**Vice Chancellor’s Address**

**On**

***Second Annual Colloquium on “Sharing Resources and the Best Practices for Quality Higher Education and Research”***

**(July 19, 2019)**

Revered Chief Guest of the Second Annual Colloquium, the Hon’ble Governor of Haryana, Shri. Satyadeo Narain Arya Ji; esteemed Special Guest of the Day, Shri Ram Bilas Sharma Ji, Education Minister, Haryana; respected Guests of Honour, Shri Vijay Singh Dahiya Ji; valued Vice Chancellors of participating universities, Deans & Directors of various organisations; media; ladies; and gentlemen,

At the outset, I welcome you all to the Second Annual Colloquium on **“Sharing the Resources & Best Practices for Quality Higher Education and Research”,** being organised by the University with a pious objective to **‘collaborate for quality’**. On this occasion, I express my hearty thanks to the Hon’ble Governor of Haryana for having accepted our request to preside over the colloquium. The gracious presence of the Hon’ble Governor shall certainly add to the impact of the event. Sir, we are immensely grateful to you for sparing your valuable time for this innovative initiative. I, on behalf of the Central University of Haryana fraternity, take this opportunity to welcome you from the core of my heart.

Prof. Ram Bilas Sharma, Education Minister, Haryana has always been supporting the cause of the University and his presence on this occasion is of great significance for all of us present here.

This event couldn’t have been organised without the participation of the Vice Chancellors and Directors of various Universities and higher education institutions located in the state of Haryana. I welcome you all to Central University of Haryana.

Here, I also welcome the dignitaries, guests and galaxy of academicians from various organisations who have always been instrumental in the success of collaborative academic ventures of the University.

Welcoming the august gathering, I find it my duty to share the concept of the Colloquium on **“Sharing the Resources & Best Practices for Quality Higher Education and Research”**. Initially, this idea was conceived and perceived with the objective to bring all the universities of the state at one platform to explore the possibilities of sharing the shareable physical and intellectual resources among the participating universities. To make a beginning, the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and School of Education of Central University of Haryana organised the first Vice Chancellors’ Colloquium on **“Sharing Resources for Quality Higher Education and Research”** in October, 2017, and the active participation and enthusiasm of sister organisations in the state of Haryana assured the success of the event. Deliberating the relevance of the concept, the participating universities generously declared the resources available for sharing, through their presentations, and agreed upon sharing the existing research facilities and academic resources.

Subsequently, our collaborative initiative to create a common network of resources was endorsed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in September 2018 when the ministry shared the vision of Government of India to establish an on-line national network listing all the scientific/technical/analytical/research equipment/facilities installed in academic and research organizations around the country. Through this campaign, the Ministry intends to provide easy access of research facilities to researchers and other legitimate users through online portal to bring down the cost of doing research across the country.

As a major breakthrough, Centre for Nano Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore established a National Web Portal called **Indian Science and Technology facilities Map (I-STEM)** with the goal to have all public-funded facilities listed on the portal so that users may know about them and seek access in a systematic and transparent manner. This Web Portal provides the gateway for users to locate the specific facility(ties) they need at an organisation which is closest to them. The portal provides the user an option to reserve a particular research facility for his/her use at a particular duration. Considering the relevance of the initiative, Ministry of Human Resource Development has now made it mandatory for all government-funded research institutions to list the available research facilities on the I-STEM Portal. It is also being planned to form a panel of Experts to help users make the most informed use of resources available through I-STEM. The participating research organisations and universities have the freedom to charge a fee from the academia, public institutions or industry to meet the incidental expenditures of resource sharing.

As a recent development, Draft National Education Policy-2019 lays emphasis on optimum utilisation of existing resources through the concept of integrated approach to education that facilitates sharing of resources among the different levels of institutions starting from foundational level to university level, and vocational institutions as mutually complementary units. The proposed policy underlines the importance of integrated approach in education where education institutions of various levels mutually support one another through sharing of academic resources, infrastructure, equipment and lab facilities.

The NEP-2019 also attempts to revive the tradition of liberal education as practiced in olden times at Nalanda and Takshila, where no discipline, institution or branch of knowledge can be considered as self-sufficient and sacrosanct. The recommendation of the drafting committee of National Education Policy to establish National Research Foundation with an aim to catalyse and energise research and innovation across all academic disciplines in higher education, is another significant milestone towards consolidating the efforts towards mapping and creating the pool of research facilities and infrastructure at national level. It will have four major divisions — sciences, technology, social sciences and arts and humanities to help in tapping the available research potential in different disciplines and in checking the duplication of efforts by the individuals and research organisations. In her Budget-2019 speech, the Hon’ble Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman shared her observations on the concept of National Research Foundation. She stated that—

“National Research Foundation will ensure that the overall research eco-system in the country is strengthened with focus on identified thrust areas relevant to our national priorities and towards basic science without duplication of effort and expenditure. We would work out a very progressive and research oriented structure for NRF.”

All these initiatives have created a general consensus among the academia to come forward to find appropriate ways and means for sharing of resources. At the same time, it is crucial for the higher education institutions to share the best practices so that we all learn from one another while pursuing the path of quality higher education. I believe that every institution cherishes a set of values, unique traits and best practices which add to its glory and prestige, and mutual sharing of such best practices surely orient us for desired changes at institutional level. It is the institutional ethos of a university that makes it progressive or regressive, therefore, the academic administrators are entrusted with the responsibility to remain tuned with the latest innovations and advancements in pedagogy, research and academics. The events like this colloquium provide us an opportune platform to understand, appreciate and share our best practices and pioneering initiatives.

