

HUNDRED YEARS OF UNIVERSITY OF DELHI (1922-2022): A GLORIOUS JOURNEY FROM TAKE ON TO TAKE OFF

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ABSTRACT

University of Delhi entered into 100 years on 1st May 2022. The Opening ceremony of the centenary celebrations of Delhi University was graced by the His Excellency Vice-President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Education. This eparchial study traces the growth and development of University of Delhi since its inception (1922-2022). Paper linked the major development taken place during the Vice-Chancellors of University of Delhi the first Vice-Chancellor Dr. Hari Singh Gaur to the present Vice-Chancellor Prof. Yogesh Singh. This study is unique in nature and its presentations.

Keywords: Centenary Celebrations; 100 Years of DU Celebrations; Delhi University-History; Major Landmarks, Vice-Chancellors-Delhi University

1. MODEST BEGINNING

From around 1911 to 1912, there was growing dissatisfaction among British officials in London and Calcutta, both on educational and political grounds regarding the model of affiliating universities. In 1917, the Calcutta University Commission was appointed under the chairmanship of Sir Michael Sadler to study the situation. It submitted a comprehensive report two years later on the improvement of education from school to the university level. One of the major recommendations of the commission was the establishment of teaching and residential universities in India as Sadler and his colleagues were inspired by the Oxford University model. The universities set up after this at Patna, Dacca, Banaras, Aligarh, Lucknow, and Hyderabad followed the recommendation by the Sadler Commission.

The University of Delhi was established in 1922, as a unitary, teaching and residential University on the recommended lines by an Act of the Central legislature Assembly. Only four colleges existed then in Delhi and were affiliated with Panjab University, Lahore (established in 1882), namely - St. Stephen's College (1881), Hindu College (1899), Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women started in 1916, and Ramjas College founded in 1917. Except for the Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women, the other three got affiliated with the newly established University of Delhi.

Thus, the University had a modest beginning with three colleges and two faculties (Arts and Science) and about 750 students without any University professors or readers. At the time of its establishment, the University had no building of its own, and its administrative offices were housed in rented accommodations at Under Hill Road and the Old Secretariat.

The then Viceroy, Lord Reading became the first Chancellor and appointed Sir Hari Singh Gour, a distinguished barrister-at-law from Nagpur as the first Vice-Chancellor. Sir Muhammad Shafi, the education member, was nominated Pro-Chancellor; FJ Western of the Cambridge Mission, the Rector; Shri KC Roy of the Associated Press of India, the Treasurer; and GMD Sufi, the Registrar. It is important to mention here that the Vice-Chancellorship including other positions was honorary and part-time.

The Faculty of Law was established in 1924 as a result of a petition submitted by some leading citizens of Delhi in 1923. With that, the total number of faculties became three. Overall, there were about 18 faculty members at that time and teaching was conducted in the mornings. Mr. PNF Young of St. Stephen's was appointed the Dean of Arts Faculty and Mr. Khub Ram also from the same college of the Science Faculty. Mr. NV Thadani, Principal of Hindu College was appointed Proctor, and Khan Bahadur Muhammad Hussain the first Librarian.

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A provisional Executive Committee of twenty-one members was appointed by the then Governor-General as Chancellor. The body met frequently in May and June 1922 and completed the temporary organisation of the University. An Academic Council, Admission Committee, and Finance Committee were formed in June 1922. The three existing colleges of Delhi were recognised as the colleges of the University and their teaching staff was accorded recognition as teachers of the University. Panjab University conducted the examination of Delhi University in 1923, however, Delhi University conducted examinations in arts and science for the first time in April 1924.

After Sir Hari Singh Gour (1922-1926), leading lawyers from Delhi served the University of Delhi as the Vice-Chancellors- Sir Moti Sagar (1926-30), Sir Khan Bahadur Abdur Rehman (1930-1934), and Rai Bahadur Ram Kishore (1934-1938). The first Convocation was held in the Legislative Assembly Hall (Old Secretariat) on 26th March 1923.

In his convocation address, the Chancellor emphasised that the "establishment of a university at the imperial capital formed an integral part of the scheme for the transfer of capital from Calcutta to Delhi. Further, he pointed out that Delhi was surrounded by a history of Kingdoms and Empires, if the environment has, indeed its alleged influence, Delhi University should produce scholars for around it is abundant signs of cloisters where the feet of other scholars in centuries have trod" (*Ref. Annual Report University of Delhi 1922-30*).

The Vice-Chancellor in his address said that it was not merely an accident that "the New Delhi was to be the imperial capital of a reformed and regenerate India, the centre and symbol of a regenerated nation rising and aspiring to self-expression and independence, a new University should be created which should serve as an inspiration to its new hopes, and as a signpost to its new-born aspirations."

2. MAJOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES

As stated in the beginning, the University of Delhi was originally intended to be a unitary, residential, and teaching university. However, the university as it developed was neither unitary nor residential. It functioned largely as a collection of associated colleges, loosely federated together. This structure, however, was soon to be abandoned in the light of the demand of the colleges, which predated the university, for their separate identities to be preserved. It is interesting to know that the university had no teaching except physics and chemistry, where there was no provision for Honours and PG teaching till 1942. The only subject in the Faculty of Arts where teaching was done by the University was Economics where a readership had been instituted out of an endowment by GD Birla who gave Rs. 6000 per annum for three years for this purpose. Mr HL Chablani was appointed as a Reader in Economics in 1924 but the post was abolished with his death ten years later. During his short tenure as Reader, Mr Chablani wrote a book entitled '*A study in Indian Currency*' which was much appreciated by the then leading economists and also found a place in the leading journals of economics. Another valuable work was published by Pandit Laxmi Dhar, the first Reader in Sanskrit who worked on his PhD thesis, '*Home of the Aryans*' which was published by the University of Delhi press in 1928-29. He also delivered a series of lectures at the University on '*Birthplace of Kalidas*' which were subsequently printed as University Publication Series No. 1.

