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TOI, Aug 27

HC suspends five judges caught copying during LLM exam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Five judges belonging to the state subordinate judiciary were suspended by the Andhra Pradesh high court on Wednesday for allegedly copying while writing their LLM exams at the Arts College of Kakatiya University in Warangal.

The incident took place on Tuesday. One of the judges was found copying from a law book hidden under his answersheet. Written slips and pages torn from textbooks were seized from other judges. The copying material was confiscated by university invigilators who stopped the judges from writing any further.

The judges were doing LLM under the distance module from Kakatiya University as the degree would help them get increments.

Those placed under suspension include K Ajitsimha Rao, senior civil judge, Ranga Reddy district, M Kistappa, principal senior civil judge, Anantapur, P Vijayendar Reddy, second additional district judge, Ranga Reddy district, M Srinivasachary, senior civil judge in Bapatla of Guntur district and Hanumantha Rao, additional junior civil judge in Warangal.

According to the university's additional controller of examinations, the candidates were taking exams when a team made a surprise visit.

Slowdown over, executive MBA high in demand

Anahita Mukherji | TNN

Mumbai: A year after the global financial crisis that saw students from the best B-schools across the world struggling for a job in the corporate sector, a survey on application trends for management education this year throws up some rather interesting findings.

According to the survey by the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) that conducts GMAT — an MBA entrance test used by B-schools across the world — there's been a steep rise in the popularity of the executive MBA for mid-career professionals, as well as an increase in part-time MBAs for those juggling jobs, families and other responsibilities. Simultaneously, there's been a decline in the applications received for the plain vanilla fulltime MBA. The GMAC survey reflects data from 665 graduate management programmes in 39 countries.

This year, 59% of Executive MBA (EMBA) programmes saw an increase in the number of applications, reversing a three-year decline. Only 37% of EMBA programmes showed gains last year.

“Expectations of economic recovery may have encouraged corporate support for EMBA programs and driven top managers to obtain new knowledge and skills,” says GMAC's report. According to Dave Wilson, president and CEO of GMAT, the survey highlights the importance of “flexibility and creativity in delivering management education.”

What's startling, though, is the fact that there has been a sharp decline in the popularity of the full-time MBA programme for the second consecutive year. Only 44% of fulltime MBA programmes saw applications rise this year, down from 77% in 2008, when applications to these programmes peaked.

GMAC's survey attempts to understand just why this has happened. “The economic recovery is underway, but signs of recession still remain. The pace of the recovery has been slower than after previous economic downturns. History shows that a recession often spurs individuals to pursue their education full time.

LS passes edu tribunal bill

Lok Sabha on Friday passed the [education](#) tribunal bill after HRD minister Kapil [Sibal](#) lobbied his case strenuously with BJP leaders to explain that the bill did not lack legislative competence. The minister told leader of opposition Sushma Swaraj that previous amendments when NDA launched the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan enabled the Centre to legislate on tribunals. “In light of SC rulings, it would seem that the Centre has the right to set up tribunals,” said Swaraj. The BJP suggested some changes in appointment criteria to the national tribunals being considered which the minister said would be taken into account. The government had also ignored the criticism of the standing committee on HRD which had recommended some alterations.

TNN

CVC asks HRD to furnish dossier on deemed univs

Wants To Know Who Set Up Panel That Conferred Recognition

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Finally, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has got going on the deemed [university](#) mess. It has raised the most fundamental question about the experts — sent by [University](#) Grants Commission ([UGC](#)) — who had recommended deemed [university](#) status to higher [educational institutions](#).

CVC has asked the HRD ministry to furnish details about the manner in which [UGC](#) constituted its expert committee.

It has sought clarifications whether the decision to set up the expert committee was taken by an individual or was the collective one by the panel.

CVC wants to know about the number of deemed [universities](#) that have been set up in the past five years, and names of the people who were frequently involved in the expert committee as well as names of all those who were part of it.

CVC sources said the commission had written to the ministry nearly three months ago and only now the ministry has forwarded the query to [UGC](#).

