



BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY
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Press Release

BHU Gears up Towards Academic Excellence in the Era of Emerging Global Challenges

The globalized and knowledge based economy today demands quality trained professionals of international standards. The Banaras Hindu University has initiated various measures in pursuance of vision of our founder and also in consonance with various national educational reforms. These initiatives will have far reaching impact and will be instrumental towards achieving excellence in higher education. Salient recent developments are as follows:

- BHU ranks first among all Indian universities in terms of research publications in refereed journals. The publications received very high citations (over 10,000) leaving others far behind. (*Current Science*, Sept. 2009).
- The university has been shortlisted by UGC as “University with Potential for Excellence”; is expected to get an additional grant of Rs. 50 Crores.
- BHU has been sanctioned Rs. 23.89 Crores from DBT for the establishment of Interdisciplinary School of Life Sciences. This School will conduct advanced interdisciplinary research in the fields of Conservation Biology, Disease Biology, Functional Genomics, Microbial Ecology, Neurobiology, Reproduction Biology and Stress Biology.
- BHU has constituted Task Forces/ Committees to prepare a blueprint for administrative reforms, admission reforms, choice-based credit system and credit transfer, examination reforms, and fostering excellence in research.
- The university has already introduced the semester system at P.G. level and is committed to introduce the same at U.G. level in the remaining Faculties. The evaluation system is being made an ongoing and transparent process. The choice based credit system and credit transfer would make the U.G. and P.G. programmes more flexible and student friendly.
- The University is actively taking steps for ensuring increased use of ICT and e-governance into academic and administrative functioning.

- Many institutions of higher learning and universities from USA, Europe, Asia, and other parts of the world have shown keen interest in making collaboration with BHU in diverse fields. It reflects the growing interest BHU has evinced among them and provides opportunities for modernizing our programmes.

- Negotiations for international collaborations with about 16 institutions were initiated during the academic session 2009-10. MoUs with 12 International universities/institutions have been finalized.

During the last academic session 74 visitors from different countries visited the university to discuss future interactions and collaborations. It is worth mentioning that more than 500 students from 48 countries are currently enrolled in various courses of the university.

- The Honourable Chancellor, Dr. Karan Singh released the “BHU Policy on Environment and Sustainable Development” on 25th December, 2009.

- The Governor of Uttar Pradesh, His Excellency Shri B.L. Joshi, laid the foundation stone of the Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development on 30th December, 2009. At the inaugural function His Excellency declared that he would recommend the implementation of the Environmental Calendar (prepared by BHU) in all the universities of Uttar Pradesh.

- The “Lal Bahadur Shastri Chair for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development”, sanctioned by the UGC was established in the Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development.

- Efforts are on to have UNESCO Chair on Peace Education and Inter-cultural understanding. The proposal for the same is under active consideration of UNESCO.

- In addition to special allocation of Rs. 27.0 Crores from UGC for Rajiv Gandhi South Campus as one time grant under 11th plan allocation, an additional grant of Rs 100 Crores and regular plan funding for the South Campus is under active consideration of UGC.

- BHU generated about 96.40 crores through ad hoc projects during 2009.

- BHU fetches the highest grant (Rs. 845.02 Crores) among the central universities from UGC (Rs. 283.77 Crores under XI Plan Grant and Rs. 561.25 Crores for implementation of OBC reservation).

- BHU has been successfully implementing its XI plan and OBC reservation targets.

- The BHU is continuously making efforts and taking new steps towards improving the patient care facilities at its Sir Sunderlal Hospital, which is a tertiary care hospital catering the health needs of nearly 20 Crores population of adjoining areas. During the year 2009

this hospital had OPD attendance of 9,96,151 patients with indoor admissions of 45,161 patients.

- Recently, a proposal of Rs. 216 Crores for augmenting and upgrading the facilities of the Sir Sunderlal Hospital has been sent to the Government of India through the Hon'ble Chancellor.
- The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India launched its "Distinguished Lecture Series on Foreign Policy of India" from BHU.

Chairman