

## Newspaper Clips May 29, 2015

# Ministries to rebut Congress charges point by point

[Akshaya Mukul](#),TNN | May 29, 2015, 05.02 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Ministries-to-rebut-Congress-charges-point-by-point/articleshow/47464651.cms>

NEW DELHI: In response to Congress' report card on one year of the Modi government, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has asked all ministries to prepare a 'point-by-point' rejoinder to the charges.

Sources said the report card - Ek Saal, Desh Badhaal - has been sent to all the ministries and the replies will be released by the government soon. "Controversies of the past one year are likely to get revived with the replies," said a source in the HRD ministry.

Congress had made serious charges against the HRD ministry and pointed out a host of mistakes made by the government. The main opposition party had taken on the Centre for budget cuts calling it "lack of vision". Ministry sources explained that the allegation is not true and states will get a larger share as part of devolution, formulated by the Finance Commission.

Congress' allegation that HRD ministry has impinged upon the academic autonomy of IITs due to which both IIT-Delhi director RK Shevgaonkar and Anil Kakodkar, chairperson of the board of governors of IIT-Bombay, resigned has been refuted by the ministry. In case of Shevgaonkar, ministry sources levelled counter-allegations against him, saying he was involved in the establishment of one international technology institute in Mauritius. However, on investigation, the ministry had not found much substance in the allegations. Shevgaonkar's resignation is yet to be accepted. About Anil Kakodkar, the ministry has rubbished allegations that procedures were not being followed. Congress had also pointed out resignation of NCERT director Pravin Sinclair, to which HRD ministry said some inquiry is pending against her. No inquiry was ever started against her, sources said.

The ministry is also preparing a rebuttal to Congress' charge of appointing RSS functionaries as national research professors, as chairperson of Indian Council of Historical Research, National Book Trust and NIT, Nagpur. Detailed replies are being prepared for allegations that Christmas was deliberately not declared a holiday in order to celebrate good governance day, separate canteens for vegetarian students in IIT and scrapping of German as third language in Kendriya Vidyalayas.

Times Of India ND 29/05/2015 P-1

# IIT-Madras bans student group for criticizing govt

## Complaint Of 'Spreading Hate' Against Modi

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**Chennai:** In a controversial move, IIT-Madras has banned a discussion forum for students following an anonymous complaint that it tried to spread "hatred" against PM Narendra Modi by mobilizing SC/ST students to question government policies on the use of Hindi and the ban on cow slaughter.

The decision followed an enquiry from the Union HRD ministry regarding the anonymous complaint it had received on the activities of the Ambedkar Periyar Student Circle (APSC) on the IIT campus. The complainant had enclosed one of APSC's pamphlets reproducing a speech which criticized the Modi government and its policies.

In the letter to the IIT director dated May 15, Prisca

### NO HEARING

► HRD ministry forwards **anonymous complaint** on Ambedkar Periyar Student Circle to IIT-M director, asks for comments

► APSC had **criticized Modi govt's policies** on use of Hindi and cow slaughter ban

► IIT dean sends email to APSC coordinators that they have been "**derecognized**"

► APSC says ban was based on anonymous complaint and they were **denied a hearing**

Mathew, under secretary to the Government of India, wrote, "I am directed to forward herewith a copy of anonymous letter alleging serious complaints received from students, IIT-Madras along with pamphlet issued by Ambedkar-Periyar study circle on the above mentioned subject and to request that comments of the institute may please be sent to this ministry at an early date."

► **Continued on P 21**

# APSC members say they were denied hearing

► **Continued from P1**

A week later, on May 24, the IIT dean (for students), Sivakumar M Srinivasan, sent a terse email to the coordinators of the APSC informing them that they had been "derecognized". Members of APSC are now up in arms pointing out that the HRD ministry's action and the IIT's decision to ban their activities was based on an anonymous complaint by right-wing groups and that they were denied a hearing.

