

Newspaper Clips June 28, 2014

28 Jun 2014, Hindustan Times (Indore)

IIT-I tops Indian varsities at global contest in Moscow

INDORE: The team of three students from Indian Institute of Technology Indore (IIT-I) brought laurels to the institute as they topped all the Indian Universities at the 38th Annual World Finals of the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest. The event was held in Moscow, Russia. ACM is a very prestigious competition and is often referred to as the Programming Olympiad. The team comprised of Archit Karandhikar (CSE 2010 batch), Sanjeev Shenoy (CSE 2010 batch) and Gaurav Agrawal (CSE, 2011 batch) stood at 42nd ahead of IIT Bombay, IIIT Hyderabad and IIT Madras. Only seven teams from India made it to the top 100. Abhishek Srivastava, assistant professor of the Department of Computer Science, IIT Indore was the coach and the mentor of the team.

आईआईटी इंदौर को रशिया में मिली सबसे ज्यादा रैंक

- मास्को में आईआईटी-आई ने हासिल की 42वीं रैंक

इंदौर। इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी) इंदौर के स्टूडेंट्स वर्ल्ड लेवल पर अपना टैलेंट दिखा रहे हैं। रिसर्च वर्क के साथ ही अन्य कॉम्पिटिशन में भी स्टूडेंट्स बेहतर परफॉर्म कर रहे हैं।

हाल ही में मास्को (रशिया) में हुए 38वें एसीएम इंटरनेशनल कोलिजिएट प्रोग्रामिंग कॉन्टेस्ट में आईआईटी-आई ने 42वीं रैंक हासिल की। आईआईटी-आई के अलावा आईआईटी मुंबई, आईआईटी हैदराबाद व आईआईटी मद्रास भी कॉन्टेस्ट में शामिल हुए थे, लेकिन इंडियन यूनिवर्सिटीज में सबसे ज्यादा रैंक आईआईटी-आई के स्टूडेंट्स ने हासिल की। वर्ल्ड लेवल के इस प्रतिष्ठित कॉन्टेस्ट में इंडिया से इस बार टॉप-100 में केवल सात टीमों आ पाईं।

डॉ.श्रीवास्तव थे टीम के मेंटर

रशिया गई टीम के मेंटर डॉ.अभिषेक श्रीवास्तव (अस्सिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर, डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ कंप्यूटर साइंस) थे। उनके मार्गदर्शन में स्टूडेंट्स ने शानदार परफॉर्म किया। एसीएम आईसीपीसी वर्ल्ड फाइनल को आईआईटी-आई की ओर से अर्चित करणधिकर (सीएसई 2010 बैच), संजीव शहनाँय (सीएसई 2010 बैच) व गौरव अग्रवाल (सीएसई 2011 बैच) ने रिप्रजेंट किया।

बेहद टफ थी कॉन्टेस्ट

इंटरनेशनल लेवल पर होने वाली यह कॉन्टेस्ट बेहद टफ होती है। टीम मेंबर्स एक बार कॉन्टेस्ट में एंटर करने के बाद कोच से किसी तरह की सलाह या मशविरा नहीं ले सकते थे। इसमें दुनिया की बड़ी यूनिवर्सिटीज कॉम्पिटिशन का हिस्सा थी।

- See more at: [http://naidunia.jagran.com/madhya-pradesh/iit-indore-got-highest-rank-in-rashiya-](http://naidunia.jagran.com/madhya-pradesh/iit-indore-got-highest-rank-in-rashiya-128493#sthash.IReoHSBY.dpuf)

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Institutes soon to get official ranking: Smriti Irani

TNN | Jun 28, 2014, 09:33 AM IST

BHOPAL: Indian educational institutes will be accorded official ranking soon and a national framework is getting prepared for the purpose, Union HRD minister Smriti Irani made the announcement in Bhopal on Friday. However, the minister did not elaborate if the framework will cover both government and private educational institutes.

She was addressing a gathering of students and teaching faculty at National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR) at Shyamla Hills, where she launched a teachers' training hub and laid foundation stone of golden jubilee convention centre.

