

Newspaper Clips

March 22, 2013

Pioneer ND 22/03/2013

P-5

IIT-Kgp takes CVC head-on

Affidavit in HC says panel has no authority over institute

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

In the latest development involving IIT Kharagpur, the institute has challenged the jurisdiction of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) over a public-funded institution which has been established by an Act of Parliament. In an affidavit in the Delhi High Court, IIT-KGP stated that it does not fall under the purview of the CVC and thus is not governed by the rules laid by the Vigilance body.

The affidavit assumes significance since it precedes IIT-KGP's Board of Governors (BoG) meet on Saturday to respond to the CVC's direction to the institute and Ministry of Human Resources Department (MHRD) to initiate major penalty proceedings against three IIT-KGP professors indicted in the ₹40-crore CoalNet scam.

The affidavit — pertaining to a different case between IIT Kharagpur and a suspended professor which came up for hearing on Thursday — has



■ As first reported by *The Pioneer*, the CVC last month upheld the CBI recommendation in 2007 for departmental proceedings against three professors — IIT Patna Director Prof A K Bhowmick, IIT-KGP Dean and Director-Select Prof PP Chakraborty and retired Prof RN Banerjee — indicted in the infamous CoalNet scam

■ Sources said that the IIT KGP administration has made up its mind in appointing Chakraborty as its full time Director

■ IIT KGP Director-officiating, Prof Shankar Kumar Some told *The Pioneer* over phone that he is not aware about any such affidavit in any court and wished not to comment further

■ According to CVC Act 2003, the function and powers of the Commission is to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration of the various Ministries of Central Government or corporations established by or under any Central Act, Govt companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by that Government

been sworn by the institute's Registrar Tapan Kumar Ghosal on Wednesday.

Ghosal is also the Secretary of BoG of IIT KGP and according to well placed sources, a case of irregularities is pending against him as well. "CVC does not have jurisdiction over the Answering Respondent (IIT Kharagpur), being an autonomous institute does not fall within any of the categories

mentioned in the CVC's provision," says the affidavit.

As first reported by *The Pioneer*, the CVC last month upheld the CBI recommendation in 2007 for departmental proceedings against three professors — IIT Patna Director Prof A K Bhowmick, IIT-KGP Dean and Director-Select Prof PP Chakraborty and retired Prof RN Banerjee — indicted in the infamous CoalNet scam.

Sources said that the IIT KGP administration has made up its mind in appointing Chakraborty as its full time Director. IIT KGP Director-officiating, Prof Shankar Kumar Some told *The Pioneer* over phone that he is not aware about any such affidavit in any court and wished not to comment further.

According to CVC Act 2003, the function and powers of the Commission is to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration of the various Ministries of Central Government or corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by that Government. The IITs have been established under the Act of Parliament, 1965.

Interestingly, IIT Kharagpur had to appoint a permanent Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) on the basis of the CVC's direction following cases of gross corruption and irregularities reported within the premises in recent years. The institute has defied top authorities including its visitor (President of India), CVC, the controlling HRD Ministry, the CBI, which recommended action against the three dons and the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

Mail Today ND 22/03/2013 P4

IIMs foil govt plan to pack council with its nominees

By Ritika Chopra in New Delhi

AFTER forcing the government to dilute its plan to bring all the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) under an overarching body on the lines of IIT Council, the IIMs have managed to arm-twist the HRD ministry into acquiescing to another crucial demand.

Overtly protective of their autonomous character, the 13 premier B-schools have convinced the ministry to reduce the number of government representatives in the proposed overarching body — called IIM Coordinating Forum — by almost half.

According to sources, during a meeting held between HRD minister M.M. Pallam Raju and IIM directors on March 19, the ministry agreed to significantly prune the composition of the IIM Coordinating Forum. As a result, the chairman of the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), head of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and 13 ministers in charge of technical education in the

(Right) Students on IIM-Ahmedabad campus. The IIMs zealously guard their autonomy.



**MAIL TODAY
EXCLUSIVE**

states where the respective IIMs are located are no longer members of the forum.

"Originally the total number of members of the coordinating forum stood at about 51. That itself has made the body quite unwieldy. Experience has shown us that government nominees on the IIM boards

are barely interested in the working of the institute and rarely attend meetings. So we didn't see any reason in packing the coordinating body with so many government officials," said an IIM director, who did not wish to be identified.

In effect, the strength of government representatives, which stood at 40 to 50 per cent of the IIM Coordinating Forum, has now been brought down to roughly 25 per cent. This change, along with the dilution of powers of the coordinating forum, has been incorporated in the draft IIM Bill, which will be discussed again with the chairmen and directors of all IIMs on April 1.

