

Delhi University to be on Internet soon

Q. The year 1997 was the platinum jubilee year of the Delhi University, but surprisingly there were hardly any events or celebrations organised to mark the event. Why?

A. There are a number of reasons for the delay in celebrating the platinum jubilee year of the University of Delhi, the main problem being that of logistics. But a number of exciting events ranging from cultural activities to international seminars have been planned for the purpose. Moreover many colleges have organised their own events and given it a platinum flavour. For instance the chemistry department organised the national convention of chemistry as part of the jubilee celebrations.

Q. What are the major events which have been planned to celebrate the platinum jubilee celebrations?

A. The celebrations are at various levels. On the all University level. At this level we have a book monograph on the history of Delhi University containing certain sections of the social, historical and cultural experience of the Delhi University over 75 years. There is a section on the reminiscences of outstanding alumni and a photofeature on the landmarks

of Delhi University. There will also be a special award for which we have shortlisted around 12 names. For this we are awaiting the pleasure of the President of India to grace this special ceremony. We also plan to bring out a

FACE TOFACE



Dean , Alumni Affairs, Delhi University
Sydney R Rebeiro

platinum volume of all convocation addresses. This is being edited by Prof Harsh Tyagi of the English Department. A youth cultural fest will be organised by the culture council of the university along with DUSU.

Q. It will be exam time soon, so what kind of activities does the University plan to involve the teachers and the students?

A. We have asked the DUTA and the DURA (Delhi University Researchers Association) to organise an education workshop for the students as soon as possible. My personal suggestion is that a carnival organised by the DUKU (Delhi University Karamachari Union) must also be organised. There is also a suggestion that an international seminar be organised on the theme of higher education and value added services.

Q. You have been appointed the first ever Dean of Alumni Affairs. What are your duties?

A. My main duty is to reach out to the millions of alumni all over the world. For this purpose we have beamed a message on the internet to thousands of people and anyone interested in knowing about the activities of Delhi University can contact me on syd@du.ac.in. I am hoping to set up alumni chapters all over the world. We have excellent responses from Mumbai, Sydney, Dubai, London and New York and Chicago where there are a fair cluster of the alumni. We will set them up and guide them in organising events. I also plan to bring out a directory of DU Scholars for which we have already prepared the data base. My dream and vision is also to set up an alumni centre in the campus which would have a lounge called The Confluence. It will have a gift shop, a book shop and a cultural centre which will be sponsored by the alumni.

Q. Apart from the cultural activities, is something being planned to give DU a face-lift?

A. Some very aesthetically rewarding activities are being planned. The arts faculty is being renovated for the first time completely and it will soon bear a new look. There is also a major project on the restoration of the Vice Chancellor's Secretariat which was the Viceregal Lodge. The old Mountbatten ball room where the entire flooring has been eliminated will be converted into an international convention centre. The audio visual section of the Delhi University library has also been opened. A very exciting project is that the University of Delhi will soon be on the internet in the next couple of weeks. This website will have all information on Delhi University such as details on the courses, admission procedures etc.

Shruti Prakash