On the basis of [UGC's](#) reply, the ministry will forward the details to CVC. Sources in [UGC](#) confirmed receiving the CVC query. “It could be the basis of a comprehensive inquiry on the setting up of deemed [universities](#),” a CVC source said.

The fact that the objectivity of expert committee could be questionable since the entire cost of travel allowance and dearness allowance of the expert committee was not borne by [UGC](#) but by the respective [institutes](#) that were inspected by the panel members. [UGC](#) has stated this while replying to an RTI query by the TOI correspondent.

Besides, expert committee's expenses being borne by respective [institutes](#) and not [UGC](#) weakens the case of deemed [universities](#) in the Supreme Court. Lawyers, who are pleading for the deemed [universities](#), have been arguing that the view of [UGC's](#) expert committee should be considered final, and it has more legal bearing than the review committee set up by the HRD ministry.

Deemed [universities](#) have been arguing that the ministry's review committee that looked into their functioning and found 44 of them to be unsuitable is illegal. They claim that under the [UGC](#) Act, deemed [universities](#) were set up on the basis of the report of its expert committee, and, consequently, the 'deemed' status can only be revoked by [UGC](#).



Students of a deemed varsity in Chennai went on a rampage early this year

[Economic Times, Aug. 27](#)

Trend Watch:

IT in a bind as grads find greener pastures

15-20% Of Experienced Staff Also Moved From IT To Other Sectors Over Past One Year

Devina Sengupta and Pankaj Mishra BANGALORE

AFTER trimming payroll and tightening perks to cope with the economic slowdown last year, software companies are finding that a rising number of engineering and management graduates are transferring their affections to vocations such as manufacturing and banking in a shift that could force tech firms to scramble harder than ever before for talented employees.

For years, college graduates and professionals working in India's \$50 billion (2.3 lakh crore) outsourcing sector moved from one tech firm to another, often getting 20-30% higher salaries in the bargain. Now, recruitment experts and industry officials say the churn of experienced staff from IT to other sectors has increased by 15-20% over the past year. The main reasons for this trend, they say, are the perceived job security in the core sector and the rising salary levels at manufacturing and telecom companies.

Among those who made the switch is Amit Bhargava, 29, who quit a job as a business analyst job at one of India's top tech firms last month to join a multinational bank's [technology](#) centre in Pune. The [technology](#) sector has not really lost its sheen, he says, but he wants to build specialist banking skills. "And it is not as prone to export risks," he adds, referring to his new vocation. Another reason for the shift away from IT companies is that they are now visiting college campuses for recruitment only during the eighth semester of the course, giving an opportunity to firms from other sectors to attract the best talent before them. Software industry grouping Nasscom asked its members last year to recruit graduating students during their final, eighth semester and not disrupt academic sessions.

Until two years ago, top Indian software firms competed aggressively with each other to hire engineering graduates. With the halo around working for a tech company beginning to fade, the competition is getting fiercer. Infosys [Technologies](#) alone plans to hire 36,000 employees in the fiscal to March and its chief executive S Gopkrishnan has listed the competition for talent as the industry's top challenge.

But Nasscom insists that tech firms continue to attract more talent from other sectors. Sangeeta Gupta, its vice president, says other sectors are losing 13-14% of their workforce to IT, much higher than 3-4% of staff that move from tech firms to employers in other verticals.

On the other hand E Balaji, chief executive of recruitment services provider Mafoi Randstad, believes that the "fascination" for IT has come down. Not too many people are moving out of the IT sector, but working for an IT company is no longer the first preference for many college graduates just embarking on a career, he says. Large manufacturing companies are now matching software firms and paying a starting salary of 2.5 lakh- 3 lakh a year, Mr Balaji says. A year ago they were paying fresh recruits 1.8 lakh annual salary. Among those looking to start a career in a sector other than IT is Aarushi Sinha, who is in her sixth semester of an MBA course in IT.

"Many of my seniors are already with Infosys and Wipro. I would rather explore something different, and an emerging sector like electric cars is very tempting," she says. This year, tech firms such as Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys and Wipro will hire around 60,000-70,000 new staff from engineering colleges, and are hoping to poach another 15,000-20,000 from other sectors.