The idea of a federal university had been discussed at some length by Lord Willingdon. In the address to delegates of the Third Quinquennial Universities Conference held in Delhi in March 1934, he emphasised that the emergence of the idea of a federal university was a logical step, 'not a fortuitous coincidence' only a federal university of a federal type could guide and coordinate the development of existing colleges (*Ref. Annual Report of Delhi University 1922-23*).

Hence, in November 1934 the Academic Council discussed this proposal in length and recommended it to the Executive Council for approval and adoption. After some modifications, the Executive Council in its meeting in March 1935 approved the federal structure of the University.

3. CHRONOLOGY OF VICE-CHANCELLORS AND THEIR MAJOR CONTRIBUTION

3.1 Sir Hari Singh Gour (1870-1949)

Dr. Hari Singh Gour, the first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, served from 1922-to 1926. He was a barrister, an educationist, and a social reformer par excellence.

Later from 1928-to 1936, he became the second Vice-Chancellor of the Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RTMNU), formerly Nagpur University, and the founder Vice-Chancellor of the University of Saugar in 1946. The University is currently known as Dr Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (A Central University). Additionally, he was also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and Deputy President of the Central Legislative Assembly of British India, an Indian Delegate to the Joint Parliamentary Committee, and a Member of the Indian Central Committee associated with the Royal Commission on the Indian Constitution. Interestingly, when the Faculty of Law came into existence in 1924, Dr. HS Gour, the then Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, also became the first Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University.

Major Milestones

- ❖ Faculty of Law was established.
- ❖ University Library was started with a collection of 1380 books, with Shri Khan Bahadur Muhammad Hussain as the first Librarian.
- ❖ The old Delhi College was revived as Anglo-Arabic Intermediate College in 1924, got affiliated with the University of Delhi in 1925 and became a constituent college of the University in 1929. It was renamed Zakir Hussain College in 1975 (during the Vice-chancellorship of Prof. RC Mehrotra) and is now known as Zakir Hussain Delhi College since 2012.
- ❖ The first convocation of the University of Delhi was held on March 26, 1923. Honorary degrees were conferred on Viceroy Lord Reading, the Vice-Chancellor HS Gour, and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Muhammad Shafi.
- ❖ In 1926, the University was allotted a portion of the Central Legislative Assembly building, which also housed a temporary secretariat (today's Delhi Vidhan Sabha) comprising the assembly hall and the adjacent rooms on a monthly rent of ₹350. (It was here that the Delhi University Act was passed on 28 February 1922)
- ❖ Dr. Hai Singh Gour as the first Vice-chancellor of the University must be credited for the survival of the University itself. The newly-founded University faced a threat to its existence immediately after its birth as in September 1922, a committee was constituted by the government that recommended dropping the establishment of the University due to financial conditions. Dr. Hari Singh Gour made all efforts for the continuation of the University and was eventually successful.

3.2 Rai Bahadur Dr. Moti Sagar (1873-1930)

He was the 2nd Vice-Chancellor of the University and served from 1926-to 1930. A landlord, a banker, a legal expert, and an academic administrator, he was born and brought in an affluent Jain family and graduated from Delhi and Lahore.

He joined the Delhi Bar around 1899 and rose to prominence in the legal profession in a short period. In 1914, he shifted to Lahore where he became a leading lawyer of his time and was appointed a Justice of the Punjab High Court. After a short period, he returned to his legal profession for bright prospects. He was made Rai Bahadur in 1923. The Faculty of Law, University of Delhi honoured him by conferring an honorary degree of LL.B. in 1928. The title of 'Sir' was conferred upon him in June 1930 before his premature death at Lahore in the same year. As a financial expert, he also started a banking firm 'Jodhraj Ram Narian' at Gwalior.

Major Milestones

- ❖ University appointed a Site Committee which recommended that the old Vice-regal Lodge and the state near the Ridge be given to the University.
- ❖ Commerce College with intermediate classes started, later it become a degree college in 1930,

now known as Shri Ram College of Commerce since 1951.

3.3 Dr. Khan Bahadur Sir Abdur Rehman (1882-1962)

Shri Abdur Rehman was the third Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi who served from 1930 to 1934. He was an alumnus of St. Stephens College (1916-1918) before being affiliated with the University of Delhi and also the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. He was an outstanding practising lawyer, a judge, and an academic administrator. He had a rare distinction that he was the Vice-Chancellor of two Universities (the University of Delhi and the University of Panjab, Lahore) and Judge of Madras High Court (India), a Judge of the first bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. He also served as a representative of India for the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP).

Major Milestones

- ❖ Lady Irwin College for Women came into existence in 1932. Initially, it was run under the aegis of the All-India Women's Education Fund Association. In 1950, it became a constituent college of the University of Delhi.
- ❖ The Vice-Regal Lodge was handed over to the University in 1933, which had started in a rented house from the Ritz Cinema building in 1922.

3.4 Dr. Rai Bahadur Ram Kishore

He was the 4th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi and served from 1934-to 1938. Like Shri Abdur Rehman, Dr Rai Bahadur Ram Kishore was also an alumnus of St. Stephens College (1919-1920) before it got affiliated with the University of Delhi. He was an eminent practising lawyer, an educationist, and an academic administrator. He was the member of the first governing body of Indraprastha College and founder and Vice-President of the Delhi Library Association along with Philp John Sargent, the then Education Secretary. In the fond memory of Rai Bahadur Dr Ram Kishore, his son senior advocate Brijbhan Kishore donated a sum of Rs. 75000/- to constitute 'Dr. Ram Kishore Memorial Scholarship for LLB Students of the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi.

