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TOI, Aug 12

Evicted from hostels, DU students on hunger strike

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Students and teachers in Delhi **University** have finally come together to protest against the eviction of students from college hostels to accommodate tourists during the Commonwealth Games. Members of the **University Community for Democracy** — a group of students, teachers and former students in DU, formed two months ago — will go on a relay hunger strike from Thursday onwards at Arts Faculty to make DU authorities come forward and take responsibility for helping out the evicted hostellers. The group also wrote to the National Commission for Women on Wednesday highlighting the problems faced by female students in searching for accommodation outside the campus.

“Why are students being made to pay for the Commonwealth Games? Earlier they paid anything around Rs 20,000 annually for hostel accommodation. But now they are forced to pay upto Rs 30,000 for three months in private hostels,” said Bonojit Hussain, a member of the group. He added that the cost of rooms in the PG hostels has gone up as much as three times also affecting not just the 1200 students evicted from college hostels, but also the other students who have come to DU from different cities.

While the colleges get to charge tariff from the tourists who come visiting during the Games, the students are being forced to pay exorbitant rents outside “which does not include food or electricity bills.” Bikram Bohra, a second-year student of BA (honours) history at Ramjas College, said, “I am now managing in a flat in Vijay Nagar with three others at Rs 10,000 per month.”

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SC seeks dossier on deemed univs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Apparently dissatisfied with the mode and manner in which the Centre decided to accept Tandon Committee report recommending de-recognition of 44 deemed **universities**, the SC on Wednesday sought details of lacunae in each case intending to take up the scrutiny all by itself.

In the face of a stinging legal challenge mounted by the deemed **universities** facing threat of derecognition and the Centre agreeing for a court scrutiny, a Bench comprising Justices Dalveer Bhandari and Deepak Verma wanted the HRD ministry to provide details of lacunae detected by the committee leading to the controversial recommendation.

Even as the faulted deemed **universities** questioned the legality of Tandon Committee’s recommendations when a statutory body, **UGC**, had given them a clean chit, the Bench’s doubts about the committee’s assessment came out in the open.

Taking the view that the list of 44 was a mixed bag, the court asked the Centre to file an affidavit within four weeks indicating the basis on which some **universities** were shunned with zero marks on the scale by the committee. What weighed with the court was the fact that some of these 44 **institutes** had got excellent ranking from **UGC** as late as December 2009 that made the court assume that the parameters set by the Tandon Committee were perhaps too high.

“There are some **institutions** that deserve to be deemed,” the Bench said, quoting the example of Gurukul Kangri **institute** at Haridwar which despite its cherished history of ayurvedic and yoga teaching, failed to clear the Tandon Committee test.

The **institute** had cited a report of December 2009 prepared by **UGC** finding it a fit **university** to retain deemed status.

Aug 13

A FINE BALANCE

Green Growth: Reality Or Mirage?

BY AMBUJ SAGAR

Green growth has become the catchphrase of the decade across the world. It is the new mantra that countries see as a way to have their cake and eat it, too, or to put it differently, grow and have a clean environment, too. I want to use a number of recent news items that are all inter-connected to discuss “green growth”.

The first piece, in ‘The Economist’, discusses how the Chinese government’s efforts to reduce environmental pollution in recent years are having only limited success, partly because of the scale of the problem, but also because the Chinese have been putting economic growth ahead of the environment. But the Chinese government seems to be taking more aggressive steps now — another very recent report indicates that it is closing down almost 2,100 old and inefficient cement, steel, and dyeing plants to improve energy efficiency, the intention being to replace these inefficient factories with more efficient, hi-tech plants.

In fact, hi-tech, or to be more precise, knowledgeintensive technologies lie at the heart of green growth. Cut it any way, one cannot achieve green growth without the ability to appropriately harness science and technology.

Now let’s come to India. Another report in the same issue of ‘The Economist’ noted that in the coming decade, the size of the Indian workforce is expected to increase by 80-110 million. Thus, upto 30% of the world’s new workers will be Indian. Providing quality jobs to these workers will be a real challenge. Green growth may be the way to increase jobs while enhancing the country’s long-term competitiveness and protecting our environment.

But, this will not be a trivial achievement. More than anything, it requires a concerted policy effort by the government. Yet a third article in that same very magazine talks about the rise of “industrial policy” — i.e., strategic support by governments for specific industrial sectors — across the world, so much so that even the World Bank, long a critic of industrial policy, has come around to accepting its value for developing countries. But systematic industrial policy for green growth is mostly absent in India.

Furthermore, industrial policy must go hand in hand with enlightened industry – Indian industry is notoriously averse to investing in innovation. Indian national R&D investments are relatively low — less than 1% of gross domestic product, whereas investments in industrialized countries are between 2 and 3.5% of GDP (and even China has risen rapidly in recent years to reach 1.5%). Our industry accounts for less than a third of these investments, whereas the corresponding figure for countries such as Japan and South Korea is about 75%.

