

# UoP fixes main building's roof

Ashish Jadhav

The Herculean task of restoration of the University of Pune's (UoP) main building - a heritage structure built by the Britishers in 1864 - is finally gaining momentum with the completion of the roof work before the monsoon season.

UoP officials said that the roof restoration work was delayed due to incessant rains last year. This led to seepage of rainwater, posing a major threat to the Grade-I heritage structure.

**DNA had last year reported on how priceless paintings of the British era housed in the Shivaji Hall of the university's main building were lying neglected and unsecured.**

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Speaking to DNA, executive engineer of UoP's estate department RV Patil said the roof restoration work was their top priority. The Structural Designers and Consultants, who were assigned with the restoration work, have done a good work, he said.

The consultancy had earlier carried out the conservation project of Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, formerly Victoria Terminus (VT) and a palace in Indore, following which it was awarded the contract of repair-



**NEW LOOK:** The repair and restoration work of the main building of the University of Pune is gaining momentum as the roof restoration work was completed recently; (inset) a British era painting among others was damaged due to sipping water from the roof.

ing and restoration of the heritage structure.

"With the roof restoration work complete, there is no threat of rainwater percolating into the thick walls of the structure," Patil said.

He pointed out that while undertaking the roof work many precautionary measures were taken. "Fortunately, the old wood material on the roof was in good condition. Despite this, we used waterproof plywood and smeared linseed oil on it to ensure not a single drop of

water percolates into the walls," he said, explaining that mastic asphalt cover was also spread as an additional protection against water percolating.

The roof restoration work started last year in October and continued till May-end.

Patil said the repair and restoration work of the main building is divided into three parts. The estimated cost of the roof work was Rs2.98 crore. However, as most of the old material was

VILAS AVACHAT. DNA

**RV Patil,**

executive engineer, UoP's estate department

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in good condition, the entire work could be completed in just Rs1.48 crore thereby saving Rs1.50 crore.

Patil said the second part of work includes the masonry work and almost 60% of the work has been completed. "To strengthen the thick walls of the heritage structure, shotcrete technique has been used," he said, adding that the old walls are supported by steel rods before plastering.

"Once the masonry work - estimated at Rs2.47 crore - is completed, the work of flooring including carpentry will be undertaken. The entire project is likely to be completed by December end," he said.

Acting vice-chancellor Arun Adsool, who inspected the restoration work on Monday, expressed satisfaction at the progress of work.

The restoration work of vice-chancellor's office at the main building is also nearing completion. Patil said the electricity and air-conditioning work is likely to start soon as the public works department (PWD) has given the nod. "The vice-chancellor's office is likely to be completed by September 15," Patil said.

Former vice-chancellor Narendra Jadhav had set a deadline of February 2009 for completion of the V-C office work, but later admitted the delay.

DNA

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## NEWS PAPER CLIPINGS

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# PhDs the highlight of convocation

## Varsity's Doctorate For Dead Student, 3 Foreigners, 3 Couples, A Soldier

Vaibhav Ganjpure | TNN

Ujjwal Kadode

Nagpur: She would have been on cloud nine to receive her doctorate of philosophy from none other than Maharashtra Governor and chancellor of state universities SC Jamir during the 96th convocation ceremony of Nagpur University on Saturday. Sadly, Jyotsna Milind Pande, who was awarded PhD in the arts faculty, will not be present to receive her coveted doctorate in front of renowned dignitaries including planning commission member Narendra Jadhav.

She left for the heavenly abode after a brief illness on April 18, 2007. Though she died before her viva-voice examination, university authorities considered her case a rare one and decided to award a PhD fully deserved by her.

This is not the only success story in Nagpur University's 96th convocation, where the chancellor will present the degrees for the first time in vice chancellor SN Pathan's tenure. Perhaps for the first time in the university's eight decade-old glorious past, over 330 students are going to get the coveted doctorate of philosophy (PhD) in a single convocation ceremony. As many as 332 PhDs will be conferred, with social sciences faculty leading the



charge with 84 students followed by science and arts faculties with 73 and 69 students respectively.

A student from the commerce faculty, G Shreedharan, was working with the Indian defence forces during the July 26 terrorists attacks in Mumbai last year. He will also be bestowed with a PhD on Saturday. The university waived his viva-voice examination as he was protecting the country against ultras.

Three foreigners will also collect their doctorate degrees in various fields. Frah-maha Queta (arts) and Frah-

maha Rukhsanam (social sciences) from Thailand, and Zehab Abdullah (arts) from Oman will be present at the convocation ceremony. Three couples will be getting their doctorates degrees together during the convocation.

Pathan and pro-VC GS Parasher, said that 57,072 students will be conferred degrees during the 96th convocation at Dr Vasant Rao Deshpande auditorium by the chancellor. During the last convocation, 50,536 degrees had been conferred.

