Message by Vice Chancellor to the Faculty and Students

Dear Teachers and the Students,

The outbreak of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has been declared as a pandemic and the virus has now spread across many countries including India. The Punjabi University, Patiala is adhering to the advisories issued by Central and Punjab Government in order to control the above said situation. I am hopeful that the students and teachers are taking adequate precautions as to social distancing including washing of hands with soaps regularly and staying safely in their homes. The main goal of these actions is to flatten out the disease curve, so that our health system does not get overwhelmed and you stay safe during COVID-19 pandemic.

We at Punjabi University are passionate in supporting learning goals of the students and finding out the ways to connect to the students through e-learning mode which may be helpful to them during this unusual time. The Punjabi University has taken a lead in this direction and I would also like to share various e learning resources our coordinating team has put together to help you navigate during this crisis.

At this critical juncture, we should continue our curriculum delivery from homes. The technology enabled teaching and learning can play a pivotal role in this regard. This is the time to show our potential by continuing teaching- learning process through various ICT initiatives and e-resources. The University is regularly receiving UGC advisories and circulars from time to time to continue with the teaching-learning process through online mode. There are several ICT initiatives of MHRD, UGC and its Inter University Centres (IUCs), Information and Library Network (INFILIBNET), Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC) in the form of digital platforms which can be accessed by teachers, students and researchers in Universities and Colleges for broadening their horizon of learning and in ensuring continuity in teaching and learning. You may visit NMEICT website for finding various e-resources available in the form of e-Contents, MOOCs, e-learning Software and Applications. You can also access e-contents from various UGC ICT initiatives like CEC (for UG courses), e-pathshala (for PG courses), SWAYAM Online courses, UG/PG MOOCs, NPTEL (for Engineering Courses) and so on.

During this COVID 19 pandemic condition, to keep the students' and teachers' interaction intact and to continue with the studies Punjabi University Patiala has taken various Initiatives to impart education at this juncture in the University and Colleges through e-learning mode. Under the chairmanship of Dean Academic Affairs, e-learning Coordinating team has conducted capacity building sessions for the HODs and Incharge of different departments in the campus in order to impart education through e-

learning platform. During capacity building programs various e-learning initiatives were explained. Through these initiatives, faculty will be able to provide study material to their students and conduct online classes.

Going ahead further, University has set up an Open source e-Learning platform Moodle for University students and faculty. The teachers' and students' data was collected in the prescribed format so as to integrate it with the e- Learning Platform. Through Moodle, teachers can make announcements, share study material in the form of scanned notes, Power point presentation and PDF etc. They can give assignments to the students and collect assignments online, grade these assignments, conduct quizzes and so on. Easy steps to log into the Moodle were also highlighted and have been made available on the university website in order to impart education to students through e-learning mode. The office of Dean Academic Affairs has already shared these documents with all teachers and students through their departments. One helpline email Id and mobile numbers of coordinating team has also been shared. At Punjabi University official website also, complete information regarding ICT initiatives for e-Learning is available.

Teachers can interact with their students for delivering lectures through online mode using zoom app, freeconferencecall app, Whatsapp video/audio calling, Skype etc. Similarly, students can logon to the Moodle system and check various announcements, submit assignments and can appear in online exam and quiz etc.

I am delighted to know that many faculty members and students are reaping the benefits of online learning modules and e-resources. Again I humbly appeal to the faculty and students to have optimal utilization of these ICT Initiatives of e-learning to widen their knowledge base.

The e-learning platform will be a regular feature of University teaching system now onwards and we will make best efforts to bring improvements in the e learning platform through the regular feedback from various stakeholders.

I wish you all safe and healthy stay at home during COVID-19 pandemic crisis and advice you to utilize this time to the maximum possible extent for the benefit of students through ICT initiatives. As we grapple with the gigantic task, its scale and impact of COVID-19 pandemic, our academic community in the university will continue to support and learn from each other. I invite you to share your ideas and questions with the co-ordinating team and hope that e-learning platform serves the academic needs of students during this challenging time.

Best Wishes

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