The idea of a national ranking framework is in line after recommendations by a committee of IIT directors on the issue of rankings. The panel had suggested while it was important for Indian institutes to participate in global rankings, there is a greater need for India to devise its own domestic ranking that factors in India-specific criteria.

In her keynote address, she said, "Accreditation of colleges and institutes in the country should be strengthened. For this purpose, accreditation board will be formed covering all aspects on the campus."

Admitting decline in quality of technical education over a period of time, she said, "Growth seems to have bypassed the quality in technical education. Our endeavour is to create an environment wherein skill development should be priority."

TV actor-turned politician also talked about Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyaan.

"It will be aimed at encouraging research and innovation from school to university levels," she said. One part of the mission will look at incentivizing with more funding for new inventions and innovations right from the district level. The other aspect will be to sensitize institutes and students on need for patenting research and publishing research papers.

Seemandhra: Plans to setup IITs, IIMs, may fail due to land unavailability

DC | M Roushan Ali | June 28, 2014, 07:06 am IST

Hyderabad: Setting up of 11 national-level premier institutes in AP is easier said than done. Though AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has broadly finalised the locations of these institutes by dividing Seemandhra into three circuits, non-availability of government-owned land has emerged as the biggest challenge for officials.

Revenue officials said each institute requires a minimum of 200 acre with institutes like the agriculture university needing 500 acre, but so much of government land is not available at any single place.

Even the district collectors of Krishna, Guntur, Visakhapatnam and Chittoor among others, in their preliminary surveys, have found that private and forest lands will be needed in addition to government lands to set up these institutes.

"It is not an easy task to acquire private and forest land. Environmental clearances are needed from the Union environment and forest ministry. The state government has to first acquire private land as institutes like AIIMs, IIT and IIM need at least 200 acres each," said a senior official searching for sites to set up these national level institutes.

AP education minister G. Srinivasa Rao, has asked officials to try to ensure that 1,000 acre is earmarked for institutes like IIT, IIM and AIIMS. "The IITs, IIMs and AIIMS are premier institutes and have a brand value of their own. AP government should not act in haste in setting up these institutes in temporary locations with shortage of labs and teaching faculty. Also, AP should search for more land and set up these institutes on not less than 500 acre land each," said a retired IIT faculty member.

The cost of setting up an IIT is around Rs 1800 crore and an IIM Rs 1,100 crore. At present there are 16 IITs in 15 states (two in Uttar Pradesh — IIT-Kanpur and IIT-Varanasi). Of the new IITs that came up in 2009 – in Patna, Mandi, Jodhpur, Bhubaneswar, Ropar, Hyderabad, Indore and Gandhinagar – only IIT-Mandi has its own campus while the rest are still using temporary campuses.

Also, lack of faculty is a major challenge. As against 6,591 existing faculty positions in the 15 IITs, only 4,079 faculty positions are filled. The 11 institutes given to AP State post bifurcation by the centre are: All India Institute of Medical Sciences, National Institute of Technology, Agricultural University, National Institute of Disaster Management, all to be set up in Krishna-Guntur circuit.

Indian Institute of Management, International Institute of Information Technology, Tribal University, Petroleum University - in Visakhapatnam circuit. Indian Institute of Technology, Central University, and Indian Institute of Science and educational Research - in Tirupati circuit.

Times Of India ND 28/06/2014 p-4

Old letter won UGC FYUP war

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: In the war of nerves that played out for a week, a single letter of July 30, 2013 written by a junior HRD ministry official to the registrar of Delhi University helped the University Grants Commission win the battle over the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP).

In the letter, the junior woman official raised questions that seniors in the ministry had overlooked or willfully ignored. Reminding the registrar that ordinances of university are submitted to university court and the visitor after the approval of the executive council, she told the university that it was not clear if approval of the EC in May and June, 2013 was placed before the university court.

She also told DU registrar that Baccalaureate degree under FYUP exists in booklet of ordinances despite the fact that the university had informed the ministry that such a degree is being dropped. DU was asked to clarify on these matters and also send resolution of the academic council/executive council and university court on the amendments to the ordinanc-

Irani refuses to comment



Bhopal: Union human resources development minister Smriti Irani on Friday refused to be drawn into a controversy over the four-year undergraduate programme, citing constitutional obligations. "There have been persistent attempts on me to speak on a constitutional issue which is not proper. Kindly do not compel me to breach constitutional propriety," she said. PTI

es. On its part, the DU administration chose to completely disregard the ministry's letter. Visitor's approval would not have happened without these documents. It also made FYUP illegal.