This year, 171 students

### FACULTY-WISE DEGREES

FACULTY	PHD	PG	GRADUATE	TOTAL
Arts	69	2,594	14,247	16,910
Education	33	310	8,980	9,323
Commerce	26	2,618	6,236	8,880
Science	73	1,930	5,310	7,313
Social Science	84	5,290	690	6,064
Engineering	08	304	5,437	5,749
Law	12	118	1,160	1,290
Medicine	20	360	505	885
Home Science	04	105	470	579
Ayurved	03	61	NA	64
MPhT (Research)	NA	08	NA	08
ME (Research)	NA	04	NA	04
MThO (Research)	NA	03	NA	03
Total	332	13,705	43,035	57,072

### PHDS AWARDED IN LAST THREE YEARS

DATE	CONVOCAION	PHDS
April 4, 2007	93rd	174
Dec 29, 2007	94th	165
July 19, 2008	95th	137
July 25, 2009	96th	332

from various faculties will be honoured with 249 gold medals, 39 silver and 98 prizes. Ironically, the university is not awarding the prestigious Doctorate of Literature (DLitt) to anyone this year. Last year, Shrikrushana Kashkar was the sole recipient for his research on 'Dialogue with Pakistan'.

Law faculty students lead the charge with Neha Choubbe topping the tally with 14 medals and awards, followed by Sapna Tirpude with 13 medals and prizes. Pooja Pingale from the science faculty is on third position with 12 medals

and awards.

The VC further said that donors from a cross-section society have donated Rs 9 lakh to award gold medals, scholarships and sponsor literature series to the university. All these medals will be conferred beginning next year, many of these donations arrived late.

Regarding the controversy over gold medals, Pathan clarified that those will be certified from its makers for percentage of gold in the medals and students can lodge a police complaint if it is found below the prescribed mark.

## 'My report had slammed the government'

Ramu Bhagwat | TNN

**Nagpur:** Newly-appointed Planning Commission member Narendra Jadhav said here on Saturday that far from the impression created by the media, his report on the farmers' suicide issue and implementation of the relief measures has castigated the government. "It would not be true to say that my report was in favour of the government. Otherwise why would the state take three months to submit it to the court," the former vice-chancellor of Pune University asked.

Narendra Jadhav

"The fact that farm activists consistently campaigning against the state government policy are demanding that my recommendations be implemented makes it clear that it is not pro-government," said Jadhav. The state government had appointed Jadhav as a one-man commission to look into loopholes in the special relief packages for farmers especially in Vidarbha where suicides on farms continued despite all the relief measures. Submitted in July last year, the report is gathering dust in Mantralaya as the state has not taking action despite accepting recommendations he made.

### EXPERT PLAN

"My report had also pointed out that of the Rs 71,000 crore loan waiver, Vidarbha farmers had got a poor share of 20% though 95% of the farm suicides were reported from the region. On the other hand 54% of the beneficiaries were from the well-off western Maharashtra. While the state has accepted the report, Jadhav pointed out that it was the Centre which picked one of his findings on private moneylenders who were playing havoc with Vidarbha farmers' lives.

"While seeking complete change in the state farming policy to make cultivation much more sustainable, I had highlighted how a new breed of farm input or agro services dealers had doubled up as moneylenders and were charging usurious rates. The Centre has acted on this aspect and Union finance minister Pranab Mukherjee had mentioned that a task force was being set up to find out ways to rescue Vidarbha farmers from the non-institutional lenders.

Jadhav in an informal chat with some journalists expressed satisfaction that tasks allotted to him in the planning commission included subjects like education

Indian Express

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## NEWS PAPER CLIPINGS

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### **Need for equitable distribution of educational...**

*(Contd from page 1)*

the Planning process unfolds further. "Indian education system, particularly the higher education, is at the cross-roads presently. A time-bound focused formulation of specific strategies with the mantras of expansion, inclusion and excellence will certainly help unleash the productive potential of our people so as to facilitate the emergence of India as an economic superpower," he said.

Outlining the challenges in the 21st century with respect to higher education in India, Dr Jadhav said that for this, higher education should be discussed in terms of a number of dimensions – access, quality, affordability and employability. "India has a low gross enrollment ratio (GER) of around 11 per cent. The problem of low access to higher education is compounded further by multiple disparities such as rural-urban divide, gender gaps and social gaps. With such a low GER, there is a need to increase access to higher education, generally, with special focus on the disadvantaged and marginalised strata of the society," he suggested.