The group demanded to know how an 'anonymous' letter represented the majority opinion of stu-

dents of IIT-Madras. "We object to the fact that the dean has derecognized our study circle unilaterally without giving us a fair hearing and an opportunity to represent ourselves. In our interaction with the dean of students, we have been told that our study circle engaged in 'controversial activities'," said a member of the APSC, seeking anonymity. The APSC was created as a discussion forum on April 14, 2014 by a group of politically-inclined students from IIT-Madras to promote the ideology and writings of B R Ambedkar and Periyar.

*For the full report, log on to [www.timesofindia.com](http://www.timesofindia.com)*

## IIT-Madras derecognises student group

Sruthisagar Yamunan

**CHENNAI:** The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras has derecognised the Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle (APSC), a student association, following an anonymous complaint that it was instigating protests against the policies of the Centre and creating "hatred" against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Hindus.

The members, many of whom are Dalit students, in turn, have shot off a letter to the institute's Director against what they called the "unilateral" and "undemocratic" decision to derecognise the group.

Citing an anonymous complaint allegedly from a section of students, Prisca Mathew, Under Secretary to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, wrote to the IIT-M management on May 15 requesting its comments on the issue.

Students said that on May 22, they received a mail from the Dean of Students, Sivakumar M. Srinivasan, communicating that the APSC was being derecognised for "misuse of privileges."

When contacted, Mr. Srinivasan said the members failed to follow the code of conduct for student bodies that clearly stated that activities should have the Dean's approval. "The members did not go through me or take my permission for the posters or the activity," he said, referring to posters mentioned in the unsigned complaint.

## Search begins for new V-C as Singh's term ends in October

Staff Reporter

**NEW DELHI:** With Dinesh Singh's term as the Vice Chancellor in Delhi University set to end in October this year, the process for appointing a new V-C has already begun.

The Executive Council of DU has suggested the names of former CAG Vinod Rai and former ISRO chairman K Kasturirangan to a selection panel, which is likely to be set up soon.

"The university has nominated K. Kasturirangan, former ISRO chairman and former CAG Vinod Rai, CAG, as members of the committee," Abha Dev Habib, an EC member said.

A notification regarding the constitution of the search-cum-selection panel would be issued by the HRD Ministry.

Mr. Singh's term in the university has been controversial over the introduction of the four year undergraduate programme (FYUP) and the row over the implementation of CBCS this year.

Adding to the trouble, the HRD Ministry had on March 17 sent him a show-cause notice seeking his reply on the FYUP issue, starting of B.Tech courses without clearance from AICTE and allegations of diversion of funds to the tune of Rs. 172 crore meant for OBC students to buy laptops.

In his reply, Mr. Singh had said that necessary sanctions were obtained from all statutory bodies for the introduction of FYUP.

The Vice-Chancellor also stated that there was no communication regarding the new programme from the UGC or HRD Ministry till the new government entered office.

Hindustan Times ND 29/05/2015 P-13

# Varsity MoUs on foreign tie-ups to be placed before cabinet

**Brajesh Kumar**

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**NEW DELHI:** The cabinet secretariat has refused to relent to human resource development (HRD) ministry's plea to exempt higher educational institutions from seeking cabinet approval for foreign collaborations saying the Memorandum of understanding (MoUs) could be placed before the cabinet ex post facto, that is, after they are signed.

The cabinet secretariat in April had issued a circular asking all ministries/departments to ensure every MoU signed by an agency with any foreign country/ agency be routed through the cabinet.

The HRD ministry early this month wrote to the cabinet secretariat asking it to exempt the higher educational institutions that sign an array of MoUs with foreign universities to exempt from the said direction.

In its letter, the ministry argued that since huge impetus on internationalisation of education was being given a number of MoU are expected to

be signed in the near future and therefore MoUs for educational exchanges be exempted under broad framework of cultural exchanges, sources said.

It further argued that long process of approval for such a large number of MoUs would hinder internationalisation for attaining quality in country's higher education system. It also said the ministry did not have the wherewithal to go through every MoU signed between Indian institutions and foreign ones.

