presided over while Giani Joginder Singh Vedanti, Former Jathedar, Sri Akaal Takhat Sahib and Sant Baba Sewa Singh, Khadoor Sahib were the guests of honor on this occasion. Eminent Music Personality, Bhai Baldeep Singh from Delhi recited traditional *Shabad Reet*. Prof. A.S. Brar, Vice-Chancellor welcomed the guests and inaugurate the function. Prof. Balwant Singh Dhillon, Director of the

Centre delivered special lecture on this occasion. Prof. Gulzar Singh Kang, Organizing Secretary presented vote of thanks.

Singh Sahib Giani Gurbachan Singh in his presidential remarks blessed the organizers and the University. Giani Joginder Singh Vedanti appreciated the spiritual music and 'Traditional Shabad Reet Gayan presented by Bhai Baldeep Singh. He said that today Sikhs forgotten their traditional rituals and this type of efforts and programs should be organized by the Universities to revive our cultural heritage among the youth.

Prof. Brar in his inaugural address said that money will not be a constraint for any religious seminar. He said that Guru Nanak Dev University will extend full support for all kind of research on Sri Guru Granth Sahib. He also honored all dignitaries participated in this function.

Prof. Balwant Singh said that the role of institution of Guruship is very vital which literally means Guru, a Divine Teacher. The status of Guru assigned only to God, Guru Nanak Dev and Sikh Gurus in his tradition, 'Sabad' or 'Bani' as enshrined in the Guru Granth Sahib. He said that nature of Guruship was not personal but impersonal in character.

He said that during the 18th century Guru Granth Sahib was the prized possession and Sikhs continue to seek consul from it as eternal Guru. He said that the Sikh *Misls* held *Sarbat Khalsa* at Sri Akal Takht Sahib in the presence of Sri Guru Granth Sahib. He said that after deliberations, command (*Vak*) was taken from Guru Granth Sahib and the resolution (*Gurmata*) adopted was taken as Guru's order. He said that the Sikh history is a witness that whenever Sikhs have been in dilemma they have approached Guru Granth Sahib to seek its guidance.

Guru Nanak Dev University won the overall championship trophy of the 28th North Zone Inter-University Youth Festival – Guldasta 2012

Guru Nanak Dev University won the overall championship trophy of the 28th North Zone Inter-University Youth Festival – Guldasta 2012. Panjabi University, Patiala remained second in this festival. On the inaugural day world famous folk singers, Jasbir Jassi, Amrinder Gill, Sarabjit Cheema and Satinder Satti enthralled the audience.

Sardar Sikandar Singh Maluka, Minister of Higher Education and Languages of Punjab was the chief guest on this occasion and gave away trophies and medal to the winners. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ajaib Singh Brar presided over the prize distribution function. Registrar, Dr. Inderjit Singh, Observer from Association of Indian Universities (AIU), Dr. R.K. Dhand, Dean, Students Welfare, Dr. P.K. Shejpal, Dean, Colleges, Dr. M .S. Hundal and Director Youth Welfare, Dr. Jagjit Kaur were also present.

Sardar Maluka while speaking on this occasion welcomed the various teams for different universities from Northern India. He said that this type of festivals provide common platform to understand the culture of neighboring states and develops the sense of brotherhood between the students. He also congratulated the Vice-Chancellor for the successful organization of this festival. He said that though the youth of Punjab are excelling every where, but still most of the youth are lagging behind in higher education as compared to other states. He called for collective efforts by institutes and teachers to meet this challenge. He said that Punjab Government kept education at top priority in its budget. He also informed that in near future there would be MoU between Punjab University, Lahore and various universities of Punjab for exchange of faculty and research.

Earlier, Prof. Brar lauded the achievements of Guru Nanak Dev University in various fields. He also encouraged the student-artists who didn't secure good positions in this festival, to work hard and overcome their shortcoming to get better results in next festival. Dr. Jagjit Kaur presented report of the Guldasta Fest-2012. Dr. Inderjit Singh presented vote of thanks and lauded the cooperation of various committee members, team managers and student-artists for the successful completion of this festival.

42nd Annual Sports Prize Distribution

At the 42nd Annual Sports Prize Distribution Function (2011-12) of the University, over 450 outstanding players including 150 women who brought laurels to the University in various sports disciplines at the International, National and All India Inter-Varsity levels were honoured with cash prizes worth Rs. 50 lakhs and trophies.

Prof. A.S. Brar, Vice-Chancellor and renowned Cricket Player, Padamshree Bishan Singh Bedi presented prizes to the winners. In this function, the All India Inter-University winners were honoured with Rs. 7500/- each, second position holder got Rs. 5000/- and Rs. 2500/- was awarded to third position holders.

Prof. Kanwaljit Singh, Officer on Special Duty (Sports) read out the Annual Sports Achievements Report for the year 2011-12. Prof. Rajinderjit Kaur Pawar, Dean, Academic Affairs and Principal (Dr.) K.N. Kaul, President, Guru Nanak Dev University Sports Committee (Men) were present on this occasion.

DAV College, Amritsar lifted the Guru Nanak Dev University Inter-College 'A' Division Overall General Championship Trophy (Men) by amassing 19225 points while Lyallpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar remained runners up with 18927 points.

In Women Section, BBK DAV College for Women, Amritsar lifted the Guru Nanak Dev University Inter-College 'A' Division Overall General Championship Trophy with 21919 points. HMV, Jalandhar remained runners up with 17193 points.

In 'B' Division, Guru Nanak College, Batala won the Overall General Championship Trophy for Men with 2100 points while SSM College, Dinanagar remained runnersup with 1000 points. In Women section, SDSPM College for Women, Rayya (with 3400 points) lifted the 'B' Division Overall General Championship Trophy while BD Arya College, Jalandhar Cantt. remained runners up with 2400 points.

Shaheed Bhagat Singh Memorial Overall Championship Trophy for the Year 2010-2011 went to Lyallpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar by collecting 9000 points.

During 2011-12, the University teams both Men and Women got 32 positions in various disciplines in the All India Inter-University Competitions. In Weight Lifting, the University won the championship trophy for 32nd times in succession.

On this occasion, Rahul Sharma from DAV College, Amritsar (A member of the Indian Cricket Team), Manpreet Singh from DAV College, Jalandhar (International Hockey Team Member), **International Shooters:-** Amanpreet Singh (Lyallpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar) and Akshay Jain, DAV College, Phillaur were also honoured.

Five best Archers (International Archery) – Pawan, Sudhakar Paswan, Abhishek Verma, Anjali Kumari and Shishpal Singh and three international Athletes, Khushbir Kaur, Jasdeep Singh and Jagdeep Singh were also honoured on this occasion.

Annual Budget

The Senate and Syndicate of the Guru Nanak Dev University approved the Budget Estimates of 263 Crore 81 Lac and 27 thousand for the year 2012-13 with the opening balance of 9 Crores 1 Lac and 33 thousands. No tuitions fees have been hiked in any Course.

The University would receive a maintenance grant of 35 Crore 54 Lac and 85 thousands, and 43 Crore for the payment of arrears to the teaching staff from the Punjab Government. The University would contribute 103 Crore 23 Lac and 5 thousands from its own sources. Hence a total income of 181 Crore 77 Lac and 90 thousands has been estimated for the financial year 2012-13. The University would try to meet deficit of 73 Crore 2 Lac and 4 thousands by keeping in view the expenditure as per actual sources of the income.

Similarly, out of total budget of 263 Crore 81 Lac and 27 thousand, 57.21 percent would be spent on teaching, applied teaching, research and improvement of education. Total of 9.56 percent would be spent on Non-teaching departments which includes Hostels, Publication, Estate, Construction, N.S.S., Landscape, Guest House, Public Relations and Health Centre. About 14.26 percent has been allocated for General Administration and 3.51% for the Conduct of Examinations. In the budget there would be provision of 13.94% for General Provision for teaching and non-teaching includes retirement benefits, vehicle, printing, Legal expenses, PABX, Advertisements, Insurance and modernization of departments and 1.52% for construction of Buildings.

The university senate accorded its approval to the recommendations of syndicate to start BA, BCA, BBA, B.Com (Professional), B.Com., B.Sc. (Computer Science), B.Sc. (Non-Medical), B.Sc. (Economics), B.Sc. (IT) and PGDCA courses in its constituent colleges includes Bebe Nanki University College, Mithra, Kapurthala, Guru Nanak Dev University College, Chungh (Tarn Taran), Guru Nanak Dev University College, Narot Jaimal Singh (Gurdaspur) and Guru Nanak Dev University College, Verka (Amritsar).

The university senate also accorded its approval to the recommendations of syndicate to start B.Tech. (Computer Science and Engineering), B.Tech. (Electronics and Communication Engineering), MBA (two years), B.Sc. (Computer Science) in Guru Nanak Dev University Regional Campus, Sathiala and B.Tech. (Computer Science and Engineering), B.Tech. (Electronics and Communication Engineering), MBA (two years), in Guru Nanak Dev University Regional Campus, Sultanpur Lodhi.

These decisions and approvals were unanimously accorded by the syndicate and the senate of the Guru Nanak Dev University. Prof. A.S. Brar, Vice-Chancellor chaired these meetings while Dr. Inderjit Singh, Registrar presented the agenda. The syndics and senators also unanimously appreciated the balance budget and congratulated the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Brar and his team.

Prof. A.S. Brar said that university has decided to meet the target of raising standard of higher education and to make education more social relevance the teachers and students would be encourage to do more high quality research work in various departments. At present more than 400 students are doing research work under various projects of UGC, DST and other agencies.

He said that university has purchased highly sophisticated instruments worth Rs. 7 Crores to encourage quality research in Science and Technology and Central Instrumental Facility has been established so that maximum students and teachers could be benefited to use these instruments. There would be provision of Rs. 20 Lac in the budget for the maintenance of this, he added.

He said that under 11th plan UGC sanctioned “University with Potential for Excellence” to six universities of the country and Guru Nanak Dev University is one of them. Under this scheme, UGC sanctioned a Grant of 50 Crore which would be utilized for quality research and education.

He said that the construction activities at university campus and other regional campuses would be increased. The computerization of all branches and departments of the University has been completed, in order to provide more State of Art infrastructure to students and to the colleges. There would be provision of 50 Lac in the budget under ERP Solutions. He said that there is special provision in the budget to strengthen more the Health Centre of the University, so that the health care of students, teachers, employees and their dependents would be taken more efficiently

Seminar on “Emerging Trends of Law and Social Justice”

A two-day national seminar on the “**Emerging Trends of Law and Social Justice**” was organized by the Department of Law of the University in the Guru Nanak Bhawan Auditorium. This seminar was sponsored by Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), Chandigarh. More than 100 participants from all over India were participated.

Hon’ble Justice Mrs. Sabina, Judge, Punjab and Haryana High court was the Chief Guest while Professor Ashwani Kumar Bansal, Professor-Incharge of faculty of law, Delhi University delivered the keynote address. Dr Rajinder Kaur Pawar, Dean, Academic Affairs presided over the inaugural session of the seminar. Dr Rattan Singh, coordinator of the seminar and Head of the Department welcomed the chief guest and others. Dr. Viney Kapoor introduced the guest speakers. Dr. Jaspal Singh presented vote of thanks on this occasion.