So while green growth may be more important for India than almost any other country, the Indian government and industry are not in a position to exploit this opportunity.

Which brings me to my last point: A knowledge-driven economy requires highly trained scientists and engineers, for which we need wellfunctioning knowledge institutions. The government needs to take aggressive steps to ensure that our premier knowledge institutions, such as the IITs, are able to compete with the world’s best universities. The Kakodkar Committee will hopefully provide a useful roadmap for helping them do so.

Let me be clear — without a clear and effective technical higher education policy, without industrial policy, and without a transformation in the mindset of Indian industry, any visions for green growth will remain just that. As I said earlier, green growth is attractive but not easy to achieve. Will we able to rise to the challenge as a country? Stay tuned!!

The author is Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Professor of Policy Studies at IIT Delhi



Green growth may be the way to increase jobs while enhancing the country's competitiveness and protecting our environment

ET, Aug 13

Visiting faculty now a fave tribe

NEW CURRICULUM: B-SCHOOLS GO FOR INDUSTRY-FRIENDLY APPROACH

Parag Dave AHMEDABAD

NOT very long back, domain experts, trying their luck at B-schools as parttime lecturers, were derided as 'taxi faculty', hopping from one [institute](#) to the other purely for money.

Today, with management [institutes](#) mushrooming and the race to provide quality contemporary [education](#) hotting up, visiting faculty are enjoying their moment in the sun.

Increasing focus on placements and real-time training is forcing B-schools, especially the newer ones, to impart more than just academic teaching. They are urging executives from various sectors to extend their association beyond guest lectures. This way, B-schools are also able to tide over the acute faculty crunch as more and more senior corporate managers are accepting responsibility of conducting full courses. In fact, the number of visiting faculty is more than the full-time faculty at many tier-II [institutes](#).

Many [institutes](#), in their efforts to churn out more industry-ready candidates, are offering a host of electives (subjects chosen by the students). Take, for example, Ahmedabad-based Shanti Business School (SBS), a newly established [institute](#), which offers 74 electives. Run by textile major Chiripal group, the [institute](#) plans to get an industry expert for each elective.

"We have developed a model where we will have visiting faculty from across the globe. They will stay here for more than 10 days at a time and teach electives. The industry needs experts in internet marketing or supply chain management. But it's difficult to get faculty with expertise in teaching these new-age courses. Thus, the only option is industry experts," says Jay Sanghani, head (new initiatives) of Chiripal Charitable Trust that runs SBS. This trend of engaging industry professionals has picked up only in the last 2-3 years as more and more B-schools realise that traditional syllabi are not relevant to current industry needs and few of the regular faculty has industry work experience. On the other hand, visiting experts can easily draw from their professional experience and focus on real case studies that further understanding.

One such school, the Mumbai-based Indian [Institute](#) of Financial Management (IIFM), has nearly half of its faculty coming

from the industry. “It is very difficult to provide quality contemporary [education](#) to students in the current scenario and therefore, 50% of our faculty comes from the industry,” says IIFM CEO Jagmohan Bhanver. IIFM has professionals coming in from organisations like IDBI, Yes Bank, Godrej, Eureka Forbes and Ispat Industries.

The faculty spends anywhere between 30 and 60 hours per year on the campus with a batch. The year-long interaction comes in handy during placements as executives can spot talent easily and recommend names to their respective HR departments during the placement process. This also helps the [institute](#) in its placement performance, a benchmark for its success.

Phagwara-based Lovely Professional [University](#), that has 4,000 students across three BSchools, gets its visiting faculty from LG, Reliance Industries and Fortis Healthcare.

Pune-based Lexicon [Institute](#) of Management [Education](#) (LIME), set up just a year back, has brought in professionals above the general manager or vice-president level. “There is a challenge to provide quality [education](#) that can match industry requirements. We have around 10 visiting faculty members, and they teach an average 40 hours a year,” says its dean Avaneesh Jumde. He believes visiting faculty from the industry can make courses more industry friendly, thus reducing the induction period for students in a company. LIME gets professionals from General Motors, Tata group and Capgemini.

It’s a win-win for students too, as a sustained interaction with professionals helps them get a sense of the sector. “Books alone do not help much in dealing with professional challenges. Interaction with visiting faculty help us in knowing how to implement theory in practical life,” said Amit Das, a PGDM student at ISB&M.

While most [institutes](#) did not wish to share remuneration figures, Mr Bhavner of IIFM says many industry professionals don’t work for money. “There are a large number of professionals in the corporate world who just want to be associated with academics and prepare the future workforce,” he says.