In the current imbroglio, every time UGC asked DU to furnish proof of Visitor's approval or reply to HRD's communication of July 30, 2013, university obfuscated it by stating that it is a Left conspiracy. "We were on facts, DU alleged conspiracy. We knew it will be a tough battle. DU ignored our repeated directives and tried to expand the scope of the sub-

ject by bringing in issues extraneous to FYUP. For commission it was an illegal course and had to be scrapped," one UGC official said.

However, on Thursday, UGC nearly succumbed to the proposal of some academicians considered close to vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh. The proposal was for blending three-year undergraduate courses with FYUP. After intense discussion, the commission felt that in the larger interest of students it should accept the proposal for three-years honours/pass course and keep some courses, especially in science and technology, under FYUP.

After being finalized, UGC's reply was shown to a lawyer who asked how can the commission declare FYUP to be illegal on one hand and accept parts of it on the other. More discussions followed and it was decided that DU proposal should be rejected completely. UGC took few more hours to firm up its directive to DU. With students and teachers agitating on the streets and more than a lakh admission-seekers facing Delhi heat and uncertainty in DU, the university administration finally succumbed on Friday morning.

Admissions can finally begin, DU back on **three-year** course

RETREAT Varsity scraps four-year degree; sets up panel for admission modalities

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi University has agreed to return to the three-year degree programme, in a huge relief for thousands of students waiting for the admission process to begin in the city's 64 colleges.

After seven days of defiance, the university Friday accepted the University Grants Commission's order to roll back the controversial four-year undergraduate programme launched last year.

But it may be a few days before admissions, which were to begin June 24, can open, with the university setting up a panel of principals to work out the modalities. The university's highest-decision making bodies, the academic and executive Councils, are also to meet on Saturday.

DU's decision was announced by vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh who had backed the four-year programme ignoring protests by students and teachers.

The university had decided to roll back the course, he said in a statement. "Consequently, the admission process shall be conducted under the scheme of courses that were in force in the academic session 2012-13," said Singh, who had chosen silence as DU and the UGC sparred and rumours of his resignation floated.

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LOGJAM OVER BUT A LONG ROAD AHEAD

The DU-UGC deadlock is over but there are a lot of questions that remain unanswered

WHAT NEXT FOR FYUP STUDENTS?

- DU will have to find a way to squeeze or redesign the syllabus for students enrolled in the four-year programme to ensure they finish their course in the remaining two years
- The university may have to constitute a panel to draw up new syllabus which may require foundation courses — 11 of them — to be dropped to make up for the loss of a year
- Students will walk out with honours in 3 years instead of four

B TECH UNCHANGED?

- Students, in all probability, will get their degree after four years. DU can't shrink the course to three as it'll then no longer be a B Tech degree
- UGC, too, has assured the students that their interests will be kept in mind



THE UNIVERSITY HAS DECIDED TO ROLL BACK THE FYUP... THE ADMISSION PROCESS SHALL BE CONDUCTED UNDER THE SCHEME OF COURSES THAT WERE IN FORCE IN THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2012-13.

DINESH SINGH, DU V-C



ABVP activists celebrate after DU decided to roll back FYUP, going back to the 3-year course. SUSHIL KUMAR/HT PHOTO

morestories

Colleges say all set, first list expected June 30

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: Admissions to Delhi University are likely to finally kick off on Tuesday with colleges expected to come out with the first cut-off list late Monday evening, sources said.

DU vice-chancellor, Dinesh Singh issued a statement Friday confirming that the university will revert to the three-year undergraduate programme, and start the admission process soon.

Colleges are now finding a way to go back to the old system, a process which shouldn't take long since the background work has been done for the past week.

"We have already redistributed seats according to the 2012 formula. The cut-offs to won't be a big problem as we have been working on them since the UGC wrote to us directly, asking to revert to the three-year system," said Pradyumn Kumar, officiating principal, Hindu College.