Professor Ashwani K. Bansal in his keynote address said that only with the implementation of laws in the courts, justice cannot be achieved. We all young students are to raise voice against injustice and stand for our fundamental rights. He pointed out that even the law students, law teachers and academicians are deprived from their fundamental rights. He mentioned about deprived classes of society like poor, labours and below poverty line. He also quoted some examples of justice in the eyes of depressed set of society.

Justice Sabina in her lecture threw light on various themes of seminar like: Media Role, Euthanasia, Mercy Killing and Honor Killing. She said that judges are the custodians of the constitution. She discussed various current case laws and role of law therein.

While speaking on legal terrorism she said that some provisions of law like Section 304-B, Section 498-A Indian Penal Code, 1860 were made for the welfare of the society however, these are now being misused in the present scenario. She also provided some useful guidelines to the students for their success in life as advocate.

Prof. (Dr.) Rajinderjit Kaur Pawar in her presidential remarks said that justice has deep roots in Dharma. In our epics like Vedas, Smrities, Mahabharata and Ramayana we find the seeds of justice in the name of human values. She said that justice has always being equated with traits of god. She said that Knowledge is Power and we are here to share it. She said that the young generation should realize their responsibility towards society as well as law. She said that one should know his rights and don't get exploited. She also expressed her concerned that all the laws made for the benefit of women, today all these are going against them. So, this is the duty of women to raise their voice against injustice.

Another term for Prof. A.S. Brar as Vice-Chancellor

Looking into the commendable work done by Prof. A.S. Brar, Vice-Chancellor of the university, the Governor of Punjab and Chancellor of the Guru Nanak Dev University, His Excellency Shivraj Vishwanath Patil extended the term of Prof. Ajaib Singh Brar as Vice-Chancellor of the University for a period of three years.

This information has been received from Punjab Raj Bhawan, Chandigarh vide letter no. PRB-2G-2002/GNDU/2232 dated, Chandigarh the 2nd April, 2012. According to the letter, the Guru Nanak Dev University Act 1969 as amended from time to time, the Chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar is pleased to extend the term of appointment of Prof. Ajaib Singh Brar, Vice-Chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar for a period of three years with effect from 14-07-2012.

This extension by the H.E. Governor of Punjab happened only due to the innovative and scientific approach of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ajaib Singh Brar. Due to his initiatives the University Grants Commission has awarded Guru Nanak Dev University as the Centre with Potential for Excellence and sanctioned Rs. 50 crores for updating. With this status, now the University has been included in the best ten high status Universities of the Country. During his tenure a record Grants of Rs.170.65 Crore from Govt. of India, UGC and State Government have been received.

It is important to mention in the context of efforts of the University to reach out to the rural poor, an organization named Progressive Education Society has been formed to help and train children from poor families of the rural Punjab and to equip them to crack IIT-JEE and other similar competitions.

Introduction of Credit Based Evaluation System from the on going session is a big step in the direction of improvement in the academic standards by Prof. Brar. This is the first University in the region to start this system. It will not only raise the standards of teaching but will also bring about transparency in examination and evaluation. This system is based on the Trust and on the integrity of teachers.

A heritage village is being constructed because of his personal interest to show case our rich cultural past on 11 acre piece of land at the University Campus. Earlier, Prof. Brar joined as Vice-Chancellor of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar since 15th July, 2009. Prior to joining as Vice-Chancellor of this University, he was the Vice-Chancellor at the University of Lucknow.

A career span of more than 35 years places him not only in the top bracket of committed teachers and researchers but also able administrators. He has a vast experience of working in the field of education, research at prestigious National and International Institutes in various capacities. Prof. Brar has worked in the fields of catalysis, Mossbauer Spectroscopy, Photochemistry and in the field of NMR Spectroscopy of Polymers. He has international recognition in these fields.

Prof. Brar joined IIT Delhi as Assistant Professor of chemistry in 1982 and rose to the position of Professor (Higher Academic Grade - HAG). He had also been joint professor, centre for polymer science and engineering, IIT Delhi. Prof. Brar did his B.Sc. from Faridkot, Punjab in 1968 and M.Sc. from Punjabi University, Patiala in 1970. He did his Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi in 1977. He got UNESCO fellowship in 1974 while doing Ph.D. Prof. Brar joined as lecturer in chemistry, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar in 1976 and served the university for six years.

Prof. Brar has published more than 210 papers in refereed international and national journals and 50 papers in the proceedings of conferences / symposia. Prof. Brar has delivered more than 115 lectures in conferences / symposia at various Institutes /Universities. He has delivered invited lectures at American Chemical Society conferences and at leading universities in USA, Europe and Japan. He delivered lectures in Japan on the

invitation of JSPS and in The Netherlands on the invitation of The Royal Academy of The Netherlands for Arts and Science.

Prof. Brar is having research collaboration with RWTH, Technical University, Aachen, Germany (ranked as the best Technical University in Germany). He was a visiting faculty at RWTH, Aachen during June-July in 2005 and 2006. Prof. Brar has guided 25 Ph.D. students and 20 M. Tech. students. He has sponsored projects of Rs. 1.50 crores and established High Resolution NMR Center at IIT Delhi.

Prof. Brar was Chairman GATE (Graduate Aptitude Test for Engineering) 2002, 2004 and JMET 2002, 2004. He was chairman for conducting DRDO-SET 2004 (Defense Research and Development Organization - Scientist Entrance Test), through which, about 600 scientists were recruited for various DRDO laboratories. He was Head of the Department of Chemistry, IIT Delhi. Prof. Brar was awarded Outstanding Research Award, IIT Delhi in 1994. He is Fellow of the "National Academy of Sciences" and "Punjab Academy of Sciences.

Here are a few achievements of Prof. Brar as Vice-Chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar since his joining - Started Batch of 50 rural students in +1 Non-Medical, as per policy of the Punjab Government to prepare rural students of Punjab for admission to Indian Institutes of Technology and other National Level Engineering Entrance Tests.

The university regained the highest sports Award in the country Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy for the year 2009-10. The university has won National Championship in Inter-University Youth Festivals in the year 2012. The university has been National Champion for 10 times. The University won the Overall Championship in North Zone Inter-University Cultural Competitions in November 2009, 2010, 2011 and was Runners up of National Cultural Trophy in 2009.

The university has risen to rank 13 in the top 50 universities of the country, as per recent survey conducted by 'India Today'. The University has 11th Position, out of the 500 universities, in Science Publications in the Scientific Analysis of some disciplines : Comparison of Indian institutions with other International Institutions.

First university to introduce on-line admissions to its courses/on-line counselling for State Level admissions, Computerization of examination and registration branches. First University in the state to introduce Credit Based Evaluation system. Earmarked Rs. 10.00 Crore for purchase of sophisticated instruments. decentralization of examination System. Conduct of examinations, declaration of results, as per schedule, before 30th June each year; and commencement of classes as per schedule. Swapping of Supervisory Staff in the examinations. Revision of all the courses and increase in number of seats in various courses.

Introduction of pre-Ph.D. courses in all the University Departments. Grant of 50 Ph.D. Fellowships every year funded by the university. Waiving of tuition fee from the students studying in the School of Punjabi Studies and the Department of Guru Nanak Studies. Merger of Applied Chemistry and Applied Physics Departments to their parent Departments of Chemistry and Physics, respectively. Centre for Genetic Disorders in the Deptt. of Human Genetics. Similarly, Sugar and Alcohol Technology has been separated from Applied Chemical Sciences and merged with Food Science & Technology. On the same pattern, School of Legal Studies merged with the Deptt. of Laws at Regional Campus, Jalandhar.

Starting of rural colleges in Verka, Kapurthala, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran districts under the Punjab Govt. / UGC scheme at a cost of Rs. 1.5 Crore for each college; and two Regional Campuses - one at Sathiala (with cost of Rs. 9 Crore for the Centre and 5 Crore for Hostel) and Fattu Dyinga (Sultanpur Lodhi), Distt. Kapurthala.

Introduction of new professional courses in Shaheed Ram Singh Pathania Memorial College, Niari, the constituent college of the University. Starting of MCA 3-Years course at Guru Nanak Dev University College, Jalandhar. New Astro-turf for hockey ground with a cost of Rs. 12 Crore and addition of velodrome costing Rs. 1.20 crore conforming to international standards. Extension of hockey stadium costing Rs. 4.50 crore. Establishment of Internal Quality Assurance Cell. Introduction of Semester System in all PG courses. On-line submission of examination admission forms. Detail of marks on the Website and through SMS. Construction of Academic Staff College Guest House with support from UGC and emerging life sciences building. Further, New Lecture Theatre Complex is under construction. Construction of new IT Block at Regional Campus, Jalandhar, Extension of Maharaja Ranjit Singh Bhawan with eight Lecture theatres with a seating capacity of more than 120

students and ramp for physically handicapped, extension of Physics and Chemistry Blocks, extension of renovation of Gymnasium and Boundary wall at ASSM College, Mukandpur.

Installation of new sewage treatment plant at Regional Campus, Gurdaspur. Opening of branch of State Bank of Patiala at the Amritsar Campus. Shifting of University College, Jalandhar in new premises allotted by the Govt. of Punjab on Ladhawali Road, Jalandhar.

Starting of Centre on Studies in Sri Guru Granth Sahib with a grant of Rs. 47.05 Crore from UGC. University granted the status of “University with Potential for Excellence” entailing a grant of Rs. 50 crore by UGC.

Approval of Centre on “Genetic Basis of Cancer and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Punjab” by UGC under the Scheme “Centre with Potential for Excellence in Particular Area” (CPEPA) entailing a grant of Rs. 6.15 Crore. University selected by the Deptt. of Science & Technology, GOI to receive support of Rs. 9.00 crore for 3 years under the programme “Promotion of University Research & Scientific Excellence (PURSE)” for incentivizing R&D activities.

Installation of X-ray Machine costing Rs. 28.5 lacs, incinerator with a cost of Rs. 11.5 lacs to dispose off the bio-medical waste, hot air woven, DCA Vantage HBA IC Analyzer in the clinical lab, DEXA machine and increase in the facilities at the health centre and renovation of building. Echocardiography machine for heart patients and Random Access Chemiluminiscense Analyzer for conducting all hormone tests and fully automatic 5 parts haematology cell counter lab analyzer and blood chemistry analyzer being installed in the health centre.

Prof. Brar is also Chairman, Convener and Member of 24 State and National Level bodies and committees. He is Life Member of 5 Important national and International bodies. Prof. Brar has received 10 prestigious Awards and Honours of National and International repute. He has also contributed to Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) of National Level and supervised about 32 Ph.D. students.

A Book on Prof. Brar released by Prof. Yashpal

In the ongoing session of 15th Punjab Science Congress organized by the University one session was dedicated to the contributions of Prof. A.S. Brar in the field of Science.

Eminent Scientist, Professor Emeritus, Dr. Harjit Singh and Dr. R.K. Mahajan chaired the session. Dr. A. S. Sarpal, former Gen. Manager, Dr. S.K. Majumdar, Deputy General Manager, Dr. Gurmeet Singh, Senior Research Officer and Dr. G.S. Kapoor, Chief Research Manager all these scientists from IOCL and Research and Development, Gurgaon presented their research papers. Dr. Sarjit Kaur Brar was also present on this occasion.

Dr. Sarpal in his research paper said that the small plants Algae growing in water will prone to be the potential diesel producing plant in future. He said that by using this plant, diesel could be extracted from 5 thousand to 20 thousand gallons per acre per year. He said that this could be biggest contribution to mankind by using this highly economical fuel.