For the uninitiated, the government has been working on a Bill to empower the IIMs to award degrees for their postgraduate programmes instead of the diplomas currently offered by them. And since the draft Bill is based on the IIT Act of 1961, it initially carried a provision for the establishment of an overarching/all-powerful body called IIM Council (headed by the HRD minister), similar to the IIT Council.

Strength of govt members in IIM Forum pruned

Viewing this as an attempt to curtail their autonomy, the B-schools had strongly opposed this provision, which forced the government to strip the IIM Council of most of its powers and make it a mere "coordinating body". Hence, it was rechristened as the IIM Coordinating Forum. But in the latest consultation, the institutes brought up the forum again asking the ministry to reduce the number of government representatives on the panel.

"We don't want the autonomy that we have so persistently fought for to be washed away, which is why we raised this issue with the government. The heads of bodies such as AICTE and UGC might not agree with how liberally we function if they are a part of the coordinating forum and we do not want any conflict with the government then," said another IIM director.

Apart from this, the institutes also discussed the fate of the society members

PROPOSED MEMBERS OF IIM COORDINATING FORUM

- HRD minister
- Secretary, technical education, govt of India
- Chiefs of all IIM boards
- Directors of all IIMs
- Three eminent persons from industry, social sector and civil society (at least one of them should be a woman)
- Three persons of academic eminence (at least one of them should be a woman)

DROPPED

- 13 ministers in charge of technical education in the states in which the respective IIMs are located
- UGC chairman
- AICTE chairman
- Four persons nominated by the central government

after the Bill is passed. Once the Bill becomes an Act of Parliament, the IIM societies will be dissolved and the government assured the institutes that the existing members will be integrated in the current system.

ritika.chopra@mailtoday.in

Pioneer ND 22/03/2013

P-2

'Higher education needs overhaul'

President Mukherjee wants varsities to match global standards

RAHIBA R PARVEEN ■ SONEPAT

Stressing upon the need for critical reforms to redefine higher education in India, President Pranab Mukherjee on Thursday suggested a three point formula — quality, affordability and accessibility — to achieve the goal.

He also emphasised on the need for establishing world-class varsities at home and on efforts required to change the way education is imparted in the country.

Mukherjee was speaking during the inauguration of the three-day International Conference on 'The Future of Indian University: Comparative Perspectives on Higher Education Reforms for a Knowledge Society' at OP Jindal Global University in Sonapat. Stating that Indian universities lacked in competing with global universities, Mukherjee said it was high time that initiatives were made to create more opportunities in research, skills development, innovation, creativity and multi-disciplinary courses.

"The prevalent state of our universities requires a very clinical examination as there is a perceived decline in their ability to serve as knowledge centers. In order to create world-class universities, we must learn from the institutions around the world. Strong, non-profit, philanthropic private universities aimed at providing quality education and promoting academic freedom need to emerge in



President Pranab Mukherjee being felicitated in a function at a varsity in Sonapat on Thursday. The Governor of Haryana, Jagannath Pahadia, Union Minister for Human Resource Development MM Pallam Raju, Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and MP Naveen Jindal are also seen. Alwin Singh | Pioneer

our country," he said.

He also added that India has a huge youth force that can be a great boon for the country only if utilised properly. "The talent of the young population must not go wasted. It will become a problem for the country at large if we don't realise their capacity. Education is the most powerful tool to construct a strong nation," the President said.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister of Human Resource Development MM Pallam Raju, Governor of Haryana Jagannath Pahadia, Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and the chancellor of OP Jindal

Global University and Lok Sabha member Naveen Jindal.

Speaking at the function, Raju also emphasised on the importance of research and knowledge sharing across the country. He said it was important to take education, basic and higher level, to all corners of India. "Despite over 500 universities and 25,000 colleges, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is low in our country. There is a lot of disparity between rural and urban education. It is important to establish the private education sector and promote it to a level that it caters to the national requirements," Raju said.

Expressing his concerns

over the quality of education provided in universities, Haryana CM Hooda said the education system needs to be recreated in such a way that students of Indian varsities cater to their country rather than work merely for salaries. "There is a big mismatch between what is required to propel India's economic growth and developmental goals. We need to change our university models and make them oriented towards job creation and absorption of our youth into productive activities," he added.

The upcoming venture 'Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities' was intro-

duced by chancellor Naveen Jindal. It will offer courses on the lines of US-based undergraduate programmes from the academic year 2014-15.

Educationists and people from other walks of life spoke at the conference. The Governor of Haryana Pahadia insisted on free and open debate to encourage quality education. "While a university must produce professionals to join the industry, it is also instrumental in the generation of social responsibility and civic society. We truly need a practical articulation of the objectives across the education community," the Governor said.