Internalising the importance of sharing the resources and the best practices for quality higher education and research, the Central University of Haryana, under the visionary guidance of the Hon’ble Governor of Haryana, Shri Satyadeo Narain Arya Ji, has again undertaken this responsibility to host this colloquium with the active participation of fellow academic leaders of the state. As regards the relevance of the event, I am convinced that the deliberations among the academic leaders from the participating universities and institutions shall go a long way towards establishing the culture of sharing and caring. The success of the colloquium shall further set the trend for other institutions of higher learning in the country.

In the present Indian context, we have come to the realisation that research and innovations are the most crucial aspects for knowledge-intensive activities, and no institution can afford to provide all advanced research facilities in various areas of research and innovation. For example, our premier research organisations may have state-of- the-art research facilities and technology backup in specific focal areas but the same is not true in case of universities where the researches are carried out in all the disciplines, be it Sciences, Engineering, Humanities, Languages, Arts or Aesthetics. Firstly, I hope we all agree upon the fact that, with the limited financial resources available, it is not feasible and tenable for a University to develop hundred percent self-sufficiency in terms of research facilities. Secondly, it is also not prudent on the part of the universities to insist upon self-sufficiency because the attempt to confine the researchers to the campus shall adversely affect their researches.

Mutual sharing of the resources shall facilitate the researchers in many different ways. On the one hand, the process of resource sharing shall give them the opportunity to interact with their counterparts in other organisations, which will further enable them to assess and analyse the impact of their research in comparison to the similar researches carried out by other scholars. On the other hand, the researchers shall develop the habit of sharing not only the physical resources but also the research process for enhanced research outcomes. Moreover, the culture of sharing the resources shall ensure constructive exchange among the universities and research organisations and optimum utilisation of existing resources.

Similarly, the participating universities and organisations can think of a sustainable mechanism for the sharing of research database, e-learning resources/journals, open source software, laboratory equipment, consultancy and academic expertise. It will mutually benefit all the universities and research organisations and reduce the expenditure on creation of academic and research facilities. As an academic administrator, I have experienced that the optimum utilisation of existing research and academic infrastructure through access to the students and researchers shall also help in maintaining the health of the equipment because underused scientific equipment are more prone to become dysfunctional.

While developing the lab facilities and engineering workshops at Central University of Haryana, we have tried to avoid duplication of procurement of similar equipment by various departments so as to promote the culture of resource sharing among the departments. For example, the departments of Life Sciences, Chemical Sciences and Physical and Mathematical Sciences mutually share their scientific equipment, resources and expertise, and we have found this experiment to be very successful. Extending the idea of resource sharing, we have revised the curriculum of various academic programmes in such a way that there is always a scope of mutual sharing of faculty. It has also helped us in developing integrated and multidisciplinary approach in letter and spirit.

Remaining committed towards collaborative approach to learning, the Central University of Haryana conducts Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) programmes at regular intervals. These programmes are conducted in collaboration with the foreign experts from prestigious universities and organisations of the world to facilitate the participants to interact with the best of the experts in the world. In last three years, we have conducted twelve GIAN programmes with massive participation from various universities, and three more programmes have been scheduled to be organised by October 2019. Besides, the University promotes the culture of collaborative research initiatives and the faculty of the University is encouraged to maintain linkages with the researchers from prestigious international organisations.

With regard to shareable resources, the Central University of Haryana offers to host the ‘Resource Sharing Portal’ which will work like a database of equipment, research and laboratory facilities, consultancy services, print and digital resources available with the participating universities for the use by the students, researchers and faculty on nominal charges. Secondly, Central University of Haryana has developed modern facilities in the form of virtual classrooms to record and develop the e-contents for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) which we may share with the participating universities. We have also created state of the art laboratories for students and researchers which we may enlist on the resource sharing portal. Most importantly, the Centre for Innovation, Skill and Entrepreneurship Development (CISED) of the University has achieved significant milestones by developing innovative products, and the activities of the centre have been recognised at national level. The centre has now become the hub of innovative activities and it is all set to help other institutions to develop their innovative products. The faculty of the University has expertise in diverse areas of research which may be shared with other universities as the part of collaborative academic and research initiatives. Needless to mention, the University has now evolved as an emerging institution with a vision to impart inclusive quality education, and the presence of more than 40% students from the states other than Haryana testifies its commitment to excellence. I feel that we could overcome the constraints and realise our vision to emerge as a budding institution with the generous support of the established universities which have stood the test of time.

I am sure that all the academic leaders present here shall share with us the available resources and the unique and innovative practices being followed by them in their universities or organisations during their presentations. At the end of the day, this exercise shall surely make us feel richer and more resourceful. At this platform, I would like to reassure the Hon’ble Governor of Haryana that the Central University of Haryana shall always remain committed to the cause of promoting the culture of participatory and collaborative initiatives in academics and research, and we’ll happily join hands with the participating organisations to achieve the desired objectives of this event.

Once again, I extend my heartiest gratitude to the Hon’ble Governor of Haryana, Shri Satyadeo Narain Arya for his blissful presence in the event. Sir, your valuable presence in the colloquium speaks volumes of your concern for the quality higher education and research in the state. I also acknowledge the constant guidance and support of Shri Ram Bilas Sharma Ji, dignitaries and the participating academic leaders for their valuable contribution in the success of the event.

**Jai Hind!**