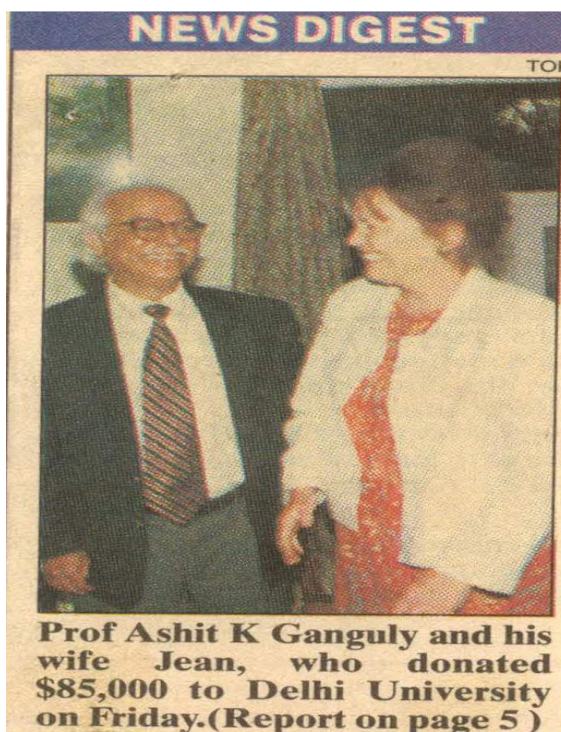


New Delhi, Saturday, October 30, 1999



## Former student donates \$85,000 to DU

By A Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: He did his chemistry from Delhi University in the 1950s and then went on to make a name for himself in the field of organic chemistry. On Friday, he repaid his debts to the university.

Ashit K Ganguly, a research professor in chemistry at New York's Stevens Institute of Technology, presented a cheque of \$ 85,000 to university vice-chancellor V R Mehta on Friday.

"I thought if I can do something to make a difference, I must simply go ahead and do it...hopefully it will change the life of some students," said professor Ganguly, who was accompanied by his wife Jean, after making the largest-ever single donation to the university.

Professor Ganguly is very clear that "every penny" of his donation should go to students only. "I have talked to the vice-chancellor to ensure this," he said.

Professor Mehta, in turn, said professor Ganguly had set the ball rolling. "This is just the beginning," he added.

Dean alumni affairs Sydney R Rebeiro said that the university hopes to attract more funds from alumni spread all over the world.

Through the donated money, the Jean Ashit Ganguly Educational Fund will give scholarships to six students (two Ph.D and four M.Sc)

from DU's Ambedkar Institute of Biomedical Sciences and department of chemistry every year.

Professor Ganguly, who has published 151 papers and is an inventor of 75 patents, remembers his time at DU with nostalgia.

In particular, he reminisces about his "legendary" chemistry professor, T R Seshadri, with affection.

Under Seshadri's tutelage in DU, professor Ganguly received the 1851 Exhibition Scholarship of the Royal Commission of Great Britain, awarded to only one science student from India, to study in London in 1959.

After obtaining his second Ph.D in 1961, professor Ganguly returned to India before immigrating to the United States in 1967. He then went on to direct all chemical research at the Schering-Plough Research Institute.

"I did not come from a rich family. My father was a government employee and I had six brothers and one sister. If I had not got the scholarship, I could not have gone abroad to study...it changed my life," said professor Ganguly.

Now, with the donated money, the professor hopes to change the life of some chemistry students in Delhi University. The wheel has come full circle.

## Former student gives DU largest donation

New Delhi, October 30

HT

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 Shradddhanand 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)

# With cheque, he returns to DU



Dr A.K. Ganguli waiting with his wife Jean before giving a cheque of 85,000 US Dollars to the Vice-Chancellor. *Newsline photo by RENUKA PURI*

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

IT rained money in the IITs after alumni — which included Big Givers Nandan Nilekani of Infosys and US-settled Vinod Gupta — paused to give a thought to their alma mater. Now it's Delhi University's turn. Renowned scientist Dr A.K. Ganguly, settled in the US, made out a cheque of 85,000 US Dollars (around Rs 38 lakh) and handed it over to Vice-Chancellor Prof V.R. Mehta today.

It is the largest-ever donation to the university.

The Jean Ashit Ganguly Educational Fund, named after the doctor's Briton wife, will sustain six fellowships in the B.R. Ambedkar Centre for Bio-Medical Sciences and the Department of Chemistry. According to the scheme, two research scholars will receive Rs 5,000

(fellowship) and Rs 1,500 (HRA) per month in the first year and Rs 5,600 and Rs 1,680 in the second year. They will also receive a yearly book allowance of Rs 5,000. Four post-graduate students will receive Rs 1,500 per month.

"When I first came up with the idea, everyone asked me one question: Why do you want to give away your hard-earned money? I have one answer to that," said Dr Ganguly. "When I was a research scholar at DU, I worried a lot about money. My father was a government employee. I had six brothers and a sister. I want students to concentrate on their research without bothering about finances."

Dr Ganguly was a BSc student in the early 1950s. "All the students came by bus to college then," remembers Dr Ganguly. "I used to board a DTC bus from my house in the Gole Market area. There

weren't many private cars then. There were few students and fewer teachers. We had perfect interaction with the faculty then."

Today, the scientist spent a few hours at the Chemistry Department, looking around the classrooms and laboratories. "The labs were better equipped in the 50s. Of course, the building's the same. A fresh coat of paint, perhaps."

Dr Ganguly joined the Schering Plough Research Institute at Kenilworth, New Jersey, USA in 1968 and rose to be the senior vice-president, chemical research department from where he retired in September this year. Holding 75 patents and having published 151 research papers, Dr Ganguly was recently appointed distinguished research professor of chemistry at Stevens Institute of Technology, New York, while continuing as consultant at Schering-Plough.