On the challenge for improvement in the quality of higher education, Dr Jadhav said that higher education in India lacks quality. "Curriculae of most courses in the universities are out of alignment. A large proportion of college teachers are unaware of the advancement in their own subjects. Moreover, around 25% of posts in the universities are still vacant and

some 57% teachers in the colleges do not have requisite qualifications. As such, two-third of the universities are given B or C grade by the National Assessment Accreditation Council (NAAC). Thus, there is a need for quality consciousness in the education sector," he stressed. On the issue of employability, Dr Jadhav said, "The rift between the societal needs and the kind of higher education currently being imparted is widening, raising a question over relevance of the education today. This calls for a need of University-Industry interaction." Dr Pathan, in his address, said that, "The University is a temple of learning. The society should

feel proud of it. Its glory should provide not only status but also an identity to the city in particular and the region in general where it is located." He pointed out, "Students are the focal point of the education system. The challenge before us today is to understand the forces of change that envelope us. Youths should be equipped to achieve success not just in their education and careers but also be able to lead a successful life."

Prof Moiz Mannan Haque, Assistant Professor, Datta Meghe Institute of Management Studies and Dr Vijaya Damle, Department of Psychology, Shrimati Binzani Mahila College conducted the function.

NEWS PAPER CLIPINGS

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## Need for equitable distribution of educational opportunities: Dr Jadhav

■ Staff Reporter

"MERE expansion of educational opportunities cannot bring about adequate economic progress unless these are equitably distributed throughout society. In a democratic country like India, all individuals must have equal claims of their rights. However, Indian society has been suffering from deep-rooted inequalities and differences based on culture, caste, creed, region, religion and social stratification," lamented Dr Narendra Jadhav, Member of Planning Commission.

Dr Jadhav was addressing the gathering during the 96th Convocation of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University at Dr Vasanttrao Deshpande Hall, Civil Lines, on Saturday. Governor of Maharashtra and Chancellor of State universities S C Jameer, Vice Chancellor Dr S N Pathan, Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Gauri Shankar Parasher, Registrar Subhash Belsare, Members of Management Council, Deans of all faculties were also seated on the dais.

Dr Jadhav said that due to this lack of partiality in educational opportunities, 'expansion,' 'excellence' and 'inclusion' have emerged as the fundamental tenets of the reform of higher education in the 11th Five Year Plan and would continue to remain so as

(Contd on page 2)



Dr Narendra Jadhav, Member of Planning Commission honouring Sapha Tarachand Tirpude, a recipient of 13 medals. Vice-Chancellor of RTM Nagpur university Dr S N Pathan and Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Gauri Shankar Parasher look on. (Pic by Satish Raut)

# Be the change to transform the world: Jadhav

## Only 11% Indians Have Access To Higher Education Observes Planning Commission Member

Vaibhav Ganjapure | TNN

**Nagpur:** Planning Commission member Narendra Jadhav has expressed serious concern over the disturbing fact that only 11% of population has access to higher education.

Addressing a jam-packed Dr Vasant Rao Deshpande hall as a chief guest during Nagpur University's 96th convocation on Saturday, the former vice-chancellor of Pune University called on the students to change this scenario by taking it as a challenge. Governor S C Jamir presided over the function as chancellor. Nagpur University vice-chancellor S N Pathan, pro-VC G S Parasher and heads of various departments were present.

"The proportion of Indian youth having access to higher education known as Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is dis-



Pics: Ranjit Deshmukh

**JUGGLING ACADEMICS AND MOTHERHOOD:** A PhD recipient tries to console her crying baby during the 96th convocation of Nagpur University at the Dr Vasant Rao Deshpande Hall on Saturday

mally low compared to other developing countries. In China and Brazil, the GER is between 20 and 24% while it is 83% in the United States," Jadhav said.

### NU 96TH CONVOCATION

Deliberating on the country's problem, the economist said the low GER was primarily due to multiple disparities like rural-urban divide coupled with gender, social and religious differences. "The GER for reserved category people is 6.3% while it is 6.84% for Muslims which is abysmally poor. "The first challenge is to increase access to higher education with special focus on disadvantaged and marginalised sections of the society and second is to improve education,"

he said.

Expressing concern over pitiable quality of education, Jadhav said India had probably the third largest higher education system in the world after the USA and China with 431 universities, 20,677 colleges, 5 lakh teachers and 116 lakh students.

"Sadly, only 140 were accredited by NAAC and of them only 31% received top grade while 69% were placed in lower grades. Among 20,676 colleges, only 3,492 which are just 17% were NAAC accredited. Among them only 9% found to be top grade institutions and 91% were either of B or C grades."

Stressing on the need to change this dismal scenario by bringing out reforms, the former VC spelled out do's and don'ts for achieving success in life. Citing great scientist Thomas Alva Edison, he

called on students to have an ambition in life with passion to excel in their respective fields. "A strong will power is needed for getting success. You need to change your attitude and get ready for hard work. There is no alternative for this and never will be."

Jadhav added that there was no such term such as 'time pass', and only lazy persons didn't get time. He also advised students not to force their ambitions on their wards. "Every child has a talent and parents should motivate them to nurture that," he said.

The economist asked the students to shed their old mentality if they want to change the world. "The world is changing fast, if you don't change yourself, you will be sidelined. Developing competitive efficiency is must which will come from changing your mentality," he said.