Major Milestones

- ❖ During the tenure of Dr Ram Kishore (1934-38), the two-year undergraduate programme was converted to a three-year course. It had the approval from both the statutory bodies i.e., Academic Council (AC) and the Executive Council (EC). At the last stage, the University Court had turned it down due to major opposition.
- ❖ During the period, in 1934-35 the Academic Council of the University also considered and recommended a federal structure for the University but it could not be implemented.

3.5 Sir Maurice Gwyer (1878-1952)

Sir Maurice Gwyer was the fifth and the longest-serving Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi from 1938 to 1950. Technically, he is considered the architect of the University of Delhi as we know it today.

Major Milestones

- ❖ Sir Maurice Gwyer, the Chief Justice of New Federal Court, an eminent jurist and administrator, and a scholar of the Christ Church College was appointed the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi in 1938. The physical and academic condition of the University was not good. Mr Maurice, wanted quality to be a hallmark of the University, hence he had a vision that the University of Delhi developed a miniature Oxford type of institution with a cluster of small residential colleges on the campus around the core of the University. The main features of his scheme were, the establishment of a number of professorial chairs and readership, scholarships and other facilities for post-graduate study and young men of talent, three-degree courses, better library faculties, and transfer of all constituents' colleges to the University area. The visionary scheme as proposed by the then Vice-Chancellor was accepted by the government of India in principle. Hence, the first three-year degree course was started for the first time in India by

introducing a Bill in the legislature Assembly on 24th March 1943 to amend the University of Delhi Act.

- ❖ One of the most significant moves in 1943 was amendments made in the Act and Statutes- 'That provision for the appointment of a paid Vice-Chancellor and the salary, terms, and the method of his appointment; increasing the representation on the University Court, the Executive Council and Academic Council and another significant academic move was 'Professorial Chairs'. Dr. VKRV Rao was the first to be appointed as a full-time professor of Economics in July 1942.
- ❖ Sir Maurice Gwyer invited the most talented faculties to the University, and it will not be an aggregation that the faculties appointed during this period, later on, set the benchmark in education and research at the University of Delhi. Dr DS Kothari was appointed Professor in Physics; Dr S. Dutt Ex-Principal of Ramjas College the first Reader in English; Dr SN Ken, Keeper of the records of the Government of India and Mr I.H. Qureshi were appointed as Professors in History. Dr BN Ganguli was appointed Reader in Economics; Dr TN Seshadri in Physics and Dr P Maheshwari in Chemistry.
- ❖ St. Stephen's College was shifted to the University Campus in 1941.
- ❖ In 1943, women were admitted into the undergraduate courses for the first time in St. Stephen's College.
- ❖ One very significant scientific event was also organised at the University in 1944 i.e., the 31st Annual Conference of Indian Science Congress (ISC), which was inaugurated by Lord Wavell in St. Stephen's College Hall. It was the first meeting of the Royal Society of Science (UK) outside London at which Dr Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar and Dr H J Bhabha were admitted as Fellows of the Royal Society (FRS). Nationally and internationally acclaimed intellectuals such as EM Foster, Eve Curie Joliot, HJ Bhabha, and many others were invited to give lectures at the University.
- ❖ In 1946, the Department of Anthropology, Botany, Library Science, School of Social Work, Zoology was started. The faculties of Agriculture and Forestry, and of Technology began in 1947, and the Social Science in 1949.
- ❖ From 1945 to 1950, the famous University Hall (now known as Gwyer Hall), Jubilee Hall, Faculty of Arts Building, Miranda House (named after Gwyer's favourite Shakespearean character from *The Tempest*) and NCWEB for Women education, Delhi School of Social Works, and Teachers and Students' Union bodies DUTA and DUSU also came into existence. It is interesting to note that Sir Maurice Gwyer also helped in drafting the constitution of the DUTA along with Dr VKRV Rao as the Convenor of the sub-committee of the drafting committee of DUTA and Mr Samuel Mathai was elected as the first President of DUTA (*Ref. Annual Report Delhi University, 1954*).

The tenure of Sir Gwyer as the Vice-Chancellor of the University in a true sense is well known for the development of the University. His tenure ended with his resignation tendered on 11th April 1950 which was accepted by the then Chancellor on account of "In the budget session for 1950-51, the amount of grant voted by Parliament for Delhi University was much less than what University asked for, hence as a resentment, Sir Maurice tendered his resignation on 11th April 1950, though his term did not expire till December, he wrote a very comprehensive letter along with his resignation, worth to read (*Ref. University of Delhi: Platinum Jubilee (1922-1997)*)

A tribute was given to Sir Maurice after his resignation that 'on 19th April 1950, at a special meeting, the EC considered the Vice Chancellor's letter of resignation and on the motion of Principal Mr GN Singh, unanimously passed a resolution, recorded its appreciation of the services rendered by Sir Maurice for twelve years as Vice-Chancellor. It acknowledged that the University as it existed, was entirely his creation "It was due to his for-sighted planning, incessant labours, and unflagging zeal that this University had developed into a distinguished seat of learning. Every institution under the University bears the unmistakable impress of this personality" It resolved to name the University Hall as Gwyer Hall and Rajpur Quarters as Maurice Nagar. (*Ref: (Ref. University of Delhi: Platinum Jubilee (1922-1997, P41-42)*)

3.6 Dr. SN Sen (1890-1962)

Dr Surendra Nath Sen was the 6th Vice-Chancellor of the University and served from 1950-to 1953. An eminent historian, author, and academic administrator, prior to joining as Vice-Chancellor, for many years, Prof. Sen taught at the University of Calcutta. From 1939-to 1949 he worked in the Imperial Department of Documents, which later became the National Archives as Director. In 1949 he resigned from the National Archives and joined as a Professor at the University of Delhi. He was also the Member of the Committee of Courses and Studies in Anthropology, the University of Delhi in 1948. He was the author of *Eighteen Fifty-Seven*, which had its Forward written by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and published by the Publications Division, Government of India in 1987 and *Freedom Movement of India (1857-1947)*.

