

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

## THE MOST PROGRESSIVE YEAR IN PU HISTORY

Punjab University witnessed 2019 as the most progressive year in its history with production of record 243 PhDs, improvement in varsity ranking, first position in natural sciences research in Pakistan, establishment of three new centers and much more. Policies of Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmad are based on merit, transparency, and good governance. These principles provided an enabling environment which fostered meaningful research and teamwork in university during 2019.

**1ST  
POSITION**  
IN NATURAL  
SCIENCES  
RESEARCH  
IN PAKISTAN

**39 TIME**  
IMPROVEMENT IN  
QS RANKING

**243 PHDS**  
PRODUCED FOR  
THE FIRST TIME IN  
PU HISTORY IN  
ONE YEAR



## Significant Rise in Global Ranking

**I**N QS World Universities Rankings, PU jumped up from 232nd to 193rd position, improving its rank 39 times from the previous year in Asian ranking of the universities. Also, Punjab University appeared in global rankings for the first time in the subjects of physics and astronomy including the areas of solid state physics, high energy physics; chemistry including biochemistry, physical/analytical/ organic/inorganic /applied chemistry; and agriculture & forestry. These departments were ranked within top 250 to 500 institutions of the world. While in Times Higher Education university ranking, Punjab University, for the first time, got third position in Pakistan besides getting its slot among top 800 to 1000 universities in the world.

In natural sciences, PU was ranked No. 1 in terms of research publications amongst all Pakistani universities by The Nature Publishing Group, a world-class publisher of high impact scientific and medical information in print and online founded in 1869. It is worth mentioning here that PU is a general category university but it has left many science universities behind in 2019 rankings. The overall research output of PU scientists in the subjects of Chemistry, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Earth and Environmental Sciences remained far higher than all other Pakistani science universities. ■



## Appointments



**D**ATA reveals that a total of 29 selection boards were held during the year with record appointments of 37 professors, 52 associate professors, 56 assistant professors and 33 lecturers. These appointments helped improve functioning of academic departments besides raising the level of satisfaction among teachers who were earnestly waiting for their promotions for many years. Non-teaching staff is an important arm of the university administration. In the wake of frequent demands from various administrative offices, a record number of 195 new staff was appointed besides giving due promotions to 193 other non-teaching staffers. After the lapse of decades, regular appointments were made on key posts of Registrar, Controller Examinations and Resident Officer 1. With this the practice of making temporary arrangements by giving additional charge to faculty members came to an end. The vice chancellor, implementing the vision of PU Chancellor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar, advertised these posts and made regular appointments on merit. It is pertinent to mention here that regular appointment of Resident Officer 1 was made for the first time in history. It also merits a mention here that the regular appointment of Pro-Vice Chancellor was made in 2019 after the lapse of almost 9 years. ■



## New Centres

**I**N 2019, Punjab University established three new teaching, training and research centres with the aim to contribute towards socio-economic development of the country as per the vision of the VC. In this regard, PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad chaired high level meetings to discuss the need to establish purposeful centres for development of country, economic growth and improvement in social sectors. Deans, heads of departments and professors participated in the meeting. The meetings approved establishment of Centre for Civility and Integrity Development (CCID) at the Department of Political Science; Centre for Social Development and Social Entrepreneurship (CSDSE) at the Department of Social Work; and Centre for Research on SDGs at the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies.

PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad emphasised that the role of the universities is to create new knowledge and serve the country as well as society. He says that in the developed countries, universities have an important role in socio-economic development and Pakistan's universities should also contribute in this regard. CCID has been established to develop skills, strengthen the character of students and produce citizens having better civic responsibility as high moral values among students are necessary to build a great nation. CSDSE will make efforts to promote economic growth and higher quality of life in the country. The aim of Centre for Research on SDGs is to conduct further research on indicators of SDGs by adopting interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches. ■

### PU ranked first in Natural Sciences Research!

The Nature Publishing Group, a world-class publisher of high impact scientific and medical information in print and online founded in 1869, has ranked **University of the Punjab number one in terms of research publications in the field of natural sciences** amongst all Pakistani universities.