Dr. Majumdar is working on the lubricants to regulate carbon dioxide emissions and fuel economy. Dr. G.S. Kapoor presented his paper on developing technology for efficient polymers for use in industry. Another speaker, Dr. Gurmeet Singh has also presented his paper on Polyolefins.

All these speakers are product of Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi and associated with Prof. Brar. All the scientists who gathered here in this conference spoke on the contribution of Prof. Brar, who is one of the leading Scientist in the world in the field of NMR Technology which is used in medical field. They also informed that Prof. Brar has successfully organized GATE Test. They also congratulated Prof. Brar for bringing a biggest grant of Rs. 1.70 crores from various govt. agencies which is the highest amount ever received by this University till date. They also congratulate Prof. Brar for bringing this University at the third rank in the country.

A Book titled “**Profound Pursuits**” on Prof. Brar about the journey of a rural background boy to the position of Vice-Chancellor has been released by Former Chairman of University Grants Commission, Prof. Yashpal. This book is dedicated to the journey of Professor Ajaib Singh Brar from a rural background to the position of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lucknow and Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.

This book was gifted to him by his teachers, colleagues, fellow scientists, friends, students and family members on his 65th birthday. “**Profound Pursuits**” describes the journey of Professor Brar born in a remote

village of Nathewala in District Moga who got his Primary and Secondary level education from a remote rural school and after that his M.Sc. in Chemistry from Punjabi University, Patiala.

Prof. Brar due to his hard work got scholarship for his Doctoral work at IIT, Delhi and was also able to earn UNESCO fellowship even before he completed the research work for his Ph.D. He was appointed lecturer in the Department of Chemistry, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. From here he went to IIT, Delhi as Associate Professor and achieved the status of world renowned scientist. The position of Vice-Chancellor first at the University of Lucknow and now at Guru Nanak Dev University was bestowed upon him for the sole purpose of providing leadership to the academic world required for giving right direction to the highest education in today's globalized world.

The University scaled new heights of success during his tenure. This book is a passionate expression of the opinion of the intellectuals and scholars about him as a hardworking scientist, a disciplinarian, an administrator but, above all a straight forward, simple and honest human being. Book would prove to be a beacon light for the young students who aspire to reach the heights of success in their lives. With the help of snaps all aspects of Prof. Brar are nicely highlighted in “**Profound Pursuits**”.

President of National Magnetic Resonance Society of India

Prof. A.S. Brar, Vice-Chancellor of the university has been elected President of National Magnetic Resonance Society of India (NMRS) for a period of three years during the National Conference-NMRS-2012 of the Society held recently at Bangalore.

As the President, Prof. Brar's responsibility will be to enhance the Magnetic Resonance related activities throughout the country and the world else were. The Magnetic Resonance also includes *Magnetic Resonance Imaging* (MRI) and the development of MRI is a part of Magnetic Resonance activity.

The NMRS was established in the year 1995, with the aim of bringing together scientists working in areas such as nuclear magnetic resonance, electron spin resonance, nuclear quadrupole resonance and related fields.

Annual national symposia are held at various places under the auspices of the Society. Many Nobel Laureates are members of National Magnetic Resonance Society and many Nobel Laureates have delivered invited Lectures in the Symposia organized by it.

Prof. A.S. Brar taken on the Society of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla by the Govt. of India for a term of three years

The Government of India (GOI) has nominated Prof. A.S. Brar, as a member of the Society of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) for a term of three years.

Besides, Institutional members (Ex-officio) and representatives of the Institute including Director of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla (HP), the Central Government has nominated six Vice-Chancellors, educationists and those eminent in the field of learning, cultural and science as its members. Prof. Brar is one of the six Vice-Chancellors nominated on the society.

Meanwhile, Prof. Peter Ronald deSouza, Director of the IIAS felicitated Prof. Brar on becoming member of an Institute of Advanced Study. IIAS has a unique place in both the national and global academic imagination.

Seminar on the contribution of *Nirmala Sampardai*

Nirmala Sampardai has great contribution in maintaining Sikh tradition. This Sampardai not only taught us the way to respect our tradition but also increased the interest to read and study Sikh religion.

These views were expressed by eminent scholars who participated in the 2-day Seminar on the contribution of Nirmala Sampardai organised by the University in the Guru Nanak Bhawan of the University. This seminar was organized under the aegis of Sri Mahan Sahib Pandit Gyan Dev Singh Ji Vendantacharaya Sri Panchayanti Akhara, Nirmala Kankhal, Haridwar in association with Nirmal Takhat Baba Budha Sahib Charitable Trust.

Prof. Gurnek Singh, former Vice-Chancellor Sri Guru Granth Sahib Vishva University Fatehgarh Sahib was the chief guest while jathedar Avtar Singh, President, Shromani Gurdwara Parbandha Committee presided over the valedictory session.

Prof. Harpal Singh Pannu from Punjabi University, Patiala and Singh Sahib Gyani Jaswinder Singh, Head Granthi, Sri Harmandir Sahib was the chief guest on this occasion.

Prof. Pannu said that Sikhs should be conscious about their religion and traditions with the change of time. He said that Nirmala Sampardai preached the Sikh religion keeping in view the traditions and philosophy of the religion.

Gyani Jaswinder Singh said that Nirmala Sampardai not only kept the old traditions but also keep the trend of teaching Sanskrit. He said that most of the *Kathavachaks* and scholars in sikh religion are the contribution of this sampradai.

Earlier, the session started with kirtan recited by Sant Sukhwant Singh Ji and Bhai Ajit Singh. Prof. Jasbir Singh Sabar, Dr. Gursharanjit Singh, Sant Darshan Singh ji Shashtri from Banaras, Singh Sahib Gyani Mal Singh ji, Sant Pal Singh from Lohiya and Dr. Gurmeet Singh from Patiala also presented their papers.

Bibi Kiranjit Kaur, Member, Shromani gurdwara parbandhak committee. Sant Gurbachan Singh ji Mukhea Mahant, Sant Sewa Singh ji from Rampur Khera and Prof Jaspal Kaur Kang from Chandigarh were also present on this occasion.

National Seminar on “Genomics of Complex Diseases”

Department of Human Genetics of the university organized a UGC-SAP sponsored national seminar on “Genomics of Complex Diseases” in the Conference Hall of the university. About 40 eminent scientists from various parts of the Country participated in this seminar.

Dr. Rajinderjit Kuar Pawar, Dean, Academic Affairs inaugurated the seminar while Dr. B.K. Thelma, Head, Department of Genetics, University of Delhi, South Campus, Delhi delivered the keynote address. Prof. (Dr.) A.J.S. Bhanwer, Coordinator of the seminar welcomed the chief guest and others. Dr. Vanita Kumar, Organizing Secretary of the seminar presented vote of thanks.

Dr. Chitra Kannabiran, L.V. Prasad Eye Institute (Lvpei), Hyderabad; Dr. Gopeshwar Narayan, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Dr. Sunita Singh, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi and Prof. Partha P. Majumder, Director, National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, Kalyani, West Bengal also presented their research papers on this occasion.

Prof. Pawar while delivering her presidential remarks highlighted the tremendous progress made by science and technology in the field of health. She said that in India 80% of deaths among adults are mainly due to complex disorders. She also highlighted the fact that these disorders are mainly due to our changing life style.

Dr. Thelma in her keynote address spoke on Ayurgenomics- A Panacea to complex trait research. She also discussed about her research work on *Amravata* that is Rheumatoid Arthritis. She claimed that her research work is a step forward for the scientific validation for this traditional form of treatment.

She said that ayurgenomics establishes links between ayurveda & modern science for predictive & personalized medicine. A landmark study, the first of its kind in the world, finds links between Prakriti, a fundamental principle of personalized medicine of Ayurveda, and modern genomics for development of predictive and personalized medicine.

Dr. Chitra Kannabiran, from L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad discussed about corneal dystrophies i.e. congenital hereditary endothelial dystrophy (CHED) which is a dysfunctional and degenerated corneal dystrophy. She said that a major gene involved in sodium bicarbonate transporter like solute carrier family 4 member 11 which encodes bicarbonate transporter related protein 1.

She also discussed about a rare form of dystrophy i.e. FUCHs dystrophy which is a bilateral, progressive corneal dystrophy involving degeneration of endothelial cells.

Dr. Gopeshwar Narayan from Department of Molecular and Human Genetics Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi delivered a lecture on Molecular Genetics of Cervical Precancerous lesions. He said that cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women and one of the most frequent cancer among women in India.

Dr. Sunita Singh from Department of Zoology, Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi highlighted the current scenario of genetics of Type 2 Diabetes which is one of the most common complex disorder accounting for 90-95 % of all cases. She said that it is one of the major causes of adult blindness and kidney failure and accounts for non-traumatic lower limb amputations. Dr. Partha P. Majumdar, Director, National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, Kalyani, West Bengal gave lecture on Genetic Determinants of unconjugated Bilirubin.

Lecture on “Public Health Genomics and DNA Damage Prevention”

Department of Botanical and Environmental Sciences organized an invited lecture on “Public Health Genomics and DNA Damage Prevention” by renowned cytotoxicity expert Dr. Michael Fenech (CSIRO – Common Wealth Industrial and Research Organization, Adelaide, Australia) in the department.

Prof. Dr A.K. Thukral, Director Research presided over. Prof. A.J.S. Bhanwar, Human Genetics department, Dr. Gurcharan Kaur, Dean of Life Sciences introduced the speaker to the audience and Dr. A.P. Vig Head welcomed the chief guest and others. Dr. Varinder Pal Dhillon from CSIRO, Australia was also present.

Dr. Fenech through his talk stressed on various psycho-sociological changes, nutritional habits and stress exposures that are leading to chromosomal aberrations and cancers in the present human population, especially the reproductive cohort. He discussed how nutritional control and regulation of vitamins, minerals and other essential food components could reduce or add on to carcinomas in humans. Special focus of his talk shifted to telomeric sequencing in aberrant cells.

Dr. A.K Thukral, in his presidential address warned the young generation to adopt good lifestyle and nutritional habits in order to keep themselves healthy. Dr. Avinash Nagpal who encouraged the audience to inculcate these good habits and strike a healthy balance in their routine lifestyle.

Dr. Saroj Arora, Dr. Renu Bhardwaj, Dr. Satwinderjeet Kaur, Dr. Jatinder Kaur, Dr. Harpreet Walia, Er. Manpreet Bhatti, Er. Bhupinder Singh and all research scholars were also present and participated in discussion.

National seminar on “Current Scenario of Microbiology”

A 2-days National seminar on “**Current Scenario of Microbiology**” was inaugurated in the conference Hall of the University. This UGC-SAP sponsored Seminar was organized by the Department of Microbiology of the University.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A.S Brar presided over the inaugural session while Dr. Ajit Verma, Director General, Amity Institute of Microbial Technology, Amity University, Noida delivered the keynote address. Dr. Sajid Hussain, Head of the Department welcomed the chief guest and others. Dr. D.S. Arora, Coordinator, SAP and Director of the seminar presented vote of thanks on this occasion.

Dr. Verma in his keynote address spoke on the discovery of *Piriformospora indica*, isolated from the roots of a desert plant that proved to be a magic fungi. He said that it has positively influenced the growth of all 148 types of crop plants on which it was tested. He said that it promotes early flowering and fruit formation in crops. He said that it also enhances the concentration ingredients of medicinal plant by 3-4 fold. While giving example, he said that *P. indica* induced 2.5 fold more antimalarial component production in the leaves of *Artemisia annua*.