Major Milestones

- ❖ Prof. SN Sen became the first full-time salaried Vice-Chancellor.
- ❖ The University logo and the Dhyeya Vakya '*Nishtha, Dhritih and Satyam*' suggested by ML Dhar Kalla were adopted by the EC.
- ❖ Major Amendment to the Delhi University Act was made- (a) Finance Committee was now added as an Authority of the University, (b)The President of India, Chancellor under the old Act was now made the 'Visitor' (c) The Chancellor was to be elected by the University Court.
- ❖ Lady Harding Medical College founded in 1916 got affiliated with the University.
- ❖ Four Departments namely Home Science, Philosophy, Hindi, and Political Science were set up.
- ❖ Two Colleges namely SGTB Khalsa and Deshbandhu were established.
- ❖ Hindu and Ramjas College were shifted to the Campus.

3.7 Dr. G S Mahajani (1898-1984)

Dr. Ganesh Sakharam Mahajani was the seventh Vice-Chancellor and served from 1953-to 1957. A distinguished mathematician, author, and academic administrator, he earned a PhD from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. He taught for several years at Fergusson College in Pune, Maharashtra, and later served as the Principal of Fergusson College. Prof. Mahajani has the rare distinction to be the Vice-Chancellor of four prominent universities in India i.e., the University of Rajasthan (1947-1953), Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur (1963-1972), and University of Pune (1972-1975) including the University of Delhi. Prof. Mahajani apart from Mathematics wrote three important books titled '*Education and Democracy*', '*Delhi University: Its place among the Universities of India*' and '*India's Defence Problem*'

Major Milestones

- ❖ Two Colleges namely Kirori Mal and LSR were established.
- ❖ WUS Health Centre was established.
- ❖ Two departments namely Business Management and Industrial Administration and African Studies came into existence.
- ❖ Hindu College moved from Kashmiri Gate to the Campus.

3.8 Dr. VKRV Rao (1908-1991)

Dr. Vijayendra Kasturi Ranga Vardaraja Rao was the 8th Vice-Chancellor of the University and served from 1957-1960.

A proud alumnus of the University of Bombay, having done a BA and MA (Economics), he did BA from Cambridge and PhD in 1937 from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge on '*The National Income of British India, 1931-1932*'. Prof. Rao is best known for founding the three excellent social science research institutions in India namely the Delhi School of Economics (1949), Institute of Economic Growth (1952), and Institute for Social and Economic Change (1972). In addition to serving the University of Delhi as the first full-time professor of Economics; Director, Delhi School of Economics (1948-1957); and Vice-Chancellor (1957-1960), Dr Rao also served many prestigious positions in the government of India such as the Planning Adviser Food Department (1945-46); Food and Economic Adviser, Government of India at Washington (1946-47) Director, Institute of

Economic Growth, Delhi (1960-63); Member, Planning Commission (1963-66); Union Cabinet Minister for Transport and Shipping (1967-69); Union Cabinet Minister for Education & Youth Services (1969-71); Director, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore (1972-77); and National Professor, Government of India (1985-1990).

Major Milestones

- ❖ Ten Colleges namely PGDAV, PGDAV (Evening), Maulana Azad Medical College, Zakir Hussain (Evening), Deshbandhu (Evening), Janki Devi Memorial, Dyal Singh, Dyal Singh (Evening), ARSD, and Daulat Ram College (Initially known as Pramila College) were established.
- ❖ Five Departments, namely Buddhist Studies, Urdu, Sociology, Geography, and Music were established.
- ❖ Institute of Home Economic Growth was established.
- ❖ Gandhi Bhawan was established.
- ❖ Delhi University Music, Arts, and Drama Society was set up.
- ❖ Central Library Building was set up.
- ❖ Tutorial Building came into existence.

3.9 Dr. NK Sidhanta

Dr Nirmal Kumar Sidhanta was the 9th Vice-Chancellor of the University, who served for a short time (1960-to 1961). A renowned Bengali Indian scholar of English literature, author, critic, and academic administrator, he was known for his literary genius and close association with Rabindranath Tagore.

He taught as a lecturer for several years at the Scottish Church College at Calcutta, where he studied. Then he moved to the University of Lucknow, as a reader in 1921 and was elevated to a professor's post in five years. He was the first Indian to become the Head of the English and Modern European Language Department at the University of Lucknow. He also served as the Dean, the Faculty of Arts at the University of Lucknow. He was the Secretary of the Radhakrishnan Commission, the first Commission on education in independent India. Besides, he was also a member of the Union Public Service Commission. Prior to joining as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, Prof. Sidhanta also served as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta.

For his outstanding contributions to literature and education, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in 1959.

Major Milestones

- ❖ Delhi University Press was set-up
- ❖ One College and One Department i.e., the Institute of Home Economics and Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies came into existence.

