

Former student gives DU largest donation

New Delhi, October 30

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DELHI UNIVERSITY for years has provided quality education to countless pupils for a fraction of its value. While most reap its rewards without even a "thank you" note, there are those who once having made a place for themselves in their chosen spheres of excellence pay back.

Dr Ashit K Ganguly, one of the world's eminent scientists in the field of Organic Chemistry, is such a person.

On Friday, Dr Ganguly, who is now based in the US, returned to his alma mater and made a donation of \$84,000 (around Rs 44 lakh) to the university in the name of the Jean Ashit Ganguly Educational Fund.

This is the largest ever donation made by an individual to the university since its inception in May 1922.

Informing about this, the university's Dean Alumni Affairs, Mr Sydney R Rebeiro, said that the money donated by Dr Ganguly would be used for providing six fellowships and scholarships at the Dr B R Ambedkar Centre for Biomedical Research and the Department of Chemistry, Delhi University. Dr Ganguly's donation is the second major scholar donation from an alumnus in the past year. (HTC)

Cash crisis hits colleges

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, October 30

USING THE same yardstick for measuring the financial requirements of universities and colleges by the University Grants Commission (UGC) has cost the colleges in Delhi University dearly. The funding body has across the board limited finance to colleges and universities to roughly 60 per cent of their annual budgetary requirements. The rest is accounted for by heavy overheads on books, laboratory equipment, infrastructure and building maintenance, sundry bills etc. Therefore, though the 60 per cent is adequate for universities to pay off salaries to employees, in case of colleges, the salary bill accounts for over 90 per cent of the budget. According to a survey of colleges done by the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA), the UGC funded DU colleges were sent communications by the UGC to manage within a budget approximately 60 per cent of their total requirements due from the funding body. In the case of Sri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), while the UGC was supposed to give Rs 315 lakh, it has fixed a limit of Rs 175 lakh, in the case of Hindu it is Rs 263 lakh against Rs 536 lakh. For Hans Raj, the UGC is only giving Rs 379 lakh against Rs 819 lakh. Miranda House,

which is a 100 per cent UGC maintained college (against 95 per cent for other colleges) only Rs 359 lakh has been earmarked against a requirement of Rs 611 lakh. Therefore, the 55 morning and evening colleges funded by the UGC in DU are in such dire straits that they will not be able to pay salary of teachers and non-teaching staff in November.

In case of October itself, despite Diwali being round the corner, many colleges such as Shradhdhanand and Gargi, have not been able to pay the arrears - amounting to several thousand rupees in the case of each teacher. In Sharaddhanand, the college paid this month's take home salary to the teachers, but did not contribute the provident fund amount. Sources said that the college was making desperate efforts to arrange money for paying the collective income tax of the teachers and other staff of the authorities concerned within a week's time.

Sources said with the DU teachers' body and the Principals' Association registering a protest against this oversight by the UGC, it has been trying to mobilise additional funds to the tune of Rs 200 crores for meeting the planned and non-plan expenditure of all central and deemed universities.

However, it was said there has been no money coming from the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Teachers groups slams UGC's cash crisis claim

New Delhi, October 30

THE FEDERATION of Central Universities Teachers' Association (FEDCUTA) and the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) today countered the estimated financial implication of the implementation of promotion of senior Readers to Professor in colleges of central and deemed universities.

FEDCUTA President, Dr Kapil Kumar, said: "Almost 90 per cent of the Readers have already crossed the Rs 16,400 basic salary (minimum stipulated for Professors) and the Rs 100-crore figure is imaginary."

"The FEDCUTA is aware of the seriousness of the financial crisis and has held negotiations with the MHRD and the UGC. We have been assured that the necessary funds will be released soon."

Dr Kapil Kumar termed the effort to create the contrary impression by "a senior university official" as a "conspiracy of a microscopic faction (of the university system) who believe that academic excellence comes with hierarchy only."

"This is a totally outdated notion. There are many Lecturers in colleges who are on par with University professors in terms of academic excellence, if not better," he added. (HTC)