DU has set-up a 12 member committee of college principals to discuss the modalities of admission and monitor the process. The committee will also decide if existing applications are valid or some other method to admit students will have to be employed.

Admissions can finally begin, DU back on...

"The University of Delhi recognises the need of the hour. It is of paramount importance to protect the interests of the students by ensuring the start of the admission process," Singh said.

The V-C's letter was greeted with cheers and celebration in the campus.

"The vice-chancellor has appointed a committee of principals, which will devise the modalities for admissions and monitor all admissions related issues in colleges," University of Delhi Registrar Alka Sharma said in a statement.

DU's undergraduate programme is very popular and fiercely fought.

This year, 278,000 applications have been received for 54,000 seats.

DU-UGC row over, but petitioners won't give up

Smriti Singh | TNN

New Delhi: With Delhi University finally reverting to the three-year degree format in line with the latest University Grants Commission (UGC) directive, question looms large over the fate of the various petitions filed before the Delhi high court on the issue.

On June 26, two cross petitions were moved—one for the implementation of FYUP and the other seeking restoration of the three-year programme. A third petition in favour of FYUP by former Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) president Aditya Narain Mishra was also mentioned before the vacation bench. Though the bench refused to give an urgent hearing to the petitions, it fixed the matter for July 1 before the regular bench, saying the matter required an effective hearing which cannot be done by a vacation bench.

Now that the issue has been resolved between UGC and DU, at least one petition becomes infructuous. The PIL filed by Delhi-based law-

yer R K Kapoor had sought scrapping of the FYUP saying "FYUP violates the National Education Policy, 1986, which advocates the 10+2+3 system and therefore it is necessary, that DU must revert to the earlier system". Hours after DU agreed to UGC's directive, advocate Kapoor told TOI that his pet-

Though the bench refused to give an urgent hearing to the petitions, it fixed the matter for July 1 before the regular bench, saying the matter required an effective hearing

ition "virtually becomes infructuous".

The other two petitions—one by professor Mishra and the other on behalf of eight students of Maharaja Agrasen College who are studying under the four-year programme—were in favour of FYUP.

Mishra had first moved the Supreme Court on June 25 and wanted the UGC direc-

tive to be stayed till the legal challenge to the UGC order was decided. He had submitted that FYUP was valid and the ordinance brought by the university regarding this was consistent with the UGC guidelines. While the apex court refused to stay the directive to scrap FYUP in Delhi University with immediate effect, it had asked Mishra to move the Delhi high court.

Speaking to TOI on Friday, Mishra said that he would consult his legal advisers about the petition.

"In the given circumstances I will have to consult my legal adviser and decide the next course of action. I would like to say that my fight is for the university's autonomy. My question is not about FYUP. If the setting of course and curriculum is not a prerogative of the university then whose is it," he said.

Even as the admissions start in DU from Tuesday with the dispute being resolved, all the petitions will come for hearing on the same day.

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Hindu ND 28.06.14 P-9

A step back for education

The stand-off between Delhi University and the University Grants Commission reflected an ad-hoc, callous and arbitrary approach toward higher education in India

