Newspaper Clips

June 14, 2011

Times of India ND 14/06/2011 P-5

HC seeks reply from IP varsity

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Delhi high court has sought the response of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University on allegations of the illegal appointment of teachers.

A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justice Sanjiv Khanna, issued a notice to the university, while admitting the petition of one Ravindra Pratap, a teacher at the university.

Pratap cited RTI correspondence to allege there were irregularities in the appointment of teachers. He said he first wrote to the university in 2008 seeking action on the issue, as an RTI query revealed a person appointed to teach sociology was in fact not qualified to do so.

When the university failed to respond, the petitioner contacted the University Grants Commission (UGC) and later the Bar Council of India alleging another appointment of a lecturer, this time in the law faculty, had been made in a similar manner.

This is the third time that Pratap has approached the HC.

His first petition, filed in 2010, was dismissed by the court who called it "absolutely and gloriously vague" and said it was extremely difficult for the court to "discern the facts and grant relief".

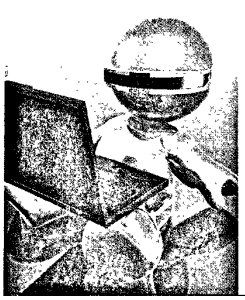
This prompted Pratap to file a second petition which was dismissed as well. The court then said it took exception to the manner in which the petition was structured.

Finally, Pratap's latest plea was admitted. Pratap has asked the court to cancel the three "dubious" appointments allegedly made by the university in violation of rules.

toireporter@timesgroup.com

Economic Times ND 14/06/2011 p-4

Chrome, Google's Other Operating System Debuts



ASHLEE VANCE
NEW YORK

Google's executives have long enjoyed ribbing Microsoft as bloated, slow, and out of touch with computer trends. So there must be a few smirks at Microsoft's headquarters: Google's first, long-delayed Chromebooks are about to arrive in a world that's moved on without them.

Google laid out its Chromebook vision two years ago: a new type of laptop that revolved around the Web. It would run on a stripped-down operating system known as Chrome — imagine a Web browser that isn't on your computer's desktop, it is your computer's desktop.

Chromebooks would turn on in seconds and would let users flit around the Web and store things such as photos and documents via Flickr, Dropbox and other online services. The idea was to wean people away from storing files directly on their computers and managing files and applications on the desktop screen so familiar to anyone who's used a PC or a Mac. The cloud had arrived and deserved its own computer.

The initial batch of Chromebooks, which are shipping on June 15, lives up to that vision. These machines start up fast (eight seconds). Once people log in with their Google credentials—the same used for Gmail—they arrive at a home page on the Chrome Web browser and off they go. That's the gist of the Chromebook experience. Samsung and Acer have built the first models, which will sell for about $430 for Wi-Fi-only systems and $500 for versions that can also connect to Verizon's 3G wireless network. (As with its mobile operating system, Android, Google doesn't charge a licensing fee for Chrome.) Google also has a monthly subscription programme for businesses and schools, leasing Chromebooks for $28 per employee and $20 per student. Like smartphone sellers, Google has created an online app store for Chrome—both for Chromebooks and Chrome browsers on regular PCs.

Like smartphone sellers, Google has created an online app store for Chrome, both for Chromebooks and Chrome browsers on regular PCs

Users won't see familiar desktop software like TurboTax, Photoshop, or Microsoft Office, but they'll be able to get H&R Block At Home, BeFunky Photo Editor, and Google Docs. On a Chromebook, you need to be online to run any of these applications. "That really is the big problem," says Tim Bajarin, president of analyst firm Creative Strategies. "The reality is that you're not always going to be in a place where you're connected." Later this summer, Google plans to offer versions of Gmail and Google Calendar that will work on a Chromebook even when it's offline. The company will also help developers similarly adjust their apps, says Google spokesperson Lily Lin.

Google once planned to ship the Chromebooks in 2010. They would have seemed like a breath of fresh air then. Over the past year, though, tablets and smartphones have continued to surge.

These devices deliver the same basic experience as the Chromebooks since they too tend to revolve around the Web.

But there's more device variety in the tablet and smartphone markets, and they tend to have livelier app stores, including Google's own Android marketplace. In the past couple of weeks, Microsoft and Apple have shown off revamped versions of their computing operating systems.