Every year higher educational institutions including IITs, IIMs and central universities sign agreements with foreign universities for various activities like student/faculty exchange. Joint research programmes, leadership development programmes, joint degree programmes, development of community colleges and skill development.

The HRD ministry's letter to the cabinet secretariat was sent before president Pranab Mukherjee's visit to Russia where a number of MoUs between the Indian universities and Russian Universities were to be signed.

# Times Of India ND 29/05/2015 P-22

## Educate In India

*Retain young talent by permitting foreign universities in the country*

India is rich in human resources and currently enjoys a youth demographic bulge. However, jobs needing high degree of skills won't be created unless there is an adequate supply of skilled personnel. In an unusual step, the commerce ministry has circulated a strategy paper that suggests allowing foreign universities to set up campuses in India. The idea is welcome and is part of a package of reforms urgently needed by India's higher education sector. The latter requires a large dose of internationalisation since India's youth are voting with their feet, fleeing its collapsing higher education for greener pastures abroad. And once educated abroad they tend to settle abroad as well. This means, in effect, that India is haemorrhaging its young talent.



To stop this haemorrhage, it's essential to create an 'Educate in India' brand. India's higher education is in need of competition and students deserve more options. At present, there is a paucity of top notch institutions of higher education. It is beyond the government's capacity to meet this need on its own. Therefore, it should ease the path of institutions of higher education promoted by the private sector, be they Indian or foreign. In fact, we should envisage a reversal of the present situation so that India attracts young people from abroad as a study destination. Also, 'Make in India' isn't going to take off without 'Educate in India'.

The source of the idea, however, points to one of the challenges confronting education. The HRD ministry, which should be brimming with ideas on education, is dormant. HRD minister Smriti Irani should now lend her support to this idea. Opening up to foreign universities is an area where HRD can move quickly as most of the issues have been debated extensively over the last few years. India's young deserve a more proactive HRD ministry. Enhancing the quality of education is a must for 'sabka saath sabka vikas' to succeed.

## Economic Times ND 29/05/2015 P-1

**NO SOCIAL SERVICE** Top social science education institute forced to take bank loans and dip into reserves to pay salaries and keep organisation running

# TISS Flounders as Sarkar Fails to Bolster It with Funds

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**New Delhi:** Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), widely recognised as a pioneer in the area of social science education, is in the grip of a financial 'nightmare' even as the human resource development (HRD) ministry and the University Grants Commission (UGC) work on a new framework for government policy towards funding deemed universities in the country.

TISS, set up in 1936 by the Tatas, is among eight deemed universities funded by the government which are faced with a financial crisis as UGC and HRD ministry are yet to decide whether the state should continue funding them.

TISS has had to take bank loans in March and April and dip into its reserves — essentially funds generated through fee collection — to pay employee salaries and keep the institute running.

Willing to Follow New Rules >> 18

## The TISS Story

Set up in **1936** as Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work

In **1944**, it was renamed Tata Institute of Social Sciences

In **1964**, TISS was declared deemed to be a university under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act

**5,000**  
Student strength across all 4 campuses

**176**  
Strength of faculty



TISS has received **govt funds** since late **1940s**, and has been fully state-funded since then. As per UGC, full **funding** started from **1971**

Main campus is in **Mumbai** with other campuses in Guwahati, Hyderabad & Tuljapur in Osmanabad district of Maharashtra



## Manjhi-Modi Meeting Triggers Talk of Alliance

Former Bihar CM Jitan Ram Manjhi met PM Narendra Modi, leading to speculation that a tie-up between his party and NDA may be in the works, report **Rakesh Mohan Chaturvedi & Akshay Deshmane**. >> 2

# Willing to Follow New Rules

>> From Page 1

"TISS has sent a representation to both UGC and HRD ministry and it is now up to the government to take a decision. We urgently need the money — some ₹65-70 crore comes to us in grants from UGC. We are a fully public-funded institution and our existence depends on this funding. While funds for 2014-15 were released to us last year, now we are facing a nightmare. Salaries, pensions, maintenance of hostels, water and electricity bills are all dependent on this funding," TISS Director S Parasuraman told ET in a telephonic interview.