3.10 Dr. CD Deshmukh (1896-1982)

Sir Chintaman Dwarakanath Deshmukh was the 10th Vice-Chancellor of the University and served from 1962-to 1967. A rank holder alumnus of Bombay University, Jesus College, and Cambridge, and topper of the ICS examination, he was the first Indian civil servant and the first Indian to be appointed as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (1943). He served as the Union Finance Minister (1950-1956), founding member of the Governing Body of NCAER (India's first independent economic policy institute established in 1956), UGC Chairman (1956-1961), President of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata from 1945-1964, honorary Chairman of the National Book Trust (1957-1960), and Chairman, Indian Institute of Public Administration. He also founded India International Centre (IIC) in 1959 and served as its lifetime President.

Dr Deshmukh is remembered by those people who worked with him at the University as a man of exceptional integrity and upward conduct. Mr KN Thusu, the then Controller of Examinations of the University, recalls how he stood up to pressure from a cabinet minister whose daughter had not obtained the minimum marks required for passing. The minister wanted her marks raised or relevant

statute amended so that despite failing in one subject, she could be declared as having passed. Dr Deshmukh refused to do either. Mr Kocher who worked as his P.A., recalls how when Nehru requested him for reserving some seats in the University for tribal students from the Sundarban area, Dr Deshmukh just wrote a brief reply to say that this was not possible. Shri Sardar Hukam Singh, the Speaker of Lok Sabha forwarded to him a letter from a friend who wanted his son's shortage of attendance to be condoned. Dr Deshmukh replied, "Nothing can be done in this matter". In another incidence, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, a member of the Rajya Sabha, inquired whether one Miss June Connolly from England could live free in one of the women's colleges and whether she could be employed in the Delhi School of Social Work. After consulting various authorities, Dr Deshmukh replied that he would not act against any order of the Ministry of Education. Dr Deshmukh was also the founder Chairman of the Indian International Centre and Mr Kocher recalls that he was extremely particular that the University car given to him should never be used when he was going to the IIC being its chairman and vice-versa (Ref.: *Delhi University, Platinum Jubilee (1922-1997, P53)*).

Being a botanist, he took an interest in the University Garden and created Mughal Garden, and brought new varieties of roses and other seasonal flowers to be planted there. He built a new Vice Chancellor's lodge cum bungalow in which he stayed only during the last year of his tenure. Another significant contribution as the Vice-Chancellor of the University was that Dr Deshmukh submitted a Bill to the Ministry of Education for the establishment of a second University in Delhi. The bill was introduced in the Parliament by the then Education Minister Mr M C Chagla and referred to the Select Committee in April/May 1964. But on 24th May 1964, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru died and it was decided to start a new university entirely different from the University of Delhi to reduce the pressure of enrolments on the University of Delhi, thus, Jawaharlal Nehru (JNU) was established. (Ref.: *Delhi University, Platinum Jubilee (1922-1997)*)

Major Milestones

- ❖ School of Correspondence (First in the country) was established.
- ❖ Fourteen Colleges namely Shivaji, Sri Venkateswara, Shyam Lal, Ram Lal Anand, Rajdhani, Moti Lal Nehru, Kamla Nehru, Lakshambai, Gargi, Kalindi, Maitreyi, Mata Sundari, Swami Shardhananad, and Shaheed Bhagat Singh were established.
- ❖ Three Medical Colleges namely G.B. Pant Hospital, Delhi Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research, and Nehru Homeopathic Medical College and Hospital were established.
- ❖ Three departments- Linguistics, Geology, and Commerce were started.
- ❖ Delhi University Women's Association (DUWA) was established.
- ❖ Vice-Chancellor's bungalow came into existence.
- ❖ VPCI Hostel, Department of Social Work Hostel and International Student's House

3.11 Prof. BN Ganguli (1902-1978)

He was the 11th Vice-Chancellor of the University and served from 1967-to 1969.

An eminent economist, academician, author, academic administrator, and orator, BN Ganguly taught economics at Hindu College in early 1949, later he became Professor of International Trade at Delhi School of Economics and Director, DSE. VKRV Rao, BN Ganguly, and KN Raj, the three full-time professors at the Delhi School of Economics helped draft India's first Five-Year Plan and all three went on to become Vice-Chancellors of the University of Delhi. Prof. Ganguli was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Sameeksha Trust and its chairman since 1973. He was a pioneer in the initiation of *The Economic Weekly*.

Major Milestones

- ❖ Two Colleges, Shyam Lal (Evening) and SPM College came into existence.
- ❖ Three Engineering Departments- Architecture and Planning, Civil Engineering, and Electrical Engineering were started.

3.12 Prof. KN Raj (1924-2010)

Prof. Kakkadan Nandanath Rajan, popularly known as K N Raj was the 12th Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University and similar to Dr. NK Sidhanta, he also served for a short time (1969-1970).

An academician, economist, planner, and alumnus of Madras Christian College, he was the founder of the Centre for Development Studies at Thiruvananthapuram. He joined the Planning Commission at the age of 26 and quit to become a Professor of Economics at the University of Delhi, which he nurtured, along with luminaries such as Amartya Sen, Jagdish Bhagwati, and Sukhmoy Chakravarty. Before becoming the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, he served as a Professor and Director at the Delhi School of Economics. He played an important role in India's planned development, drafting a section of India's first Five-Year Plan. He was also the advisor of several ministers from Jawaharlal Nehru to P.V. Narasimha Rao. Dr. Raj was a Keynesian economist and studied the application of Keynes' theories. He was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 2000

Major Milestones

- ❖ Vivekanand College came into existence.

