

Dr. Rajneesh Arora  
Vice-Chancellor  
Punjab Technical University



### **A Brief Introduction**

Dr. Rajneesh Arora – a name that resonates loudly amongst the realms of higher education in Northern India, has been a torch bearer for the advancement and modernization of higher education in Punjab for decades. Having carved a niche in diverse fields of research & innovation, education, literature, policy formulation and institution building, Dr. Arora is the leading light for many from the domains of academia and learning.

He was born on 17 January 1958 at Fazilka, Distt. Ferozepur, Punjab. Having done his secondary education from DAV School Amritsar, Dr. Arora graduated in Electrical Engineering in 1979 from IIT Delhi. 10 years later, again from IIT Delhi, he secured his Ph.D. degree by carrying out research work in the field of “Integrated Energy System” under the guidance of an internationally acclaimed expert on System Engineering.

Very early in his career, Dr. Arora had a brush with issues of social development as he started a voluntary organization, Vikas Bharti, at Bishunpur (125 kms from Ranchi) in 1982. Applying his scientific acumen, he explored various methods to address developmental issues using technology as change agent. Alongside, he was instrumental in successful implementation of many projects of Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Non –Conventional Energy Sources (MNES), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Council for Advancement of People Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). He dedicated 10 long years of his life, living amongst the poor and the deprived tribal’s, along with his family sacrificing the material.

Thereafter in 1987, he went to Technical University of Eindhoven (Netherland) on a Dutch Scholarship for advanced research.

Dr. Rajneesh Arora started his teaching career in the Department of Electronics at Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar in 1997. Having played a pivotal role in establishing the Department of Placement in 1998 and was appointed first Placement Officer of GNDU. As a result of his tireless efforts, he was successful in bringing many corporate of national and international reputation to GNDU Campus for placement of students. Under his dynamic leadership, the Placement Department played key role in securing “FIVE STAR STATUS” for GNDU by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Later on, he was appointed as Director (Placements) where he again proved his excellence by bringing in unprecedented number of employment opportunities in the form of placement offers for students of all the three campuses of the University (Amritsar, Jalandhar and Gurdaspur). In addition, he was also assigned the responsibilities of Dean (Alumni affairs), wherein he fervently exhorted the GNDU Alumni, with its presence across the globe, to contribute to the development of higher education imparted by the University.

Dr. Arora was nominated as a Member of National Standing Committee of Public Cooperation & Rural Technology and Chairman of Regional Committee, North Zone of CAPART (Council for People Action and Rural Technology) by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India New Delhi. He worked as the Principal, Amritsar College of Engineering & Technology from March 2008 to December 2008, and because of his efforts the B.Tech Programmes of this college were accredited by National Board of Accreditation (NBA).

Currently, Dr. Arora is serving as the Vice Chancellor of Punjab Technical University (PTU), Jalandhar. PTU is a State University with more than 394 affiliated Colleges providing Technical Education in streams of Engineering, Management and Pharmacy etc. At present, 2013 Learning Centers of PTU are providing professional education through Distance Learning all across the country & abroad as Bangladesh and Nepal, also.

Dr. Rajneesh Arora is also serving as Chairman/Member of various committees constituted by the UGC/AICTE. He is member of Board of Governance, IIT Delhi, Governing Council National Board of Accreditation(NBA) New Delhi, Board of Directors, Punjab State Council of Science & Technology (PSCST), Board of Governor National Institute of Technical Teacher Training & Research (NITTTR), Chandigarh; Board of Directors -Punjab School Education Board (PSEB), Mohali; Board of Directors, Punjab State Board of Technical Education and Industrial Training (PSBTEIT); Governing Body - Pushpa Gujral Science City (PGSC), Chandigarh and Board of Directors Punjab Health System Corporation (PHSC), Mohali. He is also a member of S. Swaran Singh Institute of Renewable Energy's Governing Body.

### Initiatives taken by PTU under his Worthy Leadership

Dr. Rajneesh Arora assumed the position of Vice Chancellor, Punjab Technical University, Jalandhar on 24 December 2008. Under his worthy guidance and able leadership, PTU has been ascending loftier heights with each passing day. He has ushered in many path breaking steps that have catapulted Punjab into an emerging hub of engineering and technical studies in the country. As Vice Chancellor Punjab Technical University, he is leading a team of learned academicians and capable administrators for propelling Punjab into a prosperous knowledge society through promotion of quality technical education.

It was for his efforts that Punjab Institutes of Technology (PIT) at Mansa, Nandgarh (Bathinda) emerged as the premier institutes devoted to different type of engineering studies in the hinterland of Malwa. PITs are the dream projects of the University, which are going to establish in all the three regions of the State Majha, Malwa & Doaba. These nine PIT's are being developed on the pattern of Indian Institute of Technology's (IITs). Institute has been envisioned to spearhead a new movement in technical education and project new ideas and innovations in science and technology capable of bringing a perceptible change in the lives of many deprived from the benefits of science and technology.