Prof. A.S. Brar said that there is deep relationship between science and social science. He said that all are interdependent and interlinked. He said that basic sciences needed to be popularized among students at school level. He also highlighted the achievement of the University in various fields. He has been instrumental in getting the status of University with Potential for Excellence.

Prof. R.K Saxena, Department of Microbiology, Delhi University. South Campus and Professor Akhtar Mamood, Professor Emeritus, Dept of Bio chemistry, Punjab University, Chandigarh also delivered their lectures.

The valedictory session was presided over by Dean, Academic Affairs, Prof. Rajinderjit Kaur Pawar. The speaker in the valedictory function was Prof. Anand Bacchawat from Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali. Dr. Sajjid Hussain, Head of the Department presented vote of thanks.

Prof. Anand in his research paper on **Glutathione Metabolism**- new insights from yeast said that the Glutathione is an important enzyme that counteracts reactive oxygen species, generated in human cells by simple action of breathing and respiration. He said that Low levels of Glutathione can lead to cancer, ageing and other diseases like Parkinson, Alzheimer etc. Using yeast as a model, Glutathione balance can be studied.

Prof. R.K. Saxena from Department of Microbiology, Delhi University, South Campus talked about '**Microbial Cellulose**'. He said that the Cellulose is the most abundant polymer on Earth. He said that it is the major constituent of plants and woods and Microbial Cellulose produced by certain bacterial strains is structurally similar to plant cellulose. However, it is superior to plants cellulose as it is a pure polymer free from hemicellulose and lignin, present in plant cellulose. Microbial cellulose has high degree of crystallinity, tensile strength and absorbancy. It has versatile applications in various fields such as medical, cosmetics and food industries. In medical field, microbial cellulose can be used for wound dressing, drug delivery agents and artificial skin substitute, he added.

Prof. Sanjay Chhibber, Department of Microbiology, Panjab University, Chandigarh delivered his lecture on "**Combating Bacterial inaccessibility in Biofilms by using Novel Delivery Systems**". He explained that certain human bacterial pathogens can form biofilms, which are resistant to the action of the antibiotics and to immune system. Therefore, novel antibiofilm strategies are required to kill such pathogens. Bacteriophage therapy, which employs viruses that infect bacteria can be used successfully as one of the antibiofilm therapy. The challenge is to efficiently deliver the bacteriophages to the target site in the human body, he added.

Conference on "Aadhunik Punjabi Galap: Navay Rujhaan" organized

A Conference on "**Aadhunik Punjabi Galap: Navay Rujhaan**" was organized by the School of Punjabi Studies of the University in the Conference Hall of the University. More than 20 eminent personalities of Punjabi Literature were present on this occasion.

Vice Chancellor, Dr. Ajaib Singh Brar inaugurated while Prof. Jagbir Singh, Punjabi Department, Delhi University would preside over. Dr. Jaswinder Singh, Punjabi Department, Punjabi University, Patiala would deliver the keynote address. Dr. Wariyam Singh Sandhu, Dr. Baldev Singh Sadaknama, Dr. Dhanwant Kaur, Dr. Gurpal Sandhu, Dr. Baldev Dhaliwal, Dr. Harsimran Randhawa and Dr. Rajneesh Bhadur delivered their lectures on this occasion. Dr. Raminder Kaur, Coordinator of the Seminar introduced the theme of the Conference.

Prof. Brar in his presidential remarks talked about the academic activities and New Perspective. He said that the students should have creative ability and they should avoid cramming. He said that teachers should develop the confidence of the students by disseminating maximum knowledge.

He said that the University is committed to provide state-of-art infrastructure and education friendly atmosphere at the University campus. He said that for this purpose more than 170 crores have been spent on creating infrastructure during last three years. He said that Department of Comparative Studies would also be established shortly.

Dr. Jaswinder Singh in his key note address said that this conference as right step in right direction of the contemporary Punjabi fiction. He said that there are three types of Punjabi fictions *Novel*, *Novalik* and *Khanai*. He also talked about the literature which writes about the discrimination of male and female.

Dr. Sukhdev Singh Khara, Head of the Department presided over the second Session and the third session was concerned about the contemporary Punjabi story which was presided over by the famous story writer Dr. Waryam Singh sandhu. In this session, Dr. Dhanwant kaur, Dr. Baldev Singh Dhaliwal and Dr. Paramjit Kaur Sidhu also delivered their lectures.

In this conference Bharti Sahit Academy Prize winner creative writer Dr. Waryam Singh Sandhu, Dr. Ajmer Singh Aulakh and Dr. Baldev Singh Sadaknama were honored by School of Punjabi Studies of the University. Dr. Paramjit Singh Sidhu, Dr. Harbhajan Singh Bhatia, Dr. Kawaljit Kaur Jassal, Dr. Gurmit Singh, Dr. Sohinderbir Singh, Dr. Harchand Singh Bedi, Dr. Harjit Kaur and Dr. Darya were also present.

National Seminar on Environmental Management

The Department of Botanical and Environmental Sciences of the University organized a two-day UGC-SAP sponsored National Seminar on **Environmental Management** on 22 and 23rd March, 2012. On the first

day, the seminar progressed with the ceremonial lighting of the lamps followed by an introductory session by Dr. Adarsh Pal Vig, Head and Dr. Ahwani Kumar Thukral, Director of Research.

Dr. Vig talked about the immense support of the UGC-SAP Programme under DRS-I Phase for research and development of the department. Dr. Thukral extended a warm welcome to UGC experts and guests including Prof. V.K. Jain, Vice Chancellor, Doon University, Dehradun, Prof. R.K. Kohli, Dean and Professor, Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Dr. Rajiv Manhas, Deputy Librarian and Head, Library Faculty, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot.

The first scientific session included a presentation by Prof. V.K. Jain on global environmental issues such as ozone depletion and drastic climate changes that are causing serious imbalance in the world today. He enlightened the audience about the hazards of ozone depleting compounds and the role of international and national convention to counter and control the ongoing environmental damage. The speaker was introduced by Prof. Avinash Nagpal who also chaired the session.

The second scientific session included a talk by Prof. R.K. Kohli who drew attention to the role of public and government sectors for the management and conservation of forests for sustainable livelihood. He made the audience aware about the raging environmental concerns of the common man and the much needed execution of laws to save forest resources. The session was chaired by Prof. Renu Bharadwaj.

The third session focused on a talk by Dr. Rajiv Manhas on the use of Statistical package on Social Science (SPSS) Predictive Analysis Software (PNSW) Statistics for data analysis. This session was chaired by Dr. Saroj Arora.

Education Minister S. Sikandar Singh Maluka visits University Campus, Sathiala

Indeed our education system is catering to the needs of our society but inspite of that we need our curriculum to be set keeping in view the social evils prevailing in our society. To create awareness among our youth about the ill effects of drug addiction, a subject especially needs be introduced from school level which is the major issue these days. After independence, the amendments in education policies were not up to the mark.

These were the views expressed by the Hon'ble Education Minister, S. Sikandar Singh Maluka during his maiden visit to the Guru Nanak Dev University Regional Campus, Sathiala (Guru Teg Bahadur College, Sathiala). On reaching the Campus, Minister was warmly received by Prof. A.S. Brar, Vice-Chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University. Prof. Rajinderjit Kaur Puar, Dean, Academic Affairs, Dr. Inderjit Singh, Registrar, Dr. M.S. Hundal, Dean College Development Council, Dr. G.S. Virk, Director of the Regional Campus, T.R. Sharma, SDO Electrical and Mr. H.S. Tinna, SDO from Construction department were also present.

S. Maluka said that Punjab, the land of Gurus, is blessed with many natural amenities, so the youth of this region instead of going abroad, should use their potential to use these natural amenities in their own native place. He said that youth should not indulge in drug addiction and use their creativity for constructive purposes. He said that more topics relating to social evils prevailing in our society should be included in our curricula of study as per the Bani of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji.

While expressing his concern over the practical work done, he said that it is matter of pity that our youth don't want to work with their own hands and they are totally dependent on others. He said they feel ashamed while doing their own work and felt proud while performing same work in foreign countries. He advised youth to do maximum practical work in order to become skilled worker. He also expressed his satisfaction over the ongoing development works in the Regional Campus, Sathiala.

While welcoming the Education Minister, Vice-Chancellor said that the University would do earnest efforts to provide best State of Art Infrastructure and faculty to this Regional Campus of the University. He said that more need based vocational courses would be started shortly at this Campus. He also assured the Education Minister that this campus would be an exemplary Campus in this region equipped with all modern facilities.

Prof. G.S. Virk on this occasion apprised the Chief Guest about the various courses, academic activities and ongoing construction work at the campus. He said that there are some seats in various professional courses reserved for the students of this region.

Newly constructed Velodrome inaugurated

Sardar Sikandar Singh Maluka, Minister of Higher Education and Languages, Govt. of Punjab inaugurated newly constructed Velodrome at the University Campus. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ajaib Singh Brar along with other officials and students were also present.

While appreciating the sports infrastructure available at the University Campus Sardar Sikandar Singh Maluka said that it is indeed matter of proud that Guru Nanak Dev University is the only University of the Country which won the prestigious Maulana Abul Kalam Azad trophy for a record of 21 times.

Vice-Chancellor informed the Minister that Guru Nanak Dev University is committed for the promotion of sports in this region and therefore, we are continuously adding to the infrastructure for various sports activities on the campus. He said that this it is gratifying to mention that the Velodrome of our University was adjudged as the best among all the 16 Velodromes built in Indian Universities by the UGC.

He hoped that the University would more excel in sports with the construction of this Velodrome matching the international standards and starting of those games which were earlier not played by the University.

He said that this hi-tech ultra modern Velodrome covering the area of 333.33 meters circumference and with a slope of 7 Degree to 36 Degree is constructed with the amount of 1.5 crores. He said that this Velodrome is economically constructed with the consultancy of many experts from all over the country.

Scholarships for students

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A.S. Brar distributed Rs. 1.70 lakhs to the needy and intelligent students of Campus of various courses. This amount was distributed from the Endowment Fund of Butalia Family.

On this occasion, Dean, Academic Affairs, Dr. Rajinderjit Kaur Pawar and Dean, Student Welfare, Dr. P.K. Sehgal were also present. Vice-Chancellor while speaking on this occasion thanked the Butalia Family for creating help for needy students. He also exhorted the NGO's and other to come forward to help in this noble cause.

S. Tej Singh Butalia and Mrs. Jasbir Kaur Butalia have given Endowment Fund of about 50 lakhs in the memory of their parents. With the interest of this fund, University is already giving scholarships to needy students every year.

Dr. Pawar said that 17 cheques of ten-ten thousand were distributed to the students from the half money of the interest and balanced money would be distributed during the admission of needy students.

Among the students who received the cheques are Roop Preet Kaur and Parmandeep Kaur both from Molecular Bio and Biochemistry Department, Arun Sachdeva from Department of Applied Chemical Sciences and Technology, Priyanka Sharma, Department of Law, Varinder Singh, Political Science Department, Aamna Arora Microbiology Department, Deepank Aggarwal of Electronics Technology Department, Aakrant Saxena from the Department of Sports Medicine and Physiotherapy, Ruby Saini, Physics Department, Kohinoor Sarao, Food Science and Technology Department, Komaldeep Kaur, Mathematics Department, Ajay Kumar, Biotechnology Department, Upkiran Kaur, Music Department, Mandeep Kaur Randhawa, Chemistry Department, Daljit Kaur, School of Social Sciences, Vikrant Sharma from Sanskrit Department and Vivek Kumar Computer Science and Engineering Department.