3.13 Dr. Sarup Singh (1917-2003)

An academician, academic administrator, and politician, Dr Sarup Singh became the 13th Vice-Chancellor of the University Delhi and the first VC as an alumnus of the University of Delhi from 1971-to 1974. Prior to the Vice-Chancellorship of the University of Delhi, Dr Singh started his career as an English lecturer at Hindu College in 1940 and served until 1951. He was also the Vice-Principal and Principal at Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi. Later on, he joined active politics and was a member of the Rajya Sabha from Haryana (1978-1984) of the Lok Dal Party. He was later appointed the Governor of Gujarat and Kerala.

He is best known for creating the South Campus of the University of Delhi, in 1973 with its first Director, Prof. Amrik Singh. Originally located in six residential buildings in South Extension, it moved to the Benito Juarez Road, near Dhaula Kuan, in 1984. Many new professional courses such as Electronic Science, Genetics, and Biophysics were introduced on the South Campus.

Major Milestones

- ❖ Medical education was promoted and the University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS) was established with two new departments of Homeopathic Medicine and Pharmacy.
- ❖ Eight colleges namely Bharti Mahila (later became Bharati College), Satyawati, College of Vocational Studies, Sri Aurobindo, Satyawati (Evening), Shaheed Bhagat Singh (Evening), Ram Lal Anand (Evening), now known as Aryabhatta College since 2014-2015 and Shri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College (Evening) were started.
- ❖ Golden Jubilee Year of the University was celebrated.
- ❖ The Statute was amended to make the Hon'ble Vice-President of India as Ex-officio Chancellor of the University.

3.14 Prof. RC Mehrotra (1922-2004)

Prof. Ram Charan Mehrotra was the 14th Vice-Chancellor of the University and served from 1974 to 1979. He was an outstanding Indian analytical and organometallic chemist, academician, and scientist, who also served as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Allahabad. He was an elected fellow in almost all the science academies/societies of India and outside, such as the Indian National Science Academy, Indian Chemical Society, Chemical Society of London, Royal Institute of Chemistry, National Academy of Sciences, India, and Indian Academy of Sciences. He had a rare distinction of receiving several honoris causa doctorates from Indian universities such as Meerut University (1976), Kanpur University (1996), Jhansi University (2000), and Banaras Hindu University (2000). He also received the highest award in science and technology i.e., Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for Science and Technology.

Major Milestones

- ❖ Institute of Physically Handicapped (renamed Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Institute for

Physically Handicapped in 2002, and further Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (Divyangjan) in 2016).

- ❖ Adult and Continuing Education Cell was set up, upgraded as Centre for Adult, Continuing Education and Extension in 1982, and became a full-fledged department in 1985.
- ❖ A prominent institute in health education i.e., the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) was established and affiliated with the University of Delhi.
- ❖ Post-Graduate Men's Hostel was established.

3.15 Prof. Gurbakhsh Singh

He was the 15th Vice-Chancellor of the University and served for five years from 1980-to 1985.

Major Milestones

- ❖ Eight departments namely the Department of Electronics and Communication, Bio-Chemistry, Genetics, Microbiology, Applied Sciences & Humanities, Punjabi, Bio-Physics, and Computer Engineering were set up.
- ❖ Two colleges namely Sri Aurobindo (Evening) and Shri Guru Govind Singh College of Commerce were established.

3.16 Prof. Moonis Raza (1925-1994)

He was the 16th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, serving from 1985-to 1990. Prof. Moonis Raza was an outstanding academic administrator, author, regional planner, and geographer, privileged to have the legacy as the brother of Rahi Masoom Raza, a poet, novelist, and Hindi film lyricist and screenwriter. He also served at various important organisations in multiple capacities such as the Chairman, Indian Council of Social Science Research; Founder Chairman, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development; President, National Association of Geographers of India; Honorary Director, Centre of South Asian Studies; Founder Chairman and Rector, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Director, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA); President, Indian Council of Educational Planners and Administrators; and President, International Association for Ladakh Studies.

Major Milestones

- ❖ Four Colleges out of three specialised colleges namely Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies, Indira Gandhi Institute of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College were set up.
- ❖ Eight departments namely Punjabi, Electronic Science, Bio-Physics, Computer Engineering, GRS, Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian Studies, Plant Molecular Biology, and Instrumentation and Control Engineering were established.
- ❖ Centre for Professional Development in Higher Education popularly known as CPDHE (UGC-HRDC) was established.
- ❖ Women's Studies and Development Centre (WSDC), which has been recognised as an Advanced Centre of Study by the UGC in 2016.

3.17 Prof. Upendra Baxi (born in 1938)

He was the 17th Vice-Chancellor who served from 1990-to 1994. A scholar of par excellence in legal studies, an alumnus of the University of Gujarat, Bombay, and Barkley, Prof. Upendra Baxi was the Professor of law at Campus Law Centre, the University of Delhi for 23 years (1973-1996) before becoming the Vice-Chancellor. At a ripened age of more than 84 years, he is still associated as Research Professor of Law and Distinguished Scholar in Public Law and Jurisprudence at the Jindal Global Law School, OP Jindal Global University. Prof. Baxi also served as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of South Gujarat, Surat. For his outstanding contributions to education, especially legal studies, he was awarded the Padma Shri in 2011.

Major Milestones

- ❖ Seven Colleges namely Acharya Narendra Dev College, Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar College,

Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women, Bhagini Nivedita College, Ahilya Bai College of Nursing, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, and Maharaja Agrasen College were established.

