



BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY
Information and Public Relations Office
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Press Release-III

New Initiative: 4th Institute of BHU

“Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development”

Prof. DP Singh, Vice Chancellor Banaras Hindu University proposed to establish an Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development during his first press conference on 8th May, 2008. The proposal to establish the Institute during XI Five Year Plan has been approved by UGC, New Delhi. The UGC has also allocated Rs. Seven crores and Fifty lakhs (7.50 crores) for the establishment of this institute. Some of the important features of the proposed Institute are as follows:

- **Legacy of the Institute:** Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development, BHU will be the 4th Institute of the University, Institute of Technology (1971), Institute of Medical Sciences (1971) and Institute of Agricultural Sciences (1980) being the other three.
- **Sustainable Development:** Sustainable development is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". It requires active and knowledgeable citizens, and caring and informed decision makers, capable of making right choices about the complex and interrelated economic, social and environmental issues.
- **International Decade of Education 2005-2014:** The United Nations has declared 2005-2014 as the International decade of education for sustainable development and Banaras Hindu University will be fittingly celebrating this decade by establishing an Institute devoted to this cause.
- **Mission:** Mission of the Institute is to carry out teaching, research and extension relevant to India's sustainable development leading to a future that ends poverty and delivers and sustains efficient and equitable management of the country's natural resources.
- **Civic Challenges:** This institute will cover education *about* sustainable development (developing an awareness of what is involved) and education *for* sustainable development (using education as a tool to achieve sustainability). This educational effort will encourage changes in behaviour that will create a more sustainable future in terms of environmental integrity, economic viability, and a just society for the present and future generations.
- **Research and Development Challenges:** The institute will endeavor for a better understanding of critical scientific and social issues related to meeting global sustainable development goals through exacting research. BHU is taking the lead in developing the proposed Institute for teaching, research and outreach in the field of Environment and Sustainability Science. The Institute will provide a common platform where faculty from different departments of the University will be working in the interface areas leading to sustainable development and will be able to interact with each other and with outside experts, by sharing research results, experience, methods and strategies.
- **Interdisciplinary Educational Environment:** The Institute will contribute to interdisciplinary education and research in the areas of environment and sustainable development through coursework and Curriculum Development as key components, and by offering PhD, MSc., Diploma and Certificate Programmes in areas pertinent to Environment and Sustainable Development.
- **Main Priorities:** Five research priorities are: global change and atmospheric pollution, natural resource management, sustainable agriculture, alternate energy resources and socio-economic and legal dimensions of sustainable development.

Chairman