Varsity student stood second in All India Civil Services Examination-2011

Ms. Rukmani Riar, a student of the Guru Nanak Dev University got second rank in the All India Civil Services Examination-2011 conducted by UPSC in her first attempt. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A.S. Brar expressed happiness and congratulated Rukmani Riar and her parents as well for her success in the Civil Services Exams.

Prof. S.S. Sohal, Head, School of Social Sciences, congratulated Rukmani Riar for her success. In the last Civil Services examination held in 2010, three students, Baljinder Singh, Jatin Chopra and Daljit Kaur of the School of Social Sciences passed the exams. Their success has brought forth the relevance of Social Sciences in competitive exams, for which the School had come into existence in 2003.

Rukmani joined the School of Social Sciences in 2005 and passed out in 2008 with laudable performance in every semester and finally getting the Gold Medal with Distinction. During her stay in the School, she was one of the most vibrant students. She opted Sociology and Political Science as Major and History as Minor Subject in the School and also preferred same Major Subjects in the Civil Services exams. She always remained role model for the students of the School of Social Sciences. She has created a new milestone for the institution. All the teachers and students feel proud of her achievement.

‘International Biodiversity Day’

The Department of Botanical & Environmental Sciences of the University in collaboration with Punjab Biodiversity Board organized ‘International Biodiversity Day’ celebrations in the Guru Nanak Bhawan Auditorium of the University. This event was sponsored by National Biodiversity Authority, Govt. of India.

Professor A.K. Thukral Director of Research of the University inaugurated the celebrations by lighting candles. Dr. Adarsh Pal Vig, Head of the Department welcomed the chief guest and others. Dr. A.S. Soodan, taxonomy expert and Professor Avinash Nagpal, Biodiversity Digitalization expert presented their expert lectures on this occasion. Professor Renu Bhardwaj presented vote of thanks.

Dr. Thukral on this occasion highlighted the importance of the International Biodiversity Day. He said that if biodiversity balance is not checked well in time then the rare species would be extinct. He said that nature has blessed us with lot of amenities which are beneficial for mankind, but we are destroying and polluting them for our own sake. He exhorted the youth to create awareness by educating masses to save nature and make maximum use of it for the benefit of humanity.

Dr. Soodan talked about Biodiversity with respect to grasses in North India. Prof. Avinash highlighted the bio conservation efforts at the University botanical gardens.

Dr. Vig emphasised the importance of biodiversity wealth and said that the biodiversity theme for 2012 is **Marine Biodiversity and the Convention of Parties (COP-11) and CBD- 2012** and this would be held this time in India in the month of October.

On this occasion an educational program was organized followed by Photo and Caption contest which received 60 entries from all over the campus. Dr. S.P. Sharma and students were the judges for this contest. The prize winners were honoured with cash prizes and certificates by the chief guest.

Mr. Manish Kumar, student of the department won the first prize in this contest and was awarded with Rs. 1500 as cash prize by the chief guest. Similarly, Mr. Rakesh Kumar and Miss Neha Sharma got second position and were awarded with a cash prize of Rs 1000 each and the third prize went to Miss Tejinder Kaur and Miss Harpreet Babbar who received an amount of Rs. 750 each as cash prize. Two consolation prizes worth Rs 500 each were awarded to Miss Zeenia Goyal and Mr. Ashish.

To highlight the importance of biodiversity a UNO produced film on Biodiversity Conservation for the year 2010 was also screened on this occasion.

Prof. G.S. Virk, Prof. Saroj Arora, Dr. Satwinderjit Kaur, Dr. Jatinder Kaur, Er. Bhupinder Pal Singh, Er. M.S. Bhatti, Mrs. Rajinder Kaur, Dr. Harpreet Walia, Dr. Rajbir Kaur, all research scholars, students and non-teaching staff of the University were also present.

Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope inaugurated at Guru Nanak Dev University Campus

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ajaib Singh Brar inaugurated a newly purchased heavy duty equipment *Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope* here today in the Emerging Life Sciences Building of the Guru Nanak Dev University. This Germany made equipment is worth Rs. 2 crores.

Prof. Brar said that this machine is useful for the analysis of microstructure of different materials which includes Ceramics, Polymers, Semiconductors, metals and any sort of textile material. He said that with the help of this machine nano particles even in the range of two to five nano meters could be seen and analyzed.

He said that this machine is also equipped with EDAX (Energy Dispersive X-Ray Analysis) which will be useful for elemental composition of any material and with the installation of this machine the Departments of

Physics, Chemistry, Material Science, Polymer Science, Textile Industry and other branches of Engineering could be benefited.

Prof. Brar has advised to run this machine for maximum time to utilize these research results for high quality publication and for the improvement of productivity. He said that with the installation of this machine in the University a new era in the field of Microscopy has begun.

He said that this University is committed to provide state of art infrastructure and congenial atmosphere for studies to the students. Student-teacher relations would be more improved and education would be imparted in the friendly atmosphere. All grievances of the students would be solved at the priority basis.

Earlier, Dr. Lakhwant Singh, Head of the Department of Physics welcomed Prof. Brar and others. He said that for the optimum use of this equipment and for look after, Dr. Anupinder Singh has been appointed as teacher incharge. Apart from a large number of faculty members many students were also present on this occasion.

National Seminar on Socio-economic Development of Border Areas—Challenges and Prospects

“Never ending insurgency problem and communal conflicts have crippled the economy and disrupted the efforts for development of the border areas of the country, specially, in Jammu and Kashmir and northeastern states”.

These views were expressed by Prof. G.M. Bhat, Head of Department of Economics of University of Kashmir, Srinagar, while delivering his keynote address at the inaugural session of National Seminar on Socio-economic Development of Border Areas-Challenges and Prospects. This 2-Day National Seminar was organized by School of Social Sciences, University in association with University Grants Commission, New Delhi.

Prof. Rajinderjit Kaur Pawar, Dean, Academic Affairs was the chief guest. Dr. S.S. Sohal, Director and Head of the Department welcomed the chief guest and others and Prof. S.S. Dhillon, Professor Incharge (Finance & Development) presented vote of thanks. Dr. Anjali Mehra, Organising Secretary of the seminar introduced the theme of seminar on this occasion.

Prof. Bhat said that because of such lop-sided development practice, India’s Northeast is still identified as one of the most underdeveloped regions in the country posing a serious threat to the entire nation in the form of unemployment, poverty and insurgency. All of these are interwoven and it is the prime task of the policy makers to review the ongoing development strategy and try to evolve one, which ensures inclusion of the excluded through the process of social transformation and development”, he added. He said that the socio-economic status of the border states of India is as diverse and as heterogeneous as the varieties of tribes found in the region. He said that with peculiar situation with regard to the location of India arising out of its relations with neighboring Countries almost all the international border of India is susceptible to uncertainty, chaos and confusion.

Prof. Bhat said that these pockets of population have their peculiar problems in terms of economic, social, political and cultural. He said that India is experiencing a high economic growth and this growth is not accompanied with inclusive and equitable growth among the states and the people.

He said that the reduction of poverty in Northeastern states is found to be encouraging (from 51.9% in 1973-74 to 31.8% in 2010-11) as compared to all India level (from 54.9% in 1973-74 to 26.7% in 2010-11). Percentage is relatively high in case of UP and Rajasthan at 25.5% and 17.5% respectively.

He said that in case of the other states like Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and J&K, the percentage is around 10% below poverty line. On the basis of BPL Household Count Ratio the seven poorest border districts in the of Jammu and Kashmir State are Kishtwar, Kupwara, Bandipora, Reasi, Poonch, Ramban and Kargil which have more than 35 percent estimated BPL Households ranging in between 42.73 to 35.87 percent.

Prof. Pawar in her inaugural address said that the preamble to Indian Constitution envisages to secure to all its citizens: Justice- social, economic and political, however, people living in rural, specially, border areas are deprived of social and economic justice even after the 65 years of India’s independence. She said that concrete measures need to be taken by the Government for which a strong political will is needed for plugging the leakages in grants meant for improving education and health facilities in rural and border areas.

While highlighting about the courses run by the University for Central Jail inmates in Amritsar Jail, she said that with interaction with inmates one could understand better the various reasons for ever rising rate of crime in the society.

Prof. S S Sohal while introducing the theme of the Seminar said that more than twenty papers are likely to be presented during four technical sessions to be held, covering areas like, level of health, education, development scenario in border areas.

National Seminar on Socio-Economic Development of Border Areas: Challenges and Prospects

A two-Day National Seminar on, “**Socio-Economic Development of Border Areas: Challenges and Prospects**” organized by School of Social Sciences. This seminar was sponsored by University Grants Commission, New Delhi. About 20 research papers were presented during this seminar and 170 delegates participated.

This seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Rajinderjit Kaur Pawar, Dean, Academic Affairs while the keynote address was delivered by Prof. Gulam Mohd. Bhat, Head, Department of Economics, University of Kashmir, Sri Nagar. Prof. S.S. Sohal, Head of the Department welcomed the chief guest and Prof. S.S. Dhillon, Professor Incharge (Finance and Development) presented vote of thanks.

During the seminar the research papers presented by the scholars were focused on various socio-economics problems of the border areas especially Indo Pak border.

Prof. B.S. Ghuman, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Panjab University, Chandigarh presided over the valedictory session. Prof. J.S. Sekhon Former Head of Dept of Political Science, of the University; Major P.S. Bhatti a Social Activist, Mr. Rattan Singh Randhawa, a Social Activist and Dr. Satnam Singh, President of Border Sangharsh Committee were also present.

It was unanimously resolved that benefit of Development Schemes initiated by Centre and State Government should reach the real beneficiaries of border areas and the people living in border areas should feel as secure as the people living in metropolitan cities. They were also of the view that the emphasis should be laid on development of social infrastructure like education and health for improving the condition of people. This should not be done by opening more schools and hospitals but by improving the quality of existing health and education institutions. Priority should be given to the appointment of local staff in these institutions.

The experts were also in favour of that in case, land is acquired for fencing or other security measures adequate compensation in the form of alternative employment opportunities depending upon the location of land acquired. Land mafia acquiring forest land should be strongly dealt with and the land should be given to the local residency.

The delegates also unanimously approved that in the formulation of three tier border policy i.e. at first level consideration should be given to border states, then to border districts and finally to border areas at block and village level. These areas suffer more than any other hence not only tax concession but also subsidies to industry coming is needed.

They were also in favour to redefine border areas upto 8 kms from the fencing, as against the prevailing 16 kms and formation of Border Recruitment Committee on permanent basis including not only government officials but also the civil society and members from local community.

National Seminar on Genetics of Mendelian and Complex Diseases

The challenge for future is to discover the right drug for the right patient for the right dose in the right time. So, we have great challenges ahead this needs multi-disciplinary approaches to get resolved. These views were expressed by Padamashree Professor Dr. RNK Bemezai, Vice-Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, Jammu while delivering his keynote address in the inaugural session of National Seminar on **Genetics of Mendelian and Complex Diseases**. This seminar was organized by the Department of Human Genetics of the Guru Nanak Dev University in association with University Grants Commission, New Delhi.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. A.S. Brar presided over. Dr. Vanita Kumar, Head of the Department welcomed the chief guest and detailed about the seminar. Dr. AJS Bhawar, Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences proposed vote of thanks on this occasion. Prof. Brar also honoured Dr. Bemezai with memento on behalf of the University.

