

SRI DEVARAJ URS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH SRI DEVARAJ URS MEDICAL COLLEGE

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UGC list of fake universities: 14 out of 23 around since 2005

Yet to close doors despite Anti-Malpractice Cell's efforts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued a list of 23 fake universities which are "self-styled, unrecognised institutions functioning in contravention of the UGC Act", warning students not to be taken in by their claims. Most of these institutions have been on the UGC's watchlist for well over a decade, despite the regulator's annual claim that its Anti-Malpractice Cell (AMPC) has been taking appropriate legal action against them.

Out of the 23 institutions in Tuesday's public notice. as many as 14 of them also

appear on the 2005-06 list of fake universities published by UGC. These long-term offenders include four institutions in Delhi: Commercial University, United Nations University, Vocational University and ADR-Centric Juridical University. Seven institutions in Uttar Pradesh have also been on the list since 2005: Varanaseva Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Mahila Gram Vidyapith/Vishwavidyalaya, Gandhi Hindi Vidyapeeth, National University of Electro Complex Homeopathy, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Open University, Uttar Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya and the Mahararia Partap Shiksha

Niketan Vishwavidyalaya.

Others, which seem to have existed for the last 14 years despite UGC's watchlist, include the Badaganvi Sarkar World Open University Education Society (Karnataka), St. John's University (Kerala) and Raja Arabic University (Maharashtra).

The Anti-Malpractice Cell of the UGC was set up in 1995 to deal with complaints regarding fake universities. Through the years, the UGC's annual reports have documented FIRs and show cause notices filed against some of these institutions. Despite the Cell's efforts, many of the institutions have yet to shut their doors.