Prabhash Ranjan

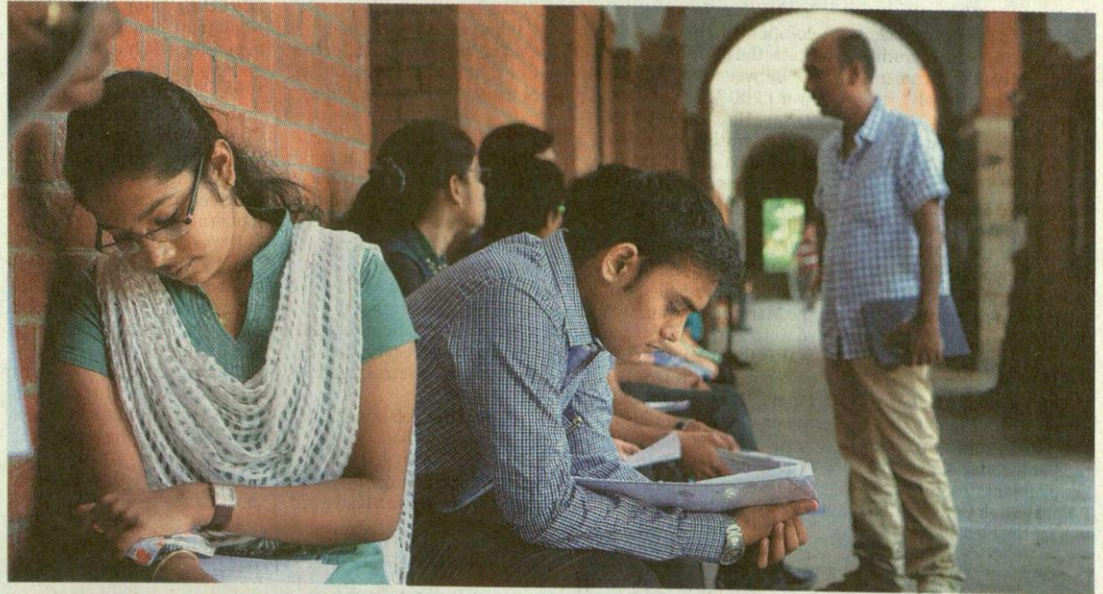
The deadlock between the University Grants Commission and Delhi University over the national education regulator's directive to scrap the university's four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP) and replace it with the old three-year undergraduate programme has finally ended, but the episode left many students in the lurch. Had the stand-off been about the merits of the FYUP, things would have been different. Instead, it reflected an ad-hoc, callous and arbitrary approach toward higher education in India and showed the degree of derision with which we treat our universities and their decisions.

UGC's 180-degree turn

There has been a difference of opinion on whether the FYUP programme was adequately debated within DU's academic community before being introduced. The proponents of FYUP claim it was, but this is seriously contested by many other faculty members and students of DU. What cannot be overlooked is the fact that the FYUP programme was approved by the academic council and the executive council of the university, which are statutory bodies under the Delhi University Act of 1922, though it was not approved by the Visitor of the University — the President of India. The UGC has known about the programme all this time and in fact, as has been reported widely, it has maintained that universities have the right to choose the duration of their academic programmes.

So, the question to be asked is this: what prompted the UGC to take a 180-degree turn on this issue after one year? Did it discover some new facts that were not known to it in 2013, when FYUP was rolled out, to come to the conclusion that this programme is in violation of the national policy on education that provides for the 10+2+3 format? The answer seems to be 'no.' All material available in the public domain shows that many people, including some of the members of the UGC, had objected to the FYUP on this very ground when it was being introduced in 2013. It certainly cannot be the case that UGC discovered something new about the programme now that was not known to it earlier.

This impasse may be over, but the entire episode has raised a very important issue that has received scant attention and needs to be seriously debated: the relationship between the UGC and India's universities. UGC is an autonomous body that has the mandate "of coordination, determination and maintenance of standards in institutions of higher education" as per the UGC Act of 1956. No one disputes the fact that all Indian universi-



DANGEROUS PRECEDENT: The impasse between UGC and Delhi University may have ended, but this episode may deter our universities from taking brave academic decisions in the future. Picture shows students in Delhi University during the admission process. — PHOTO: MONICA TIWARI

ties have to comply with the UGC's regulations relating to maintenance of standards in higher education. Many Supreme Court judgments have also held this fact. No university, including DU, is autonomous to the extent that it can function with complete disregard to UGC's regulations. But where does one draw the line between regulation and over-regulation? In the name of ensuring compliance with its regulations, can the UGC over-regulate and micro-manage our universities? Section 12 (1) of the UGC Act clearly states: "It is the duty of the Commission to determine and maintain standards in higher education in *consultation with the universities* [emphasis added]." This makes it incumbent on the UGC to respect the institutional autonomy of all universities and accord them due deference and latitude in complying with its regulations. This is necessary to empower universities to undertake bold academic initiatives.

Institutional autonomy

The controversy revealed many instances in which the UGC did not accord the institutional autonomy and respect that DU legitimately deserves, and did not act in accordance with the spirit of its own statute.