He pointed out that TISS followed government norms with regard to reservation and is also willing to adhere to any new rules.

"This is an 80-year-old institution with 4,600 students. We are ready to follow all government rules, but stopping the grants while new rules are yet to come into effect is like choking you to death. For social sciences, there is especially a need for financial support. We are only requesting the government to quickly release funds," Parasuraman said.

UGC Chairman Ved Prakash confirmed there were funding issues with regard to eight deemed varsities, including TISS, but said a solution would soon be found.

"UGC will take a considered view keeping in mind the interests of both the institute and the students. The idea is to facilitate the growth and

development of good institutions. We are exploring possibilities of helping them out from the present stalemate," the UGC chairman told ET.

Higher Education Secretary Satyanarayan Mohanty did not respond to queries from ET till press time.

### INSUFFICIENT FUNDS

In a letter dated April 29, 2015, Parasuraman told the higher education secretary that funds were insufficient even to pay salaries. "The current financial year has commenced and we are yet to receive grants even to meet the salary and pension of March and April 2015 and other critical operational costs like electricity, water, security, annual maintenance contracts, etc. It has come to a situation that we had to take loans to pay salaries and pension for these months," Parasuraman wrote.

Acknowledging that the HRD ministry and UGC may be working on a fresh framework for funding of deemed universities, the TISS director had sought the secretary's intervention to ensure "the institute is not crippled and the grants for salary and pension are released immediately".

The institute receives both plan and non-plan grants from UGC with the latter touching about ₹50 crore in 2013-14. It has received funding from the central government since late 1940s. After it was declared a deemed varsity in 1964, it has been wholly funded by the government. Its existing campus in Deonar,

Mumbai, was inaugurated by India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

### HRD MIN RAISED QUESTIONS

Questions were raised by the HRD ministry in September-October 2014 about the rationale of government funding for these eight varsities. Subsequently, UGC held back funds for these varsities. While the institutes have been sending a stream of representations to the HRD ministry and UGC seeking release of funds, the two have yet to come to a resolution.

For about a year, TISS has been requesting that the HRD ministry directly fund its non-plan expenditure instead of UGC on account of delayed and irregular funding by the commission. TISS has also requested that its non-plan block grant funding be increased to ₹100 crore per annum.

While TISS is probably the most prestigious among the deemed varsities, there are others as well who are faced with a severe cash crunch owing to the rethink in HRD ministry and UGC over their funding. Among these are Agra-based Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Gujarat Vidyapeeth in Ahmedabad, Gandhi Gram Rural Institute in Tamil Nadu, Avinashilingam University in Coimbatore. Government-run deemed varsities namely Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth in Delhi, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth in Tirupati and Gurukul Kangri University in Haridwar are also facing funds shortage.

## Financial Express ND 29/05/2015 P-19

# 90k Indian students apply for US visa, 4,000 make the cut

**New Delhi, May 28:** The number of student visa applications for the United States has registered a 60% increase this year with a whopping 90,000 applicants, of whom only about 4,000 could make the cut.

According to an official statement, around 4,000 students managed to get student visa which saw over 90,000 applicants, a number which doubled at the US embassy and consulates, especially in Mumbai and Hyderabad, over the last 12 months.

"The US Embassy in Delhi, and Consulates General in Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai, opened their doors on today to over 4,000 Indian students who applied for visas to pursue education in the United States," it said.

The students will join a growing league of their

counterparts in the US, which stands at nearly 103,000 at present, making them the second largest group of foreign students in the country after China.

"Student visa applications

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across India increased 60% last year. Consular officers approve the vast majority of student visa applications. 78% of Indian students opt to study Science Technology

Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields," the US Embassy said.

According to the embassy, in terms of popularity of study disciplines among the applicants, engineering tops the chart, followed by computer science.

"Last year Indian students in the United States contributed \$3.3 billion to the US economy," it said.