Dr. Bemezai said that it is expected that in 2025 everybody can have his or her genome sequenced. He said the complete details of structural genomics are important for diagnosis, drug designing and treatment of diseases. One of the greatest challenges is the validation of most promising targets for therapeutic intervention, and chemists can play a critical role in it. He said that we may therefore, move from the era of “disease”-specific compounds to the era of “disease and Patient”-specific compounds in which drugs may be chosen on the basis of the phenotype and genotype of the diseased cell or tissue and the genome of the patient. He said that today’s life style is responsible for various diseases like infections, Diabetic and Cancer. The challenge of time is to understand how biological analysis should be done in non linear terms to predict the phenotype and genotype relations alongwith with other inducing or suppressing elements that contribute in disease manifestation from DNA to individual of population level.

Prof. Brar in his inaugural address said that to understand any phenomena at molecular level we need high quality of science to do high quality research. He said that we have spent crores of rupees to purchase ultra sophisticated equipments to encourage quality research. He also congratulated the Department for organizing this seminar and hoped that the deliberations of the seminar would be beneficial for the students and researchers.

Dr. Jagmohan Singh from IMTECH, Chandigarh, Dr. Reema Dada from AIIMS, New Delhi, Dr. Sanjeev Puri from Panjab University, Chandigarh and Dr. Daljit Singh from Amritsar also presented their views on this occasion.

National seminar on “*Relevance of Nitigranthas*”

Niti is such a word which has no synonyms in English language. The advices and preachings contained in the *Niti* are related to the knowledge of what to do and what not to do in the practical wisdom.

These views were expressed by Padmashri Prof. Satyavrat Shastri, Former Vice-Chancellor from Delhi University, Delhi while delivering his presidential address at the inaugural session of National seminar on “*Relevance of Nitigranthas*”. This seminar was organized by the Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit of the Guru Nanak Dev University in the Conference Hall of the University.

Prof. Rajinderjit Kaur Pawar, Dean, Academic Affairs inaugurated this seminar while Dr. Lekh Ram Sharma Prof. Emeritus delivered the keynote address on this occasion. Dr. Renu Bala, Head of the Department welcomed the chief guests and others. Dr. Dalbir Singh Chahal, Director of the Seminar presented vote of thanks. About 50 scholars across the country participated in this seminar.

Prof. Shastri said that the way of life shown by the *Nitis* has its great value and significance. He said that *Niti* also means strategy. He said that the treatise likes *Chanakyaniti*, *Vidhur Niti*, and *Shubra Niti* contains very valuable policies and useful pieces of advice for everybody.

He said that the great tradition of *Niti treatises* has greatly influenced the Indian thinking system. He said that the knowledge of good and bad, proper and improper, contained in these *Granthas* can provide right direction to the Society to develop as healthy and constructive institutions. It is mainly because of these *Nitigranthas* and their learned writers that Indian society has been progressing since the time immortal, he added.

Prof. Pawar in her inaugural address said that the importance of the *Niti* treatises was accepted much earlier in the past while quoting the stories of Panchtantra, she said that these treatises provide moral value teachings.

She said that rules and regulations of the nature and human life are necessary to be followed for smooth functioning of life. Laws originated from the *Vedas* flourished in the *Nitigranthas*, *Ramayana* and *MahaBharata*. She said that in *Ramayana*, there is illustration of sacrifice, whereas in *Mahabharata*, there is combination of selfish motive and selflessness. She hoped that the deliberations of this seminar would go long way and would be helpful for researchers and teachers.

Dr. Sharma in his keynote address said that there are many messages relating to character building and for the benefit of society in the *Nitigranthas*. These messages are quite relevant in this era of materialization and degradation of moral values.

He said that the need of hour is to follow our rich cultural heritage especially the writings from the great saints to get rid of prevailing social evils.

Seminar on 'History, Literature and Punjabi Society'

History is a meeting ground for various disciplines, said Professor A. S. Brar, Vice-Chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University while inaugurating the two day Seminar on 'History, Literature and Punjabi Society' organized by the Department of History at Guru Nanak Bhawan. He said that Literature is a vital record of what people have observed and what they experienced. If a historian wanted to reconstruct a realistic picture of the past, literature can be one of the authentic sources. Moreover, history and literature both are social narratives. He further said that history and literature differ in their methods of comprehending reality but time, space and ideology are relevant to both. All history is potential literature and all literature is potential history. He also reflected upon the development of Punjabi language and literature and the contribution of the Sikh Gurus and the Sufi saints.

Shri Krishan Lal Zakir Vice President of Haryana Urdu Academy and an eminent Urdu poet and writer delivered the key note address. He said that the language of Urdu should not be treated as an alien language. It has its roots in the Punjab. History and literature have deep relationship with each other. Without history we can not be creative in writing and without literary flare it is not possible to write history. He was emphatic that 'words' are important and make history weak or strong. He gave many examples from the writings of Manto, Amrita Pritam, Krishan Chander, Sahir Ludhianvi and others who have enriched our understanding of the partition of India and have depicted the communal frenzy in their own creative ways.

Many scholars including Dr Rakshanda Zaidi, Ali zaved, Dr Arjumand Ara from Delhi, Dr. Kamlesh Mohan Dr Surinder Singh from Chandigarh and Dr Paramjit Dhingra from Muksar participated in the Seminar.

Seminar on "Ikeesvien Shahtabadi key Pehley Dashak Mein Rachit Hindi Sahitya: Chintan aur Mulyankan"

The Department of Hindi has organized two days UGC sponsored National Seminar on "Ikeesvien Shahtabadi key Pehley Dashak Mein Rachit Hindi Sahitya: Chintan aur Mulyankan".

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ajaib Singh Brar chaired the inaugural session. Apart from Dr. K.K. Rattu, Prof. Ramesh Kuntal Megh, Dr. Suresh Seth, Dr. Vinod Shahi many eminent scholars of Hindi Language and Literature were present.

Prof. (Dr.) Sudha Jitender, Head of the Hindi Department highlighted the main objectives of the seminar. She said that the main objective of the seminar was to find the challenges and efforts towards the strengthening of Hindi Language and literature.

All the experts were of the view that the trend in Hindi Language and Literature has been changed rapidly and affected by society. There is a need to save and preserve the Hindi Language in present scenario. There is a need to make Hindi Language technology friendly. Then the language will be saved. There should be a true and joint effort for that purpose.

All the scholars were committed for the promotion of Hindi Language and Literature unanimously.

National seminar on "Emerging Dimensions of Law in 21st Century" organized at Guru Nanak Dev University

One-day National seminar on "Emerging Dimensions of Law in 21st Century" organized at Guru Nanak Bhawan Auditorium of the Guru Nanak Dev University. This seminar was organized by Law Department in association with UGC.

Dr. Rajinderjit Kaur Pawar, Dean Academic Affairs presided over the inaugural session of the seminar while Prof. Dr. M.P. Singh, Chairperson, Delhi Judicial Academy, New Delhi was the chief guest. Prof. (Dr.) Kulwant Singh, Head & Dean, Jammu University, Jammu delivered the keynote address. Dr. Rattan Singh, Head of the Department welcomed the chief guest and others and Dr. Viney Kapoor presented vote of thanks. Prof. Jaspal Singh introduced the theme of the seminar on this occasion.

In his key note address Prof. Kulwant Singh said that law is not a static entity but a dynamic organism. He said that evolution and change of Law must be a continuous process if the aim be to bring social justice to the deprived people. He said that an unjust past must yield place to a just future. He said that unimaginative jurists may or may not accept the validity of self-evolutionary quality of law, and the conventional schools may frown on the concept and hold that legal norms must remain constant. He said that law being a living organism possesses the quality of self-evolution to meet the growing needs of the society. He said that it is subject to the same conditions of growth, change and transformation as any other living organism which, according to the Darwinian theory of evolution, adapts itself to the environmental needs for the purpose of its own survival.

He said that for a better understanding of law and to make it more conducive for sub-serving the needs of the society, we need to adopt inter-disciplinary approach in our curricula and also familiarize our students with other systems of law to make them more competitive in this globalised world.

Professor M.P.Singh in his presidential remarks touched upon different dimensions of Law and said that Constitution is a living document and no one is allowed to damage its spirit and values. He said that the doctrine of separation of power is a foundation stone to maintain the balance in the conflicting interest and to protect the spirit of the Constitution.

He said that apart from three organs of the Government many other organs are stepping in and trying to change the shape of the Govt. He said that the right to education is a fundamental right and that must be reached to the people who really deserve the same.

Prof. Pawar in her inaugural address posed a duty upon the budding scholars that they should come forward and conduct their imprical research on socio-economic problems of those society. She said that only law could control the evils prevailing in the society and maintain harmony. She hoped that the deliberations of this seminar would go long way for the researchers and students.

Lecture on Invention of Fugo Blade and its Applications organised

Dr. Richard J. Fugo, a world renowned ophthalmologist and Director Fugo Eye Institute, Pennsylvania, USA who is the inventor of Fugo Blade delivered a lecture on “Invention of Fugo Blade and its Applications”. This lecture was organised by Department of Human Genetics of the Guru Nanak Dev University in the Guru Nanak Bhawan Auditorium of the University.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ajaib Singh Brar presided over. Dr. Vanita Kumar, Head of the Department welcomed the speakers and guests and introduced Dr. Fugo to the audience by summarizing esteemed achievements of Dr. Fugo. Padma Shri Dr. Daljit Singh, Ophthalmologist, Dr. Hardas Singh Sandhu, eminent orthopaedics and Dr. Bholla Singh Sidhu, eminent surgeon from Parvati Hospital, Amritsar were also present on this occasion.

Dr. Fugo in his lecture said that Fugo Plasma Blade is a battery powered Plasma Ablation Device, the only such device, approved for surgery, by the US FDA, and is being used in many fields including; Ophthalmology, heart surgery, orthopaedics, ENT, and general surgery. He said that this is the most revolutionary form of surgery world-wide. As compared to other techniques of surgery, using Fugo Blade takes very less time, it is blood less surgery, there is no inflammation after surgery, and healing and recovery time is very short.

He also detailed about the grand rounds on Plasma Ablation Surgery at numerous institutions world-wide, including; the US Military, University of Hong Kong, Wills Eye Hospital, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, The Moran Eye Center (Utah), Hahnemann University, the University of Buffalo, the University of Nebraska, the American College of Eye Surgeons, the University of Minnesota, and many other Institutions, world-wide.

Dr. Fugo owns all of the patents on this technology and has four US FDA approvals for plasma ablation surgery.

Prof. Brar congratulated Dr. Fugo for this grand discovery and appreciated the first hand information shared by him on this blade and its medical applications. He said that the inventions of any kind at any corner of the world should be shared with general masses so that its real advantage should reach them.

He said that the development and inventions in the field of medicine is always for the betterment of human beings. He also expressed his satisfaction over the research work being carried at the Department of Human Genetics of the University.

Prof. Brar also thanked Dr. Daljit Singh, Dr. Hardas Singh Sandhu and Bholla Singh Sidhu for sharing their experiences using this Fugo Blade. He also honoured all these dignitaries with memento and set of University publications.

