

26th January, 2019 Republic Day Speech of Vice Chancellor

On the auspicious occasion of 70th Republic Day of the country and New Year, I wish to greet and congratulate all of you. This day gives us an opportunity where on one hand, we should take pride in remembering the traditions of the glorious past of our country and on the other hand make a promise and pledge to continue these traditions in the future. All of us are part of great institute Panjab University whose legacy we should be proud of.

It gives me immense pleasure to inform you that US News and World Report ranking 2019 announced Panjab University to be the best University in the country.

However, we must understand that staying on the Summit is probably more difficult than reaching there. All the stakeholders of the University be it students, teachers, staff and officers have to contribute to maintain the respect and honour that this University has achieved over decades. As Head of this family, I can assure you from my side that I am with each one of you in this mission. As the Vice Chancellor of this august University, I am committed for the welfare of each and every stakeholder. All of us here are for our students. In the hands of these students, lies the future of this University and the country. Our students have always been at the forefront in all the spheres and have always elevated the name of the University. We are proud of our students and their accomplishments. One of our NSS cadets Mr. Shyam is participating in the Republic Day Parade being held at New Delhi while we celebrate the day here. Ever since, I have taken the charge of the Vice Chancellor, I have established a direct communication with the students and I have tried to understand their problems. We are constantly and consistently working on improving our hostels for the last six months and a visible difference can be felt today. Our aim is to make the University Campus one of the most beautiful Campus of the country and for this all of us have to contribute wholeheartedly. I believe in having a direct dialogue with the teachers and the students. I am visiting individual departments to understand their strengths and weaknesses. With the departments, we are trying to identify their thrust areas so that they can be pushed forward. I am getting wholehearted support from all of you in this endeavour. Lot of departments have suggested new projects and we are trying to get new Chairs established and funded from various quarters.

Panjab University has always been known for contributing immensely to research which has been our strong hold. In order to work in this area and consolidate our position further not only at the national but also at the international level we have to work very hard. We have already started to work in this direction and are in the process of signing agreements with many Universities abroad. We are hopeful of positive results in times to come. Panjab University has a very strong alumni base. Lot of our alumni have reached the summit in their fields and have held the highest positions in their respective areas. One of our alumni Mr. Sunil Arora has recently been appointed as Chief Election Commissioner. We shall ensure that our alumni work with us hand in hand to take the University to greater heights.

We have already taken steps to implement the decision of the Central Government regarding reservation to the economically weaker section of the General Category in our University. We have requested the Central Govt. to provide us the necessary financial assistance for its implementation.

In the last 6 months, I have directly communicated with the UGC, Ministry of HRD along with different ministries of Central Government besides the Government of Punjab regarding financial crunch of the University. I am confident that our concerns will be addressed soon. I am happy to announce that that long pending demand regarding Ph.D increment of our young teachers has been resolved successfully.

MHRD has sanctioned a grant of Rs.5 Crore for a new Girls Hostel and Rs.7 Crore for faculty development under RUSA.

MHRD has also sanctioned a grant of Rs.6.63 Crore to the PU for setting up a Centre for Academic Leadership and Educational Management.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports under its Khelo India Talent Development Programme has recognized our University for swimming and our affiliated Dashmesh College for Shooting. From this college our alumni Ms. Avneet Kaur Sidhu has been awarded Arjun Award.

The list of the accomplishments that our students, teachers and staff have achieved is endless and if I try to mention all of them here it will take a lot of time. Each one of these accomplishment is important to us and I hope that these achievements shall inspire others also to work tirelessly. I wish to congratulate and thank the cadets,

children who have presented the cultural programme today, the security personnel of the University who have participated in the University and all of you who have joined us in these celebrations. We understand that the way forward is not easy, we all know that our University has gone through rough patches in the last few years, however I don't want to go into the details and reasons behind them. However, I want to assure you that I am conscious of each of your hardships and I can assure you that I will leave no stone unturned to address all of them.

Jai Hind