Congratulating the successful applicants, US Ambassador to India Richard Verma said, "Indian students are a great asset to United States universities and colleges. Both countries benefit greatly when our students study and learn together."

On the occasion, celebrated as Student Visa Day, the embassy and the consulates treated the applicants to an informative morning in a festive, collegiate atmosphere. *PTI*

## Scholars appointed in faculty positions under UGC initiative

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/scholars-appointed-in-faculty-positions-under-ugc-initiative/articleshow/47461380.cms>

NEW DELHI: As many as 102 scholars, 45 per cent of whom are from overseas, have been appointed to faculty positions in scientific disciplines in institutes in the country under an UGC initiative.

They were appointed under the faculty recharge programme which envisages recruitment at national level of highly-motivated faculty working overseas, with flair for research in inter-disciplinary and frontier areas of science.

The programme envisages 1,000 faculty to be inducted over a period of five years.

The appointment of the new faculties was released by HRD Minister Smriti Irani here today.

"A significant facet of this exercise relate to the number of successful women candidates (23 per cent) and overseas candidates (45 per cent).

"The present initiative is in conformity with the vision of the HRM to promote the concept of Teach in India", said an UGC statement.

The candidates selected have to their credit rich contributions in critical areas of research in the domain of physics, mathematical sciences, chemical sciences, biological sciences, engineering sciences and earth sciences.

"This initiative is going to give a fillip to quality teaching and research in the university system, both Central and State, at a time when we have severe shortage of teaching faculty," the statement said.

The programme provides a vehicle to plough back talent, as a reversal of brain drain, into the country in the hope that they will bring into our higher education system a rich culture of new thoughts and ideas for cross fertilization of the same in our system, it said.

## Govt splits top DRDO posts, appoints new chief

Hindustan Times (Gurgaon)

Nearly four months after sacking Avinash Chander, the Ministry on Thursday appointed radar specialist Selvin Christopher and missile scientist GS Reddy as the DRDO chief and Scientific Advisor to the defence minister, respectively.

Like his predecessors, Avinash Chander, who was sacked in January, held the two posts. But the government concluded that it was erroneous to appoint a scientist to be an adviser as well as head the research development body and decided to bifurcate the post.

Christopher — who heads the Bengaluru-based Centre for Airborne Systems and the project to develop airborne early warning and control systems — will be the secretary, department of defence research and development, as well as director general of the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).

The new scientific adviser to defence minister, GS Reddy, is the director of the Hyderabad-based Research Centre Imarat (RCI), the missile avionics hub of DRDO that is considered the brainchild of former president APJ Abdul Kalam.



After Chander's removal, defence minister Manohar Parrikar, 59, indicated that he did not want a senior position to be held by a scientist on contract and wanted to "introduce in the scientific world, a slightly younger generation". He kept his word. Parrikar's scientific adviser is just 51, eight years younger than the minister while Christopher is in his late fifties.

Christopher faces the challenging task of revitalising the DRDO that has slipped on deadlines and has even come under fire from a parliamentary panel recently for shoddy research, inordinate delays, corruption and its fancy for reverse engineering.

## **THE ISSUE OF AGE AND CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

Hindustan Times (Jaipur)

The move to reduce the retirement age of heads of IITs and NITs is in line with the NDA government's objective of infusing young blood in academics. The proposed step could lead to confrontation with the IITs and NITs which are governed by their own Acts of Parliament that empower their councils to take/ratify such decisions. Both the IIT and NIT councils, which are the apex decision making bodies of these institutions, had approved raising the retirement age of their directors from 65 to 70 few years ago. The IIT council in 2009 had raised the retirement age bar for directors to enable some of the directors who had turned 65 to serve their second term. The decisions if implemented could reduce the cut-off age for those applying for these positions from 60 to 55. As of now the applicants for IITs, NITs should preferably not be above the age of 60 so that in case of two five years terms they do not cross the age of 70. In the case of central universities, the govt can issue an order asking the universities to modify their statutes.