On this occasion, Dr. Daljit Singh, who is using this Fugo blade for the surgery of cataract, glaucoma, squint and other eye ailments, showed videos of these surgeries to the audience. Dr. Hardas Singh Sandhu and Dr. Bholla Singh Sidhu also shared their unique experiences of surgeries using this Fugo blade.

43rd FOUNDATION DAY

“Today the need of hour is to make suitable changes in our education system to develop communication abilities and innovative skills in the students, instead of imparting only theoretical knowledge. Education institutes are the highest hopes for any nation to fulfill the social and economical commitments. So, need based changed to be done keeping in view the requirements of the society.”

These views were expressed by Prof. Dev Parkash Agrawal, Chairman, Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi, while delivering his lecture at the 43rd Foundation Day celebrations of the University at the Guru Nanak Bhawan.

Prof. J.S. Grewal, Former Vice-Chancellor of the University and Prof. Jaspal Kaur Singh, Professor English, Northern Michigan University, U.S.A. also presented their views on this occasion. Professor A.S. Brar, Vice-Chancellor welcomed the guests. Dr. Inderjit Singh, Registrar introduced the eminent speakers. Many academicians and eminent personalities of the city participated in these celebrations. Dr. Rajinderjit Kaur Pawar, Dean, Academic Affairs of the University propose vote of thanks.

Prof. Agrawal said that our education system should produce such professional which are creative enough to help further propagate the art of innovative thinking, rather just following the theoretical examination system which encouraged the students for cramming. He said that teachers needed to imagine the shape and future of world so that exact future requirement could be analyzed. He said that the curricula should be made so that the students and society is comfortable and redefined its main aims and objectives clearly.

He said that though our Governments did great efforts for the upliftment of higher education but the still many challenges are there which needed dire attention. He said that biggest challenge is to encourage children to get education and the starting of need based courses to fulfill the requirements of the society. He said that dropout is another issue which needed attention. He said that 60 to 75 percent students are enrolled for primary education but 40-50 percent reached for higher education.

He said that the quality research should be encouraged keeping in view the benefits of society. He said that in changing scenario, anything done by any university should be globally known so that everyone could be benefited. He said that student-teacher relation should be strengthen and a teacher should be a teacher in true sense to create harmonious atmosphere for education. He said that our higher education system should also develop the qualities of leadership among our youths.

While talking about the rate of growth, Prof. Agrawal said that we still have much population below poverty line which clears that only few percentage of population is receiving quality education and life-style as

quality education is available most of the private schools only. He said that though there is right to education at primary level in our constitution but least people are aware of this.

He said that as Sri Guru Angad Dev ji said that if you are a true Sikh then you are life long learner so keeping learning. He said that if you have desire to learn till as you wish. He pledged to adopt the teaching of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji to get rid from materialistic sufferings. He said that self-confidence with determination, strong will and traditional values must go together among youths for the betterment.

Prof. Grewal in his lecture detailed the process by which Guru Nanak Dev ji entered into history. He started by sharing his ideas that Guru Nanak Dev ji most significant contribution is the creation of new ideology, new egalitarian institutions and in the larger context the establishment of community of followers. He said that this comes to known as the *Sikh Panth*.

He said that Guru ji must be understood and placed in history in this context only. He gave a detailed outline of Guru Nanak Dev ji's views on contemporary religious, social and political institution. He said that religion, society and state are inter-related. He said that the message of Guru Nanak Dev Ji is extraordinary. He contradicted many social evils and exhorted the masses to adopt goodness of all traditions prevailing in the other religions. He said that truth and mercy are his main teachings. He said that it is essential to know truth first, but it is more essential to live with truth.

Dr. Jaspal Kaur Singh while delivering her lecture on memory of violence and trauma in literature and culture: construction and representation of Sikh identity within India and the Diaspora said that for any community, but particularly a minority community, to heal from the trauma inflicted upon it by state-sanctioned violence and for survivors to work through individual and communal suffering, dialogue is imperative. She said that in order the genuine healing to occur leading to forgiveness, reconciliation, reconstruction and restorative justice, both victims and perpetrators within a nation-state must share testimonies and stories of violence and trauma.

She said that issues of Sikh identity as represented in literature is not a new phenomenon and has been around ever since Bhai Kahn Singh's 1897 book *Ham Hindu Nahin* which was 'written to promote one of the basic concerns of the Singh Sabha reformers'

She said that stories of pain and massacres must be to told and acknowledge in a public space, apologies and forgiveness must be given in a public space, and reconciliation, retribution, and transformation must be also worked out in a public arena. She said that only then will the old wounds and scars heal. Only then can real democratic ideals be said to be in place in India and within various communities of the nation.

Prof. A.S. Brar while welcoming the eminent speakers said that this university was established to commemorate the 500th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji on 24 November, 1969. It is envisaged in the Act of the University that it will 'make provision for the study and research on the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev and "it would promote Punjabi Studies", and "provide for research in Punjabi Language, Literature and Culture".

He said that our Guru Nanak Studies Department and School of Punjabi Studies are contributing for fulfillment of the objectives of the University. He said that establishment of Centre of Studies in Sri Guru Granth Sahib in 2011 in another milestone in this direction. He said that this Centre is engaged for conducting significant research on Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji.

Earlier, the day-long celebrations began with the *Bhog Sri Akhand Path* at the University Gurdwara Sahib followed by the Shabad Kirtan by Bhai Maninder Singh, Hazori Ragi, Sri Darbar Sahib and Ardas.

Prof. Agrawal also inaugurated an exhibition of rare books & manuscripts arranged at the Bhai Gurdas Library of the University while the Folklore Exhibition and Painting Exhibition was also organised by the colleges was inaugurated by Dr. Jaspal Singh Kaur.

A hockey match between women teams of Punjab University and Guru Nanak Dev University was also organised in the University hockey stadium. In addition to this *keertan darbar* was also organised in the evening in the Gurdwara sahib of the University. The campus buildings were also illuminated on this occasion.

Meanwhile in the folklore competitions, BBKDAV College For Women, Amritsar and Sri Guru Angad Dev College, Khadoor Sahib stood first. Guru Nanak Dev University College, Narot Jaimal Singh stood second and Mata Gujri memorial college, Balvanda remained third. This competitions Hans Raj Mahila Mahavidiala, Jalandhar and SSM College, Dinanagar were awarded with consolation prizes.

In another competition of painting Mr. Sunil Kapoor from APJ College of Fine Arts, Stood first while Ms. Rajni of BBKDAV College for Women, Amritsar remained second and Ms. Gurleen Kaur from Department of Electronics Technology of the University finished third.

38th ANNUAL CONVOCATION

The Governor of Punjab and Chancellor of the University, His Excellency Shivraj Vishwanath Patil while presiding over the 38th Annual Convocation of the University said that in the last two decades India has achieved tremendous economic progress. It is imperative that the material progress is accompanied by growth in spiritual and moral values. He said that the scene of higher education in India is changing rapidly. There is mounting pressure to create and develop world class educational institutions to ensure the growth of knowledge economy in India.

Governor Shivraj Vishwanath Patil awarded Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) degree upon Mr. N.R. Narayana Murthy, Chairman-Emeritus, Infosys Technologies Limited, Electronics City, Bangalore. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A.S. Brar welcomed the Chief Guest and other dignitaries while Dr. Rajinderjit Kaur Pawar, Dean, Academic Affairs presented vote of thanks on this occasion. Dr. Inderjit Singh, Registrar of the University presented the degrees and medal recipients students before the Vice-Chancellor for their facilitation. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Brar also condole the sad and sudden demise of S. Kartar Singh Duggal to whom the University was going to honour with Doctor of Literature (Honoris Causa) Degree in this Convocation.

More than 800 degrees and medals in various disciplines including Ph.Ds, M.Phil., MBA, M.Tech., MCA, LL.M., M.Lib., MBE., M.Com., M.Sc., M.A., B.Tech., B.Sc., BCA, LL.B., B.Lib. etc. were awarded at this Convocation. Governor of Punjab and Chancellor awarded the Post-Graduate degrees while the Vice-Chancellor conferred Under-Graduate degrees.

Governor said that any promise to create educational institutions of International standards cannot be fulfilled in the absence of an effective talent pool. He said that Our Universities will have to come forward to fulfil this requirement. We are moving in this direction albeit in a slow motion. He said that this University bears the name of great spiritual ambassador and founder of universal religion of Sikhism who preached and practiced three golden principles throughout his life, “do your duty, take God’s name and share your food”. It forms the basic of the concept of humanism and secularism. He said the message of the first Guru is all the more relevant in todays complex and materialistic world.

He said that the faculty and students of this Alamameter must propagate his teaching and motivate the people to give back to society and show correct path to our students to serve the needy people with commitment and dedication. In order to preserve our social, cultural and spiritual values along with the development of ideas for material process, Mr. Patil said he was sure that the University established in the name of the great Guru Nanak Dev Ji will play a leading role in addressing this direction. The center of studies in Sri Guru Granth Sahib can play a significant role in this context. With the grant of status of, ‘University with potential for excellence’ the University would contribute significantly towards the promotion of scientific research in a big way, he added.

Exhorting students to face the challenges of the outside world with a positive attitude. He said there are two sides of life one is positive while the other is negative. He said student should pay more attention towards positive attitude which will make their life more meaningful and happy. Mr. Patil said education is to acquainting ourselves about what is there in the world. He said education is to generate knowledge and not only to borrow knowledge. He said something must be come out from our inside. Parents and teachers should mould the mind of the youth, to understand the purpose of life. Unless we understand the meaning of life we cannot live happy life. Information alone from books is not sufficient. We have to go beyond that also, he added.

Mr. Patil said that our Universities have an enormous responsibility for building the Nation through the enrichment of higher education system and it is, therefore, imperative that there is an ideal integration of programmes of teaching, research, work experience and community development to enhance professional competence of our students to enable them to contribute to the Nation. He said that we must utilize all resources available at our disposal to explore and develop the potential of our students by stretching their abilities through innovative programmes. He appealed to the luminaries and members of academic councils to act as catalysts and to create new opportunities for our youth in different disciplines of education, research and developmental programmes.

Mr. Patil said our responsibilities have doubled in the present conditions. To keep pace with technological advancement and economic growth the universities need to expand the reach and depth of researches being conducted here. This requires rigorous initiation on the part of thinkers and scientists into new areas of research and to make the findings of such research a part of their curriculum. He said that the researches conducted in universities are of vital importance for the development of industry, and innovations and discoveries in University laboratories have to have significant implications for the survival of humanities.

The University has honoured Sh. N.R. Narayana Murthy. He is the true role model to be emulated for his contributions in the development of Information Technology; and for his courage and convictions, he added. Emphasizing upon developing holistic approach amongst youth, Mr. Patil said parents and teachers should mould the mind of the youth, to understand the purpose of life. Unless we understand meaning of life we cannot live happy life. Education devoid of values is detrimental to the health of the society in the long run. Values bring quality and meaning to life and give a person his identity and character.

He said the children imbibe values all the time from their parents, teachers and peers. It is, therefore all the more necessary, that we teach them the right values right from their childhood. What they learn at the younger age stays with them all through their lives. Hence importance should be given to imparting value-based spiritual education as well, he added. Congratulating students for having successfully completed their higher academics and receiving the degrees and medals today, Mr. Patil wished them great success in their long life.