- ❖ Dr. BR Ambedkar Centre for Biomedical Research (ACRB) was set up.
- ❖ Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Sciences (IHBAS) was established.
- ❖ Developing Countries Research Centre was set up and renamed Centre for Global Studies in 2021.
- ❖ The Department of Environmental Studies and Several Departments under the Faculty of Medicine were established.
- ❖ Three prominent hostels namely Mansarover, Meghdoot, and WUS University Hostel were set up

3.18 Prof. VR Mehta

Prof. Vrajendra Raj Mehta, a rank holder alumnus of the University of Delhi and doctorate from Cambridge (UK), a political thinker, and academic administrator, began his career as a lecturer of political science at the University of Delhi. He had the rare distinction to serve as Professor for more than 27 years. Prof. Mehta became the 18th Vice-Chancellor of University Delhi, serving from 1995 to 2000. Prior to joining as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, he was the first Vice-Chancellor of Kota Open University (1987-1990) and also the Vice-Chancellor of Jodhpur University (1991-1993).

Major Milestones

- ❖ Two Colleges namely Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences, and Maharishi Valmiki College of Education were established.
- ❖ D S Kothari Centre for Science, Ethics, and Education was set up.
- ❖ Institute of Informatics and Communication was established.
- ❖ Amar Jyoti Institute of Physiotherapy was established
- ❖ Two departments, namely Mechanical Engineering and Production and Industrial Engineering were set up.
- ❖ Four prominent hostels namely Sabarmati (PG for Men's), D.S. Kothari, V.K.R.V. Rao, and University Hostels for Women were established.

3.19 Prof. Deepak Nayyar (born in 1946)

He was the 19th Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University and served from 2000 to 2005.

An eminent economist, academic administrator and bureaucrat, Prof. Deepak Nayyar was an alumnus of St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi and Oxford University. Prior to joining as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, Prof. Nayyar served as a Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Chairperson of the Board of Governors at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) New Delhi. He also taught at the University of Oxford, the University of Sussex, the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIM-C), and the New School for Social Research, New York City.

Major Milestones

- ❖ Creation of the new aesthetic looks of Faculty of Arts, New Examination Block, Conference Centre, Iron Fencing of Vice-Chancellor Secretariat, Jawahar Garden in front of the VC Office, Creation of Utility Centres (ICICI Bank, Post Office, Reservation Counter, Food Court adjacent to the Central Library), Academic Research Centre (CPDHE & ILL Building), etc.
- ❖ The School of Rehabilitation Sciences was established.
- ❖ The Department of Physical Education and Sports Sciences was set up.
- ❖ Two prominent women hostels namely International Students House for Women and North Eastern Students House for Women were set up.

3.20 Prof. Deepak Pental (born in 1951)

He was the 20th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi and served from 2005 to 2010.

Prof. Pental is a distinguished teacher of Genetics, academic administrator, and alumnus of Panjab

University, Chandigarh. He did his BSc and MSc in Botany (1971-1973); PhD from Rutgers University, the USA in 1978; and Post-Doctoral Fellow (PDF) at the University of Nottingham (1978-1984). He started his career at TERI, New Delhi and in 1993, he joined the South Delhi Campus of the University of Delhi as a Professor of Genetics and later on became the Director, South Delhi Campus (2000-2005).

Major Milestones

- ❖ Creation of a new institute, namely the Institute of Life-Long Learning (ILL) - a happening place for teaching, learning, e-Learning and content creation.
- ❖ During the XIX Commonwealth Games held in Delhi in 2010, Delhi University was also identified as a venue for Commonwealth Games. Henceforth, a world-class multipurpose stadium was developed for Rugby Sport in place of the then-existing University Stadium.
- ❖ Two Special colleges, namely Durgabai Deshmukh College for Special Education (Visual Impairment), and Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences were founded.
- ❖ Two Hostels, namely Ambedkar-Ganguly Students House for Women and Aravali Hostel (PG for Men) were set up.
- ❖ The Department of Dental Sciences was established.

3.21 Prof. Dinesh Singh

He was the 21st Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University and served from 2010 to 2015.

Prof. Singh, is a distinguished academician, academic administrator, author and orator, who graduated from St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi. He was the third Vice-Chancellor as an alumnus of the University of Delhi and Padma Shree. Before joining as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, Prof. Singh also worked as a lecturer at St. Stephen's College from 1981 to 1986, thereafter he joined the Department of Mathematics, the University of Delhi in 1987. He served as the Director of the South Delhi Campus, the University of Delhi from 2005 to 2010. Currently, he is the Chancellor of KR Mangalam University, Gurugram.

Major Milestones

- ❖ Creation of Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC) offers B.Tech. in Humanities in five streams (Journalism, Education, Historical Tourism, Art & Design, and Counselling) through a Meta College Concept.
- ❖ Three Medical Colleges, were affiliated with DU namely Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalya, Holy Family College of Nursing and College of Nursing at Army Hospital (R&R).
- ❖ Antardhawani – An Academic cum cultural festival was started.
- ❖ Gyanodaya Express- a dedicated train with the assistance of the Indian Railways took students on three educational tours to provide first-hand experience of the diversity of the county.
- ❖ DU Started celebrating its Foundation Day.
- ❖ New state-of-art buildings for the Department of Chemistry; an integrated building of the Faculty of Law (Umang Bhawan); and an integrated building of the Faculty of Mathematical Sciences and Social Sciences along with a state-of-art Satyakaam Auditorium were constructed.
- ❖ FYUP (Four Year Undergraduate Programme), was introduced, which later on became a massive controversy and was rolled back after the intervention of the University Grants Commission on account of procedural lapses and policies.
- ❖ Two prominent hostels namely Rajiv Gandhi Hostel for Girls and Under Graduate Hostel for Girls.
- ❖ Set up the Multi-Million-Dollar Electropreneur Park in collaboration with the Software Technology Parks of India.