Microsoft's Windows 8 (due next year) has a radical interface that resembles its smartphone software and is integrated with Facebook and other Web services.

Apple's new Lion version of OS X will link to iPhones and iPads through cloud-based services. Both these operating systems will provide access to the cloud without the big tradeoffs of Chrome, says IDC analyst Al Hilwa. "It seems to me that the Chromebooks are more of a concept," he says. "Google is trying to showcase an ideal of what life might be like if everything depended on the cloud."

Bloomberg BusinessWeek

Hindu ND 14/06/2011 p-13

Registration commences for admission to NIT, IIIT

Staff Correspondent

- 2.5 lakh registrations expected
- 34,000 seats on offer in engineering stream

MANGALORE: One lakh of the 3.99 lakh students qualified in the All-India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) have so far registered with the Central Counselling Board (CCB) that will conduct counselling and allot seats in 30 National Institutes of Technology (NIT), five Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT), and 13 Centrally-funded institutions(CFI). The registration will go on till June 23.

The CCB is based at the National Institute of Technology, Surathkal, near here.

The Ministry of the Human Resource Development asked the institution to hold counselling and allotment of seats for 2011-2012 academic year for the NITs, IIITs, CFIs and 23 self-financed Institutions.

According to Sandeep Sancheti, Director of NIT Surathkal and Chairman of the CCB-2011, 34,000 seats are on offer in the engineering stream while 930 seats are available under the architecture stream. The allotment of seats for the 23 SFIs will be done during the spot round, which will start from August 14, Mr. Sancheti said. The online registration on the website www.ccb.nic.in had been on since June 11.

Half of the seats in NITs are reserved for the candidates from the States where the NIT is located and this had been incorporated in the system while generating the unique all India ranking which would form the basis for selection, he said.

Mr. Sancheti said it was in the registration process that the candidate was asked to give the wish-list of the colleges he was seeking admission. Till Monday evening, about 27 lakh choices had been made that included 38,680 choices made by 2,127 candidates registered from Karnataka.

The registered candidates would be getting the status of the seats every evening. They would be asked to lock their choices between June 18 and June 23, he said. The board expected about 2.5 lakh registrations, he added.

G. Srinikethan, Professor in the NIT Surthkal and Coordinator of the CCB, said four NIT Surathkal faculty members had been answering questions made to the helpdesk (0824) 2474086. On an average, the helpdesk received 800 calls a day.

The common complaint had been about inability of candidates to login after registration. "In some cases, the coaching centre has filled the details during the registration and the candidates do not have the password." In one case, a candidate from Kashmir called to inform about the loss of the AIEEE admit card. When he came back to register after getting a duplicate copy of the admit card, the candidate was shocked to see somebody being registered in his number, Mr. Srinikethan said.

He said the board had decided to freeze such registrations. "We have asked candidates to approach reporting centres with necessary documents to prove identity for re-initiation of registration," Mr. Srinikethan said.

Mr. Srinikethan said a team from NIT-Trichy was leaving shortly to Andaman to train the staff of the Higher Education Secretariat for counselling and seat allotment. The Higher Education Secretariat of Andaman and Nicobar Administration in Port Blair was one of the 39 Reporting and Help Centre set up in the country.

Hindustan Times ND 14/06/2011
p-13

Top varsity faces foreign glare on degree legitimacy

Charu Sudan Kasturi
■ charu kasturi@hindustantimes com

NEW DELHI: One of India's best-known private universities, Sikkim Manipal University (SMU), faces international scrutiny over the legitimacy of its distance education courses after Denmark diplomatically raised questions about the recognition of the university courses.

The human resource development (HRD) ministry has responded to the detailed questions from the Royal Danish embassy here, stating that SMU does not have key approvals it requires to offer some popular distance education courses. Some of SMU's distance education programmes do not have the approval of a joint committee of the University Grants Commission (UGC), All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the Distance Education Council (DEC).

Sources privy to the development have told HT that the government has informed Denmark that this approval is required for each course an institute wants to offer through the distance education mode. The HRD ministry's response effectively argues that these courses do not have the required recognition.