Finance and management consultant Nayan Parikh, an IIM-A 1981 batch alumnus, teaches at IIM-A, CEPT and ICFAI B-schools as visiting faculty. “I am happiest in the classroom as teaching is my hobby,” he says.



Grooming the future workforce

Hindustan Times**Title : Autonomy not yet to IIT, IIM****Author : Charu Sudan Kasturi charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com****Location : NEW DELHI:****Article Date : 08/12/2010**

Autonomy not yet to IIT, IIM

SETBACK Finance rejects plan to free institutions from govt interference

Charu Sudan Kasturi■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The finance ministry has rejected a long-standing demand of the IITs and the IIMs seeking freedom from government interference in creating faculty posts. This comes as a setback to Kapil Sibal's plans to increase their autonomy.

India's top engineering and management schools will continue to need government sanction to create faculty posts, the finance ministry has said, top government sources told *HT*.

Sibal's HRD ministry had proposed the IITs, IIMs and other top technical education institutions be allowed to create teaching posts on their own, while keeping the ratio of teaching to non-teaching posts intact.

The HRD minister has on occasions over the past year said he wants to increasingly grant autonomy to the IITs and the IIMs. Sibal has even asked each IIT and IIM to prepare a blueprint for the same.

This proposal was aimed at freeing up some of the country's best higher educational institutions to create faculty jobs based on their needs at a time rather than on bureaucratic norms.

The proposal was seen as critical because of the Foreign Education Providers Bill, that will allow foreign varsities to enter India.

Freeing up creation of faculty jobs at the IITs and IIMs would have helped them compete better with foreign universities that enjoy this freedom.

The IITs and the IIMs have on occasions lost out on hiring renowned experts in a department because of no vacancies

TO FREE OR NOT TO FREE

- HRD Ministry has been proposing greater autonomy for top technical education institutions
- The institutes, as of now need government sanction to create faculty posts
- Sibal is of the view that they be allowed to create teaching posts on their own while keeping the ratio of teaching to non-teaching posts intact
- This proposal becomes crucial because the Foreign Education Providers Bill will allow foreign varsities to enter India
- The IIT and IIM officials complain that they lose out of experts in departments because they do not have vacancies
- The institutes also face a massive faculty shortage.
- The percentage of vacancies in teaching posts varies from 15 pc to 40 pc across IITs and IIMs. NITs also face faculty crunch

at the appropriate post.

The problem is particularly acute, IIT and IIM officials complain, because of the massive faculty shortage they face.

The percentage of vacancies in teaching posts varies from 15 per cent to 40 per cent across the IITs and the IIMs.

The National Institutes of Technology (NITs), which were to be also covered under the HRD ministry proposal, also face a huge faculty shortage.

"In this scenario, if we have a top-notch academic interested in joining us, but we cannot because of no vacant professor posts, it hurts. If the finance ministry has rejected the HRD ministry proposal, our hurt is set to continue," an IIT Director said, requesting anonymity.

Bhatkar state e-governance panel chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AUGUST 11

ARCHITECT of the Param supercomputer, scientist Dr Vijay Bhatkar has been appointed chairman of e-governance committee for the state. With the state taking a lead in implementation of e-governance for providing better services to the citizens, the separate panel has been formed to prepare an e-governance policy.

The committee of experts will prepare and submit a draft e-governance policy after two months.

This has been validated through the recent e-readiness assessment report published by Government of India.

Maharashtra has been named amongst the leaders where the state has given priority to e-enablement of citizen centric services through e-governance and the same has also been reflected in the government manifesto which states that priority needs to be given to delivery of citizen services and should be made available at places near home like setu centers or common service centres.

The committee would help monitor all the facilities under e-governance ensuring a standardised and seamless implementation of projects and allow departments to collaborate, use and share data

governance implementation in the state, which the state departments can easily refer and adhere to.

The committee will also take the opinion of citizens, industry associations, corporate, academia and consider the best practices from India and abroad, while drafting the policy. The committee is also expected to study the existing policies with respect to e-governance, and incorporate the required elements from the same to ensure consistency and interoperability.

The policy will address e-enablement of service or online service delivery.

The expenses with respect to the working of the committee will be borne by Setu Maharashtra.

The other members include- Dr Deepak B. Phatak (Subrao M Nilekani chair professor, IIT Bombay), Dr G Sivakumar (professor, computer science and engineering department, IIT Bombay), Dr Ajay Bhushan Pandey (principal secretary, IT), NY Jantre (secretary, administrative reforms and O&M), Suresh Mhatre (VP Tata Consultancy Services), Vijay Mukhi (president, FIST & consultant - Technology Practice) Dr Anand Deshpande (founder, chairman and managing director, Persistent Systems Ltd), Rajiv Vaishnav (vice president - member Outreach, Nasscom), Rajiv Vaish-

[DNA, Aug. 12](#)

Now, IIT students can spend a semester at US university

Brown University to sign an agreement with the premier institute

Mihika Basu



[Enlarge Image](#)

The Brown University is all set to start a student exchange programme with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay. Representatives of the American varsity are currently in India to explore the possibility of tie-ups with educational institutions.

