Prof. Yogesh Singh

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Delhi University

DTU Times caught up with Prof. Yogesh Singh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Delhi University, and former Vice Chancellor of Delhi Technological University ahead of the Convocation. Excerpts from the interview:

You recently assumed office as the Vice Chancellor of Delhi University. What has been the starkest difference you have observed between the students of DTU and DU?

Delhi Technological University is very different from Delhi University or M.S. University, Baroda. Firstly, the students here are a hundred percent focused on their studies and are very particular about their careers, which, in my opinion, is the crowning achievement of this university. Delhi University is very different; it is a multi-disciplinary university with colleges that cut across numerous domains and vocations. Like DTU, DU admits some extremely bright students across thousands of courses, but the culture in DU is extremely different. It is more vibrant, politically sensitive, and more empathetic, in general. The students of DU are more socially conscious and are extremely attached to the issues that concern society at large.

Under your tenure, DTU made great strides in the technical domain. Are there any plans to emulate that success in Delhi University and technologically empower it?

Yes, absolutely. For example, we are reviving the Faculty of Technology again, now that we don't have NSIT or DCE as a part of DU. Currently, we have a Faculty of Technology and we have the requisite departments, but we don't offer many courses in this field and the courses that are offered are very restrictive in nature. We have submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Education to start three undergraduate programs for Electronics and Communication Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, and Electrical Engineering. Each course will have an intake of 120 students. So, in the coming years, we hope to capitalise on this momentum and implement a full-fledged technical faculty in DU.

The National Education Policy endorses autonomy of institutions, even within Delhi University, which hosts a number of colleges under its umbrella. What are your thoughts on this?

Actually, the modus operandi of Delhi University is quite different, as the colleges are not affiliated institutions but are constituent colleges of the university. As per NEP also, they can continue as part of Delhi University, hence it's not much of an issue. But as per the Government of India, by 2035, every institution should become a degree-awarding institution. So, affiliated institutions will become degree-awarding institutions and will be capable of awarding degrees. The colleges of Delhi University are already integrated into the DU ecosystem and will, as such, be immune to these changes.

As you said, Delhi University is very different in terms of the scope of things, so how has that impacted your way of working? What changes have you made to accommodate the modified context?

As far as the administration is concerned, it's the same everywhere. The only difference is that DU has more students, more teachers and more issues. Additionally, DU, unlike DTU, is more student-centric, and socially aware.

Any message for the students of DTU?

The students of DTU are all-rounders, multipotentialites. Make sure you work for the welfare of our society. India requires proficient engineers, especially those who'll work for the betterment of the country, drive technological innovations and pioneer paradigm shifts. These innovations will drive the nation towards prosperity and place it at par with our western allies. My best wishes are with all of you.