HT Indore

TECHNOLOGY HUB

Industries using IIT labs and skills for research

Amrita U Kadam

amrita.kadam@hindustantimes.com

INDORE: Indian Institute of Technology Indore isn't just imparting engineering education to its students but is also providing its knowledge and skill to the local industries surrounding Indore in many ways.

With the high quality equipments that the institute has procured it is helping the automobile industries in testing and suggesting the metals that can be used for various parts of vehicles.

Their fiber molding machinery and several others are also being used by the local industries to get the perfection that they look for in the products.

In fact, the institute has also molded furniture according to its need. "At times we need chair of certain height and we have some shape in mind which we need here in institute so we have manufactured them here in our workshops," said dean academics N Jain. The institute has almost become self-efficient in this area, he

Other IITs requesting us to let their students use the laboratory facilities here proves that we are far ahead.

PRADEEP MATHUR,
director, IIT, Indore

added. The workshops are at the Pithampur Auto Cluster Limited Campus where the students take their practical lessons.

Adds director Pradeep Mathur, "Our PhD student has also got projects from

IBM. We have produced over 150 research scholars in the just three years and nearly 300 research papers have been published by our students in the reputed international journals."

He added that the laboratory facility of the institute is of international standards. "The fact that other IITs, which started almost at the same time when we did, have been requesting us to let their students use the laboratory facilities here prove that we are far ahead of others. Our workshops have the

best of the machinery for our mechanical students."

The institute also allows the other local colleges like IET and SGSITS to use the laboratories and workshops for their students.

"The whole idea for setting up such technical institutes in all the areas across the country is to make sure that the nearby areas get state of art facilities and we are trying to reach out to maximum students and help them by keeping all this open for the local colleges here."

HT Chandigarh

Foreign universities woo Indian students with scholarships

HT Live Correspondent

chdlivedesk@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH: Foreign universities have tried to entice students from the region for various scholarship courses. The department of computer science at the Loughborough University is offering scholarships for its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

It is also offering the 'Loughborough University Graduate School International Scholarship' to students applying for full-time postgraduate programmes.

The management school at the University of Sheffield's has invited applications for its newly launched MSc in entrepreneurship. The 12-month programme aims to bring together theoretical and applied aspects of entrepreneurship.

The University of Southampton is offering scholarships of 7,500 pound each to Indian students for its BSc psychology (honours), commencing September 2013. Students will receive a scholarship of 2,500 pounds on the completion of first semester. Students would cover six key-research areas -

psychology: clinical psychology; cognitive psychology; developmental psychology; health psychology; learning and behaviour analysis; social and personality psychology.

Students interested in applying for the scholarships are required to have a minimum of 70% marks in mathematics in Class 10 (CBSE and ICSE boards only).

State boards may be considered on a case-to-case basis. Applicants are also required to have an overall of 85% in Class 12 (CBSE, ISC and metro state boards only).

HT New Delhi

Internet needs rules of engagement: Sibal

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Telecom minister Kapil Sibal on Thursday made a case for using the Internet as he pleaded for regulation to restrict objectionable content such as hate speeches.

“It’s (Internet) a platform where we need to talk to each other on a daily basis. And also adhere to certain rules of the game. You cannot play cricket without rules, you cannot play baseball without rules,” he said. He said the rules need to be self-imposed. “Internet

governance to me is an oxymoron. How can you govern anybody on the net, you cannot. The net must govern itself.”

“Internet is that kind of energy of millions of atoms. Those atoms should be used for the good of mankind,” said Sibal.

The government had, in recent past, asked Internet and social media firms such as Google, Yahoo, Twitter and Facebook to remove objectionable content from their sites, raising concerns over censorship attempts of Internet in India.

(with PTI inputs)

INDIA NEEDS TO SPEND \$20 BN ON TECHNOLOGY, SAYS PITRODA

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India needs to invest \$20 billion (around ₹1.09 lakh crore) to computerise all government departments and records so that information is made available up to the panchayat level, said Sam Pitroda, chairman, National Innovation Council.

Pitroda pioneered the telecom revolution in India during the eighties.

The government would open four large data centres to enable the flow of information up to the panchayat level, he added.

“We have today some 10,000 software people working in the government on all these applications. If you put all these pieces together, the networks, platforms, applications (then) we believe government of India will wind up spending about \$20 billion,” said Pitroda.

Pitroda is also the adviser to the Prime Minister on public information infrastructure and innovations. Emphasising on democratisation of information and opening up of government data to the public, Pitroda said it is time for the government to re-invent itself.

(with PTI inputs)