“We expect to sign an agreement when the director of IIT Bombay comes to Brown University in October this year. As part of the programme, two students from IIT

Bombay will come to our university and vice versa. They will spend one semester at the respective institutes,” said Matthew Gutmann, vice-president for international affairs, Brown University. It will be primarily focused in areas like engineering and physical sciences.

“We are looking forward to signing the agreement on the exchange programme which will focus on undergraduate students,” said Devang Khakhar, director, IIT Bombay.

Brown University currently has a student-exchange programme with St Stephens College, Delhi.

“We are open to similar exchange programmes with other Indian institutes. In 20 years, there wont be a single leader who has not studied in some other country. Hence, we attach a lot of importance to student-exchange programmes as students are exposed to different countries and cultures and both institutes benefit,” said Gutmann.

Brown University, which was founded in 1764, currently has 6,000 undergraduate (UG) students and 2,000 graduate students. Around 37 UG applications from India were accepted this year. “The number of students applying from India has increased over the years. While five years back, the numbers were under 100, it has gone upto 249 in 2010,” said Gutmann.

The university, is however, not looking at establishing any campus in India. “Our university is nearly 250-year-old and we dont want to duplicate it elsewhere,” said Gutmann.

Weak IIT students to get another chance

Mihika Basu

Help is at hand for postgraduate (PG) students of IIT Bombay, whose performance does not meet the desired academic requirements. The institute has initiated a probation programme, which focuses on PG students (masters and PhD), especially the weak ones, to give them a second chance to survive and continue in their programmes.

“PG students are required to get a minimum cumulative grade point index of six per semester. So, if a student gets 5.7, he or she becomes ineligible,” said VSK Murthy Balijepalli, general secretary of academic affairs, postgraduate programs, IIT Bombay. “If such students apply under the probation programme, they wont be asked to leave the institute and will get a final chance [to improve their grade]. The initiative has been introduced this year.”

It will be a one-time exercise for students who apply for probation for a period of one semester and will be decided by the Postgraduate Academic Performance Evaluation Committee (PGAPEC) of the institute, in consultation with faculty advisors. The committee monitors and reviews individual academic

performances.

Students will have to submit a declaration that they want to be part of the probation programme so that their monthly stipend for teaching assistantship or research assistantship continues.

“However, during the probation semester, teaching assistantship duties will not be given to students under probation. Hence, while PG students have to pay a tuition fee of Rs5,000, those under probation will have to pay the non-concessional fee of Rs25,000,” said Balijepalli.

IIT-B grad holds key to millennium riddle

P vs NP is one of seven problems set out by Massachusetts institute as being the most difficult to solve

London: A US-based Indian-origin IT wizard claimed he has solved one of the worlds most complex and intractable mathematical problems that could transform mankinds use of computers.

Vinay Deolalikar, who works at the research arm of Hewlett-Packard in Palo Alto, California, believes he has solved the riddle of P vs NP, one of the seven millennium problems set out by the Massachusetts-based Clay Mathematical Institute as being the “most difficult” to solve.

If his claim is proved to be correct, Deolalikar, who is an alumnus of IIT Bombay, stands to earn a \$1 million prize, the Daily Telegraph reported. The institute recently offered \$1 million to Russian mathematician Grigory Perelman for his proof of the Poincare Conjecture; Perelman refused the prize. P vs NP is a major unsolved problem in computer science and maths. Informally, it asks whether every problem with a yes-or-no answer whose solution can be efficiently checked by a computer and can also be efficiently solved by a computer.

Deolalikar claims to have proven that P, which refers to problems whose solutions are easy to find and verify, is not the same as NP, which refers to problems whose solutions are almost impossible to find but easy to verify.

Many mathematical calculations involve checking such a large number of possible solutions that they are beyond the current capability of any computer. However, the answers to some are quick and easy to verify as correct. P vs NP considers if there is a way of arriving at the answers to the calculations more quickly in the first place.

Deolalikars paper, posted online on Friday, is now being peer-reviewed by computer scientists, some of whom doubt the validity of the proof. Scott Aaronson, associate professor of computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is so sceptical that he pledged on his blog to pay Deolalikar an additional \$200,000 if the solution is accepted by Clay.

The P vs NP problem was formalised in 1971 by mathematicians Stephen Cook and Leonid Levin. —
Agencies