Punjab Technical University from this academic session has scrapped CET for admission into engineering courses. Now, the admission process will be carried out on the basis of AIEEE. This new policy will decrease mental, physical and financial burden which a student and his parents earlier used to bear because of the multiplicity of tests. It has become possible only because of Dr. Arora's Vision.

Adding another feather to his cap, Dr. Arora materialized the transformation of once defunct CAPARO School premises into PIT, Kapurthala, which will function as a premier centre for advanced studies in engineering and technology. This Institution has been started as the first academic wing of the University.

The University was suffering from shortage of staff. Moreover the staff already working there was fighting for their jobs to be converted on regular basis. In the year 2009-10, with the approval of PTU Board of Governors (BOG) and according to the guidelines of Punjab Government, University Grants Commission and AICTE, the University adopted well planned recruitment process. At present, more than 65 permanent officials are doing their best in their respective job profiles.

Extending the operational scope of PTU, Dr. Arora has brought together the medical and technical strata by signing a MoU with Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot and starting four courses on Health Management and Technology.

Pitching high with its slogan "Go Rural, Go Global", Punjab Technical University has signed bipartite agreement with IT institutions of Nepal and Bangladesh for IT and Applied Technology, courtesy the vision and efforts of Dr. Arora.

Bringing global exposure to indigenous students, Dr. Arora signed a MoU with Pennsylvania State University Harrisburg (USA). The B.Tech students of the university will now have a chance to work under the guidance and supervision of Professors of Penn state University, USA.

In his noble leadership, the corpus of the University touched new heights of the financial mountains. At present the figure of the University's Corpus is double from the past two years.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Rajneesh Arora initiated translation works under National Translation Mission and now the University is in process of developing translation software in cooperation with IIT Hyderabad and Punjabi University Patiala.

Integrating the concept of entrepreneurship with education, the first incubation centre of PTU was started at Gian Jyoti Institute of Management Technology, Mohali to impart training and assistance to youth to help them start their own business ventures.

Dr. Arora has taken an initiative in collaboration with CII and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry to arrange six month Industrial training for brilliant students of all engineering colleges affiliated to PTU.

For the first time in the history of State Technical Education, 5 colleges of PTU got selected for Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) grant. The selected colleges include 4 governments and 1 private college. Each selected college will receive a grant of Rs. 10 crores for development.

PTU organized many workshops in collaboration with National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR), Chandigarh, a two day National Conference in collaboration with CSIR India, DRDO (Defense R&D Organization, Ministry of Defense), DST a body of govt. of India. These workshops & conferences were aimed at faculty development of affiliated institutions by bringing forth advanced pedagogy, as well as to motivate the students and faculty for research work.

Keeping an eye on the need of proficiency in foreign languages in the era of globalization, PTU started courses in 7 foreign language courses at its Mohali campus viz. French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Italian.

With an equal emphasis on state language, the 9th Convocation of the University was conducted in Punjabi for the first time in the history of the University.

Other important initiatives taken by Dr. Rajneesh Arora as Vice Chancellor of the University include emergence of Textile Research Institute at Ludhiana and Food Research Institute at Barnala. He also initiated a drive by the name of Technical Education Quality Improvement Program (TEQIP) with collaboration of World Bank. Stressing on core human values, he pushed ahead with making the subject a compulsory one in all the PTU courses in collaboration with IIT Delhi, Kanpur and IIIT Hyderabad.

With a proclaimed commitment to serve more than 3,25,000 students in their technical expertise and employability, Dr. Arora has involved leading personalities from academia and industry in decision making and learning processes. PTU has taken a distinctive lead towards forging strong interface with the industry necessary for global perspective. In this regard, the university has entered into strategic collaborations with leading industries like Wipro-Mission10X, IBM, Microsoft and Oswal etc. This will enhance the employability of engineering graduates. More than 10000 students from PTU affiliated colleges have been placed in national & international companies like Infosys, Syntel, TCS, Wipro, HCL, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, Godrez and Gammon India etc at handsome salary packages.

The vision and efforts of Dr. Arora have enabled the University to secure the **e-India 2010 Award** for being the best ICT enabled University of the year and The Best Open and Distance Learning Initiative of the year.

Dr. Arora is adhering to various social developmental causes, with the advancement of which he started his career. He has been vigorously undertaking activities like blood donation camps, seminars on social problems, tree plantation campaigns, vocational training to local youth, health awareness camps and medical camps etc.