While delivering his convocation address on 'Why we need Guru Nanak Dev's teachings Today more than ever' Mr. N.R. Narayana Murthy said that this University named after one of the finest spiritual leader, one who showed there is but one God, that caste and religion are barriers that should be overcome and that a path righteousness, action and hard work with compassion and concern for less fortunate is write way to lead life. He said that this country needs practicing his precepts and his teachings today more than ever. He said that never before in the last three hundred years did India attract the attention of the western world like she does today and Bollywood dance has become fashionable in the salons of many western countries. He said that there are all impressive achievements but at the same time there is another India where conditions are appalling. He said that we have the largest mass of poor, illiterate, sick and shelter less people in the world. He said that problems are much but need of hour is to solve these problems with our academia intellectuals.

He said that our young students have capacity to solve these problems because they are equipped with new ideas and confidence and the world has confidence for them also. He exhorted the degrees holders to make a resolve today that they will become the architects of creating new India and we, the elders, will be there on the side line and cheer their marathon. He said that we are optimistic that you will succeed if you follow the teachings of Gurus like Guru Nanak Dev ji and act according to *Vand Chhako*, *Kirat Karo* and *Naam Japo*. While advising the mantra of success to the students, he said conduct all discussion with courtesy and preserve the dignity of all discussions. Learn to listen to others without interrupting them, do not raise your voice and shout the other party down. Such discussions bring the best in every participant. Raise above the meaningless and long-winded arguments and get to action. Be the first one to act.

He said that in every action that involves others, be fair and follow the golden rule- do unto others what you want them to do unto you. He said that put the interest of the community ahead of your personal interest, and the nation's interest ahead of your community's. He also advised to be trust worthy through honest and fair words and actions. He said that the greatest possession of a human being is the trust he gets from his fellow beings. Lastly, he advised the students to be open, honest, fair and courteous to others since your greatest success is to bring smile onto the face of others around you.

In his welcome address, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ajaib Singh Brar lauded the achievements of the University. He said that during the forty three years after the foundation the University has strived hard to attain success in academics, research, sports and cultural activities. He said that the University at present is accredited with a CGPA of 3.5 out of 4 with "A" Grade, highest for any University by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council. Recently, the UGC have granted the status of "University with Potential for Excellence" to this University with the grant of Rs. 50 Crore. He said that the objectives of the foundation of this University as enshrined in Act are 'to make provision for the study and research on the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji'. This clause of the Act gives this University a distinct identity with clear objective. It is in line with this that the Department of Guru Nanak Studies was established and which has contributed significantly to meet the objective.

Moving ahead in this direction a new institute "Centre on Studies in Sri Guru Granth Sahib" has been established with a 47.5 Crore rupee grant from the Central government. The centre started its functioning from April 2011. He said that the University has adopted proactive approach to bring higher education within the reach of the rural poor. From the current academic session, the University has started two new regional campuses at village Sathiala in Amritsar district and village Fattu Dyinga (Sultanpur Lodhi) in Kapurthala district, and opened four more constituent colleges, one each in the districts of Amritsar (Verka), Tarn Taran (Chung), Gurdaspur (Narot Jaimal Singh) and Kapurthala (Mithra), with funding from the Government of Punjab. These colleges aim at providing higher education to the masses at much economical price than it is available elsewhere.

It gives me pleasure to share with you the information that beginning in July 2011 these colleges, with the best of the infra-structure, have admitted around one thousand students each in the very first session of their operation, he added.

He said that for the promotion and growth of Punjabi language the University Grants Commission has sanctioned a grant for the establishment of a Resource Centre for Comparative Literature in the School of Punjabi Studies. He said that in the field of Science and Technology our University is one of the leading institutions in North India. Our faculty members have bagged prestigious projects from apex bodies like the DST, CSIR, BARC and other organizations. He said that in pursuit of excellence and in response to new challenges the University has started new courses like M.Sc. Physics (Material Sciences) and M.Sc. (Polymer Sciences) from the current academic session.

These interdisciplinary courses are much in demand all over the world. In response to the increasing demand for admission to various courses in the University we have increased the intake of students in every course. To accommodate increased strength of students, old buildings have been expanded and new constructions including girls hostels have been undertaken by the University. He said that the University administration is conscious of the requirements of good health of its teachers and non-teaching employees and their families. This year we have brought about significant improvements in health infrastructure by adding an advanced X-ray machine, Hot Air Woven, DCA Vantage HBA IC analyzer and DEXA machine besides bringing improvements in the existing building. He said that in cultural activities too we are among the best Universities in India.

The University is the winner of North Zone Inter-University Cultural Championship continuously for nine years and the National Championship for seven years. Our University was the Runners up in the Inter University Youth Festivals for two years in 2009-10 and 2010-2011. He said that it is a matter of satisfaction that our on line admission process has yielded good results and higher courses of studies are easily accessible to a higher number of admission seekers from any part of India and abroad. He said that track record of employment of our students of technical and managerial courses has been highly satisfactory. Mr. Murthy thanked the University for honoring him with Doctor of Science Degree. He said he is happy to receive this award as this University is named after a great Saint, Guru Nanak Dev Ji. A Profile of the University, "University with Potential for Excellence" was also

released by Governor on this occasion. Vice-Chancellor also honoured Mr. Patil with set of University publications and memento.

Why we need Guru Nanak Dev's teachings today more than ever?

CONVOCATION ADDRESS

by

Narayana Murthy, Chairman Emeritus, Infosys Limited, Bangalore, India

Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Members of the Senate and other academic bodies of the university, faculty, staff, guests, students and graduating students, I am indeed honoured to be invited to participate in this joyous function and to become an alumnus of this wonderful citadel of learning. Thank you for your kindness, generosity and affection in awarding me the honorary degree. Congratulations to the graduating students and their families.

I am truly honoured by the kindness shown to me from this university named after one of the finest spiritual leaders of this country, one who showed there is but one God, that caste and religion are barriers that should be overcome, and that a path of righteousness, action and hard work with compassion and concern for the less fortunate is the right way to lead life. This country needs practising his precepts and his teachings today more than ever.

As I stand here, I feel a sense of exhilaration and pride in being a witness to an era when India has captured the imagination of most citizens in the world. Never before in the last three hundred years did India attract the attention of the western world like she does today, did India receive the respect of the world like she does today and never did the world expect more of India than it does today. Every leader in politics, business and academia I meet – I meet lots of them - expresses a sense of amazement, hope and confidence in India's ability to add significant value in debates and actions on global issues. This did not happen when I was your age. When I went to France in the early seventies with just eight Dollars in my pocket, I was full of trepidation and anxiety unlike the flocks of young men and women I meet on the flight to Frankfurt, New York, London, Sydney and Tokyo. These young people have confidence oozing in every gesture of theirs. Their demeanour conveys to the rest of the world that they can hold their own with the best in the world. They are confident about solving the problems of India and therefore, they are not apologetic and reticent to discuss our problems like I was in the seventies.

The country has made lots of progress. We are the second fastest growing economy in the world. Our software industry is much respected throughout the world. Our middle class is growing. The number of billionaires in India is the highest in Asia. Our cricketers have a much higher success rate today than in the past when we were the laughing stock of the cricketing world. Indian Premier League is attracting the best cricketers from all over the world. Bollywood dance has become fashionable in the salons of many western countries. These are all impressive achievements. There is much to be happy about.

At the same time, there is another India where conditions are appalling. We have the largest mass of poor, illiterate, sick and shelter-less people in the world. India is one of the three countries where polio has returned. We have the largest number of people afflicted by Tuberculosis. The Transparency International places us very low in clean public governance. A recent survey placed India 182 out of 183

countries surveyed in ease of doing business, thanks corruption and bureaucracy. Our schooling system was rated very low in a recent survey and was placed below most nations and just above Kirgizstan!

My young friends, you are lucky to have been given the destiny of solving these problems because you have the confidence and the world has confidence in you. I did not have the hope or confidence of doing it when I was your age. This is also the time to take quick decisions and consolidate on the gains we have made and make this success of India permanent. This is a rare window of opportunity given to your generation to realize the dreams and hopes of the founding fathers of this country. This opportunity to ensure that the poorest child in the remotest part of the country has decent access to education, healthcare, nutrition and shelter should not be missed because it is unlikely to come again.

Therefore, please make a resolve today that you will become the architects of creating a new India. We, the elders, will be there on the side lines and cheer your marathon. It is important that you ponder over this task and understand what is expected of you to solve these problems, the attributes you should possess to consolidate on the gains we have made in the last fifteen years, and the mind set you need to remove this inequality and injustice. Many Indians are sceptical whether India can indeed succeed in this task. I am optimistic that you will succeed if you follow the teachings of gurus like Guru Nanak and act according to *Vaṅḍ Chakkō, Kirat Karō and ate Naam Japo*. These wonderful exhortations are all about compassion, honesty, decency, doing well what we are expected to do, and chanting the praise of God through righteousness. Building on these three themes, let me describe what kind of personality you will have to develop to succeed in this task of architecting a new India.

First and first most, you have to become open-minded to accept new ideas and suggestions from others. The external world is full of wisdom and you can pick them up from discussions, readings and modern channels of communications. Let ideas flow into your mind from all directions. Many countries have performed much better than us and their lessons are available to you to absorb, adapt, adopt and practise. If you did, you will be the winner and India will be the winner. If you close your mind, you will be the loser and India will be the loser.

Second, judge each idea on its merits using data and facts. Keep your ego and biases away since meritocracy is what gives us the best outcome in any endeavour. Such merit oriented actions help you to perform better as team members since every team member is confident that his or her ideas will be accepted if they have merit. Demonstrate honesty and integrity of thought and philosophy no matter what side of the argument you are on. Do not oppose ideas just because you are not the one with power. Such a policy will therefore enthuse the best people to come to you with the best ideas. Such policies will create an environment of high productivity. That is why we have adopted the adage – *In God we trust, the rest bring data to the table* – in my company.

Conduct all discussions with courtesy and preserving the dignity of all discussions. This is what civility is all about. Learn to listen to others without interrupting them. Do not raise your voice and shout the other party down. Such discussions bring the best in every participant. That is why we, at Infosys, use the adage – *you can disagree with me as long as you are not disagreeable*. Unfortunately, such discussions have become rare in our parliament and legislatures.

The staple diet of this country is apathy. I do not know of any other nation that shuns action as we do. We see problems around us and behave as if they do not exist. We take years when other cultures take days. We revel in meaningless arguments. We believe that articulation is accomplishment. Please raise above meaningless and long-winded arguments and get to action. Speed of action is the most needed vitamin for every citizen to get better. In every transaction, act as if there is no tomorrow and

that the decision has to be taken today. Lead by example. Be the first one to act. In every action that involves others, be fair and follow the golden rule – *do unto others what you want them to do unto you*.

Put the interest of the community ahead of your personal interest, and the nation's interest ahead of your community's. We, Indians, are perfect at playing zero-sum games between the individual and the society. I can assure from my own experience at Infosys that putting the interest of the community in any decision will in fact be doubly rewarding to the individual in the medium term.

Be trustworthy through honest and fair words and actions. In the end the greatest possession of a human being is the trust he gets from his fellow beings. Be open, honest, fair and courteous to others since your greatest success is to bring smile onto the face of others around you. I have just articulated the teachings of the great Guru Nanak in my own words. These are his precepts and they have shown value over the last five hundred years. I am confident they will be the guiding path for you too. Enjoy life. Have fun.

Thank you.