

Vice-Chancellors' Diary

BARNABE SAPECO

VCs become CCs (Cool cats)

University Grants Commission (UGC) chairman Dr Arun Nigavekar shook a leg along with other vice-chancellors (VCs) during the river cruise at Panaji. The VCs let their hair down and their spirits up after two days of hectic deliberations on education and technology at the vice-chancellors' meet hosted by the Sakal group of Papers.

The VCs enjoyed the hour-long launch cruises with live cultural programme on Royal Cruises. Most dressed down for the occasion. The suits were off and the floral shirts on.

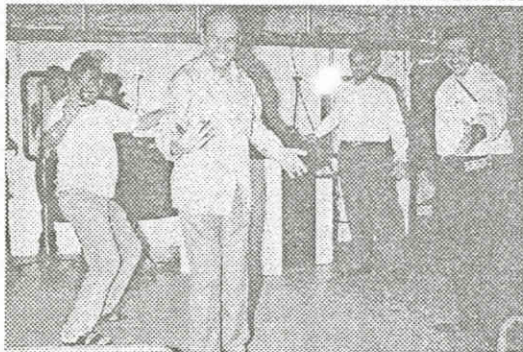
Brazil, here we come..

The next time you visit a fun-n-frolic carnival in Brazil, don't be surprised if you find a couple of Indian dishes - a la Roshogulla - decorated Brazilian-style. Prof A N Basu, the VC of Jadavpur University in Kolkata pleasantly surprised everyone, when he told the VCs' gathering that Jadavpur University is opening its campus in Brazil for food technology and info-tech courses. While talking about the Brazil plans, Prof Basu suggested that the research projects should start from undergraduate level, which will not only improve the academic standard of the Indian courses, but also facilitate fresh innovation.

Nothing Fishy About It!

The menu at the venue underwent some impromptu alterations, as the first two days of the conference confirmed the popularity of South-Indian veg dishes over other cuisine. As most of the delegates were vegetarian, only few VCs opted to gorge on delicious Goan seafood.

The spicy Punjabi variety and a variation of potato with pomegranate seeds seemed to be the mass favourites. Live demos of how to make Rumali Roti entertained many, along with other interactive food bars.



SEE MY JIG: University Grants Commission (UGC) chairman Dr Arun Nigavekar doing a jig along with some of the vice-chancellors at river cruise at Panaji late Saturday evening.

VCs? No, CEOs and entrepreneurs..

UGC chairman Dr Arun Nigavekar's remarks at the opening ceremony of second session of discussion made the VCs sit up and re-define their job profile. "The VCs are entrepreneurs, as the graduates they produce are like value-added products in the market. As they handle hundreds of affiliated colleges and institutions, they have to perform all the duties of a CEO," said Dr Nigavekar, while the university CEOs smiled, feeling acknowledged by his new-age terminology.

Mahashivyogi Puraan

It could have been an attempt to contrast the high-tech corporate presentations full of jargon or just the delivery of an order placed by colleagues - one of the VCs was seen with a pile of copies of 'Mahashivyogi Puraan' at the conference room, while a multinational company representative delivered a talk about 21st century e-sources. Just as the pile intrigued the curiosity of some of the VC's colleagues and they started asking questions, the Puraan copies did a mysterious vanishing act.