3.22 Prof. Yogesh Tyagi

He was the 22nd Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi and served from 2016-to 2020.

Prior to joining as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, he served as Dean of Faculty of Legal Studies at South Asian University and Law Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Major Milestones

- ❖ For the first time the University underwent NAAC accreditation and was accredited with A+ Grade.
- ❖ Two Medical Colleges, namely the All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and Florence Nightingale College of Nursing were affiliated with the University of Delhi.
- ❖ The University of Delhi was declared an 'Institute of Eminence (IoE)' by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- ❖ The tenure of Prof. Tyagi, particularly towards the end (2020), was full of uncertainty, unproductivity and trust deficit. Prof. Tyagi became the first Vice-Chancellor in the history of Delhi University who was sacked by the Government of India due to 'inaction' and damaging the 'image' of the University.

3.23 Prof. PC Joshi

The Officiating Vice-Chancellor whose action-oriented and problem-resolving spirit ended the prevailing administrative inactiveness of the University!

Prof. Puran Chand Joshi is a renowned professor of Anthropology, an academic administrator, the first President of the Society for Indian Medical Anthropology, founder of *Friends of Trees*, and a recipient of the Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra National Award. Prof. P C Joshi was appointed as the Pro-Vice-Chancellor by Prof. YK Tyagi in mid-2020. When the entire world was suffering from the deadly Coronavirus and fighting for survival, the entire teaching and non-teaching community of the University of Delhi was also fighting the administrative problems. In September 2020, there was administrative turmoil due to the unprecedented situations prevailing in the University and the illegally hijacked office of the PVC, Registrar, and the Director South Campus. Almost for a week, there was a complete breakdown of the University's functioning. Ultimately in the first week of October 2020, with the intervention of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, the problem was resolved with the termination of Prof. Yogesh Kumar Tyagi from the office of the Vice-Chancellor. The Ministry of Education assigned Prof. PC Joshi the additional responsibility as the Vice-Chancellor (Officiating) of the University of Delhi.

Major Milestones

The tenure of the officiating Vice-Chancellor, Prof. PC Joshi will be remembered for ending the non-activity of the administration, particularly the following:

- ❖ To eradicate the chronic disease of 'non-Promotions'- without any favouritism and discrimination, he made possible more than 5000 promotions in the most dignified manner through online/offline mode to teachers and non-teaching staff, working in different departments, centres and constituent colleges of the University.
- ❖ For the first time, promotion policies of Senior Professors (Level 15) in departments and Professors in colleges (Level-14) were introduced.
- ❖ Foundation stones for two new campuses, East Campus and West Campus were laid.

3.24 Prof. Yogesh Singh

As the 23rd Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, Prof. Yogesh Singh assumed charge on 8th October 2021. Prof. Singh is an internationally acclaimed computer scientist, software engineer, academician, academic administrator, author, orator, and a distinguished alumnus of the National Institute of Technology Kurukshetra, Haryana.

Prior to becoming the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, Prof. Singh served as the Vice-Chancellor of two prominent universities in India, i.e., Delhi Technological University (DTU), Delhi and the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (MSU), Gujarat. He also served as the Director of Netaji Subhash Institute of Technology-NSIT (now known as the Netaji Subhash University of Technology) and Dean, University School of Information Technology, Controller of Examinations and Director Students Welfare of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi. Prof. Singh was also the Chairman, Central Regional Committee, All India Council for Technical Education,

Bhopal (covering the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat) and a Member of the Governing Council of Association of Indian Universities.

Prof. Yogesh Singh currently is the Chairman of the Governing Board of the INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, an autonomous Inter-University Centre (IUC) of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi (Ministry of Education, Govt. of India), and a Member of the Governing Council, NAAC. Prof. Singh, after taking charge as the Vice-Chancellor of the University, in a short span of time, has charged the entire administration by infusing new energy and zoomed the momentum of developmental and administrative works, including appointments and promotions.

Major Milestones

Prof. Singh has taken up a few extremely important academic initiatives, in addition to exhibiting administrative efficiency, in the first few months of his Vice-Chancellorship:

- ❖ The University of Delhi has adopted the National Education Policy 2020 and decided to introduce a four-year Undergraduate Curriculum Framework with multiple exit options.
- ❖ Admission to the UG programmes will be based completely on an entrance examination called 'Common Universities Entrance Test (CUET), w.e.f the academic session 2022-23.
- ❖ The University has kick-started its year-long centenary celebrations, beginning with the magnificent Centenary Foundation Day Programme on the 1st May 2022.

4. THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Presently, the University comprises 91 Colleges, 16 Faculties, 86 Departments, 20 Centres and 3 Institutes. It offers 540 programmes, which include undergraduate, Masters, M.Phil., PhD, Certificate and Diploma programmes. In 2018-2019, the University has 1,93,380 undergraduate students; 26,925 postgraduate students including M.Phil./Ph.D. students; and 7046 in Certificate/Diploma/PG Diploma students on roll. Additionally, 3,89,132 students are enrolled in the distance education mode and 30,684 students under the Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board. Ever since its inception, a strong commitment to excellence in teaching, research and social outreach has made the University a role model for other universities in the country. With the aim of emerging as a world leader in education and research, the University is dedicated to offering a diversity of well-structured educational programmes taught by distinguished faculty; a wide range of co-curricular activities; and a productive and creative work ethos. The educational programmes of the University are widely acknowledged for their innovative teaching <<http://du.ac.in/uploads/24122019-DU-Brochure-2019.pdf>>

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