First, to argue that the 10+2+3 policy does not allow a university to offer a four-year undergraduate programme, which allows students the option to exit after three years with a bachelor's degree, is a clear example of over-regulation. This

To ask a university to scrap its existing undergraduate programme and introduce a new programme in the middle of the admission process is inexplicable

tramples upon the university's autonomy to decide the length of its academic programmes. It also smacks of arbitrariness. If a four-year undergraduate programme violates the 10+2+3 format, then how is Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore running a four-year undergraduate programme in subjects like Physics and Chemistry? Similarly, how is Ambedkar University, Delhi running a four-year undergraduate programme, 'BA Honours with a Dual Major'? Has the UGC issued similar directives to other universities offering four-year undergraduate programme as it did with DU?

Second, the UGC, surpassing the vice-chancellor and DU's other statutory authorities, issued a directive to all DU-affiliated colleges to replace the FYUP with the old three-year programme. This ridicules the concept of institutional autonomy; DU colleges are not accountable to the UGC, but to the statutory authorities of the university of which they are a part. Also, warning the colleges that their grants will be cut if they do not comply

with the UGC's directive reflects the body's patronising attitude toward institutions of higher learning.

Third, to ask a university to scrap its existing undergraduate programme and introduce a new programme in the middle of the admission process is inexplicable. Eminent academicians manning the UGC should know about the academic processes that a university must follow to scrap or start a new academic programme, and the enormous administrative and academic difficulties the university will face if it has to do this in the middle of the admission process.

Attaining global standards

Delhi University has caved in. It has scrapped FYUP and agreed to go back to its old three-year undergraduate programme. While this may end the impasse, it has set a very dangerous precedent. Our universities will be deterred from undertaking brave academic decisions in future fearing UGC's indignation. This does not augur well for India's higher education. This episode is a grim reminder why India, despite having talented academicians and students, has failed to develop world-class universities. Our universities cannot attain global standards till they are freed from excessive officious control and the bureaucratic mindset of regulatory bodies.

(Prabhash Ranjan is assistant professor of law at the South Asian University, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)

B-Tech, BMS students remain unclear about their future

Vanita Srivastava

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NEW DELHI: Delhi University may have finally backed down but no one knows what is going to happen to the 6,500 students enrolled for B Tech courses across 35 city colleges.

The same confusion holds for the 1,500 students who had enrolled for the Bachelor in Management course.

There are six B-Tech courses, including computer science, electronics, food and technology, Instrumentation and Psychological Science.

A large number of these students protested outside the UGC office on Friday demanding an official statement on their status.

“We have handed over a written memorandum to the UGC officials but they are not

saying anything. If the DU has ordered a rollback of FYUP, what do we construe of our course? The UGC has to specify clearly what our status is,” says Ansh Goyal, student of B-Tech computer science at Maharaja Agrasen College.

Amid protests, however,

a UGC official came out and without disclosing her name and designation said: “We assure you that your future will not be jeopardized. We are in the process of preparing a roadmap and hopefully we will chart out something by Tuesday next week.”

According to sources in the UGC, the directive for a rollback was for the general bachelors courses and would in no way affect the B-Tech courses.

Breaking her silence on Friday, HRD Minister Smriti Irani told reporters in Bhopal, “I respect the autonomy of Institutions, however institutions were created to serve the people of the nation within ambit of law this is the time for statesmanship which leads to resolution, don’t sacrifice interest of students at altar of prestige.”

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Nasa's Orion clears tough parachute test

Srinivas Laxman | TNN

Mumbai: Nasa's human spaceflight programme crossed an important milestone on Wednesday when it completed the most complex and flight-like test of the parachute system for the agency's Orion spacecraft which will fly astronauts to the moon, asteroids and Mars, according to Nasa.

A test version of Orion touched down safely in the Arizona desert after being pulled out of a C-17 aircraft, 35,000 feet above the US Army's Yuma Proving Ground. It was the first time parachutes in the system had been tested at such a high altitude. Engineers put additional stresses on the parachutes by allowing the test version of Orion to free fall for 10 seconds, which increased the vehicle's speed and aerodynamic pressure.

"We've put the parachutes through their paces in ground and airdrop testing in every conceivable way before we send them into space on Exploration Flight Test-1 before the year's done," Orion programme manager Mark Geyer said.

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