But officials of the "one of the country's largest and most popular distance education varsities" insisted that the university's distance education courses were legitimate because the DEC has recognised the university.

"While I do not want to comment on this specific case since neither Denmark nor the Government of India has communicated with us, I wish to state that SMU has the DEC's recognition, which is in the public domain," SMU academic director V Sivaramakrishnan told HT.

But mere DEC approval is not adequate, HRD ministry officials said. "The DEC merely approves an institution as capable of running distance education programmes. But the joint committee of the UGC, AICTE and DEC must meet and approve specific courses for these to be offered," an official said.

The HRD ministry, sources said, is keen to transparently communicate with foreign governments about institutions here, to strengthen its hand in instances where Indian students abroad suffer.

Almost 1,500 Indian students earlier this year faced deportation from the US after the Tri-Valley University (TVU) was found to be violating the federal US norms.

DENMARK CONCERN

- Denmark has raised questions about whether distance education degrees offered by Sikkim Manipal University are recognized
- India has replied stating that the university's courses lack key approvals
- The HRD ministry is keen to transparently communicate with foreign governments about institutions here, to strengthen its hand in instances where Indian students abroad suffer

Hindustan ND 14/06/2011
P-4

आईआईटी परीक्षा से एमसीए में दाखिला नहीं लेगा डीयू

नई दिल्ली | अनुराग मिश्र

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय का कंप्यूटर साइंस विभाग आईआईटी द्वारा कराई जाने वाली जेम परीक्षा के आधार पर एमसीए में दाखिला नहीं लेगा। विश्वविद्यालय ने फैसला किया है इस बार दाखिला के लिए प्रवेश परीक्षा वह स्वयं ही कराएगा।

दिल्ली विवि की कंप्यूटर साइंस विभाग की प्रमुख नीलिमा गुप्ता ने बताया कि विभाग ने फैसला किया है इस बार कंप्यूटर साइंस में एमसीए में दाखिला स्वयं की प्रवेश परीक्षा के आधार पर ही लेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि दो साल पहले भी डीयू स्वयं की परीक्षा के आधार पर दाखिला लेता था। आईआईटी के जेम के माध्यम से छात्रों को लेने की प्रक्रिया दो साल पहले ही शुरू की गई थी। आईआईटी के माध्यम से दाखिला न लेने की बात न पूछने पर उन्होंने कहा कि पिछले दो सालों के अनुभव बहुत बेहतर नहीं रहे थे इसलिए आईआईटी के माध्यम से दाखिला न लेने का फैसला लिया गया। आईआईटी के माध्यम से आ रहे छात्रों और डीयू के छात्रों में काफी फर्क लगा ऐसे में इस परीक्षा को हटाना ही उचित समझा गया। उन्होंने बताया कि एक बड़ी परेशानी ये भी हो रही थी कि आईआईटी की परीक्षा द्वारा दाखिला दिए जाने से डीयू के छात्रों को बड़ी परेशानी झेलनी पड़ रही थी। ऐसे में ये निर्णय लेना लाजिमी हो गया। डीयू में इस परीक्षा के लिए फॉर्म आ गए हैं जो कि 15 जून तक मिलेंगे। प्रवेश परीक्षा चार जुलाई में होगी। वहीं डीयू के एमएसी कोर्स में सीटों की की संख्या 46 है।

कंप्यूटर साइंस परीक्षा

- दो साल पहले डीयू ही कराता था परीक्षा
- आईआईटी की जेम परीक्षा के माध्यम से मिलता था दाखिला

क्या होगा नए प्रश्नपत्र में

उन्होंने बताया कि डीयू द्वारा ली जाने वाली परीक्षा में दो पेपर होंगे। पहला पेपर बहुविकल्पीय होगा और दूसरा पेपर सब्जेक्टिव होगा। पहला पेपर तीन घंटे का होगा और दूसरा पेपर भी तीन घंटे का होगा।

कितनी सीटें

नीलिमा गुप्ता ने बताया कि इस कोर्स में सीटों की संख्या 46 है। इनमें से पचास प्रतिशत सीटें डीयू से कंप्यूटर ऑनर्स करने वाले छात्रों के लिए आरक्षित होती है।