

PUNJABI UNIVERSITY

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Established on April 30, 1962 in the erstwhile princely state of Patiala with the main objective of furthering the cause of Punjabi language, art and literature, Punjabi University has since evolved into the largest University in the state. Spread over 600 acres of land, its 500 teachers are imparting instruction and guidance to nearly 9,000 students in a multi-faceted, multi-pronged and multi-faculty environment comprising 65 Teaching and Research Departments on its Campus, five Regional Centres, six Neighbourhood Campuses and 166 Colleges affiliated to it. A mutually-stimulating qualitative and quantitative swing in the direction of overall improvement marks the dynamics and mechanics of Punjabi University. Its multi-dimensional expansion has not only been quick-paced but steady, sustained and seamless, with each front paving way for the other. It didn't come across any cul de sac with unstinted support ever-forthcoming from its committed and resolute faculty. "Unprecedented and unique landmarks", "Innovative and grandiose concepts", "Unimaginable reforms", "Setting new landmarks and records" could easily be attributed as some of the catchphrases describing its unabated progress. The University has achieved a couple of milestones during its move towards furthering the overall development of Punjabi. Having published a record number of over 3,000 titles in Punjabi covering a wide range of areas and establishing a special Punjabi Reference Library, it has taken upon itself the responsibility of catering to the linguistic and cultural needs of the overseas Punjabis. The Punjabi reference Library has been created to build up a strong collection on Punjab history, culture, language and literature. The rich collection of over 1, 00,000 documents, of which around 58,000 have been donated by noted littérateurs and historians, add to the proud privilege of the Punjabi University. It also contains all Punjabi newspapers, magazines, books, diaries and rare manuscripts pertaining to the 19th and 20thcenturies. More than 120 Punjabi newspapers and periodicals published anywhere in the world are available in this Library. The establishment of a Centre for Teaching of Punjabi as a Foreign Language (CTPFL) and an Advanced Centre for Technical Development of Punjabi Language, Literature and Culture (ACTDPLC) are the foremost instruments aimed at reaching out to the global community. While the CTPFL has already taught Punjabi to over 100 seekers from the USA, Canada, Russia, China and Singapore, the ACTDPLC has chipped in with providing a package for learning Gurmukhi/ Punjabi online, besides creating software for inter-script transfer between Gurmukhi and Shahmukhi. The Centre has now accomplished the unique distinction of launching the first of its kind a search engine in Punjabi.