## Activation of Statutory Bodies



**R**EGULAR meetings of all statutory bodies, various committees and forums are pivotal for smooth academic governance of a university. Prof Akhter's administration activated all relevant bodies and committees of the university for their optimum productivity. During 2019, two meetings of Senate, four meetings of Syndicate and 05 meetings of Academic Council were held for recommendations and approval of various academic and administrative matters. As many as 15 meetings of Advance Studies and Research Board were held which approved 461 PhD proposals while 85 Board of Studies meetings were also held to keep curriculum of academic programs up-to-date. ■



195 Non-Teaching Staff Appointed

193 Non-Teaching Staff Promoted

02 Senate Meetings

## Conferences



**P**U organised around three dozen national and international conferences on various issues in order to provide PU researchers a platform to acquire latest knowledge in their relevant fields. These conferences helped university faculty and students to develop their networking with international and national researchers. At the end of these conferences, guidelines and recommendations were sent to the relevant ministries and policymakers for socio-economic development of the country. ■

## Kashmir Cause



**B**EING the oldest and largest university of the country, Punjab University performed its national responsibility to highlight the issue of Article 370's revocation by India in sheer violation of the UN Resolutions. Following the directions of Prime Minister Imran Khan, PU organised series of protest demonstrations, seminars and conferences on Kashmir issue and highlighted Indian violation of international and bilateral agreements. Every Friday, all faculty members, employees and students under the leadership of Vice Chancellor took out Kashmir solidarity walk inside and outside the campus. In this regard, a mega event "PU National Conference on Kashmir Issue" was chaired by

Prime Minister Azad Jammu & Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider and was attended by leaders of all political parties, which gave the message of unity. This conference helped PU project the issue before international community as international media gave huge coverage to PU campaign for the rights of Kashmiris. The Vice Chancellor, for the first time in the history of any university in Pakistan, also established Human Rights Chair at the Institute of Communication Studies. ■



## Initiation of Special Quota for Children of Martyrs

**P**AYING tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for safeguarding the country and the nation, Prof Niaz Ahmad announced special admission quota for the families of the martyrs. According to the initiative taken by the VC, free education, free hostel accommodation and Rs 5,000 scholarship will be provided to the children of martyrs of Pakistan Army and Police. The VC has announced that two seats have been allocated at each department and around 225 children of martyrs will be admitted every year on this special quota. ■



## External Linkages



**L**INKAGE of PU with world's renowned institutions for knowledge sharing through research, faculty and students exchange is one of the important aspects of national and international collaboration. The university signed 16 important MoUs last year to enhance its external linkages.

According to an MoU, Punjab University-patented cotton transgenes will be used in 12 cotton-growing African countries including Sudan, Chad, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, Benin, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia. The varsity has signed an agreement with an African company for seed business and technical cooperation for using PU's Centre of Excellence in Molecular

Biology (CEMB)-patented transgenes for development, seed production and marketing of transgenic cotton hybrids/varieties.

Sudan's Aleenah Agricultural Services Ltd President Dr. Adil Ahmed Ali Ahmed Nuri said that PU technology would play an important role in the development of the cotton industry in African countries and 12 cotton-growing African countries were going to benefit from the technology developed by PU scientists. ■



461 Synopses Approved

85 Board of Studies Meetings

16 MoUs signed

## Spurring Women Empowerment

**F**OR the first time in the history of Punjab University, the administration

appointed female faculty members as heads of all the departments under the Faculty of Behavioral and Social Sciences on merit. As per the model of good governance implemented by PU Vice Chancellor, seniority and merit are being upheld in the appointments of heads of institutions. Due to this policy, in an apparently male-dominating academic institution, female professors are holding key positions in various departments/institutes/colleges of the university and especially in the Faculty of Behavioral and Social Sciences. Prof Dr Umbreen Javed is the Dean of the faculty while Prof Dr Noshina Saleem



has been appointed Director, Institute of Communication Studies, Prof Dr Iram Khalid has been appointed Chairperson, Department of Political Science, Dr Raana Malik has been appointed Chairperson, Department of Gender Studies, Dr Tahira Jabeen has been appointed Chairperson, Department of Social Work and Prof Dr Rubina Zakar has been appointed Director, Institute of Social and Cultural Studies. The university has also given many other important positions to female faculty members. Moreover, due to safe and good academic environment at PU, female students have outnumbered male students and now they are 51 percent of the student population on campus. ■

## Online Admissions

**T**HE university administration is using the latest technology to facilitate students and their parents during admission. A total of 176,862 online applications were processed for admission by the university's IT teams. Earlier, students had to face travel travails and various other inconveniences during admissions which led to wastage of their time and money, especially in case of those applicants who used to come from other cities, provinces and far-flung areas with their parents. PU has also improved its software to ensure quick access to international student applicants. ■



## Co-curricular Activities

**D**URING 2019 PU students won a total 182 trophies and individual prizes in all Pakistan inter-university competitions including 21 team trophies, 91 first prizes, 48 second prizes, and 22 third prizes. PU students also won Rs 826,000 cash prizes in these competitions. ■



## Sports Distinctions

**I**N HEC Inter-university Championship 2019, PU won 11 gold medals in hockey, volleyball, athletics, table tennis, badminton, skiing, judo, tennis, netball, squash and rifle-shooting. While in other competitions PU grabbed top positions in 29 games. ■







# 2019

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