Engineering colleges are already seeing increased demand for graduating students from employers in sectors such as telecom, automobile, power, and manufacturing. "This is because during the slump people realised that the stability in non-IT sectors was more," observes MS Narahari, director of placement and training at Bangalore's RV College of Engineering. Another Bangalore engineering college, PES, is already seeing firms such as L&T and Volvo-Eicher woo students ahead of the

tech firms, says KR Ravi, placement coordinator and senior faculty at PES Institute of Technology. “We are seeing this trend emerge after a very long time. Students of mechanical and electrical engineering are back to embracing core engineering firms.”

A high-tech nation plagued by potholes

Young Indians' Preference For Writing Software For Foreign Cos To Building Roadways For Country Is Leading To Shortage Of Civil Engineers

Vikas Bajaj PUNE

CALL it India's engineering paradox.

Despite this nation's rise as a **technology** titan with some of the world's best engineering minds, India's full economic potential is stifled by potholed roadways, collapsing bridges, rickety railroads and a power grid so unreliable that many modern office buildings run their own diesel generators to make sure the lights and computers stay on. It is not for want of money. The Indian government aims to spend \$500 billion on infrastructure by 2012 and twice that amount in the following five years.

The problem is a dearth of engineers – or at least the civil engineers with the skill and expertise to make sure those ambitious projects are done on time and up to specifications.

Civil engineering was once an elite occupation in India, not only during the British colonial era of carving roads and laying train tracks, but long after independence as part of the civil service. These days, though, India's best and brightest know there is more money and prestige in writing software for foreign customers than in building roadways for their nation.

And so it is that 26-year-old Vishal Mandvekar, despite his bachelor's degree in civil engineering, now writes software code for a Japanese automaker. Mandvekar works in an air-conditioned building with Silicon Valley amenities here in Pune. But getting to and from work requires him to spend a vexing hour on his motorcycle, navigating the crowded, cratered roads between home and his office a mere nine miles away.

During the monsoon season, the many potholes “are filled with water and you can't tell how deep they are until you hit one,” he said.

Fixing all that, though, will remain some other engineer's problem.

Mandvekar earns a salary of about \$765 a month. That is more than three times what he made during his short stint for a commercial contractor, supervising construction of lodging for a Sikh religious group, after he earned his degree in 2006.

“It was fun doing that,” he said of the construction job. “My only dissatisfaction was the pay package.”

Young Indians' preference for software over steel and concrete poses an economic conundrum for the country. Its much-envied information **technology** industry generates tens of thousands of relatively well-paying jobs every year. But that lure also continues the exodus of people qualified to build the infrastructure it desperately needs to improve living conditions for the rest of its 1 billion people – and to bolster the sort of industries that require good highways and railroads more than high-speed Internet links to the West.

In 1990, civil engineering programmes had the capacity to enroll 13,500 students, while computer **science** and information **technology** departments could accept but 12,100. Yet by 2007, after a period of incredible growth in India's software outsourcing business, computer **science** and other information **technology** programs had ballooned to 193,500; civil engineering climbed to only 22,700. Often, those admitted to civil engineering programs were applicants passed over for highly competitive computer **science** tracks.

There are other reasons that India has struggled to build a modern infrastructure, including poor planning, political meddling and outright corruption. But the shortage of civil engineers is an important factor. In 2008, the World Bank estimated that India would need to train three times as many civil engineers as it does now to meet its infrastructure needs.

The government has “kick-started a massive infrastructure development program without checking on the manpower supply,” said Atul Bhohe, managing director of S.N. Bhohe & Associates, a civil engineering design company. “The

government is willing to spend \$1 trillion,” he said, “but you don’t have the wherewithal to spend that kind of money.”

Sujay Kalele, an executive with Kolte-Patil, a Pune-based developer of residential and commercial buildings, said the company’s projects could be completed as much as three months faster if it could find enough skilled engineers.

“If we need 10 good-quality civil engineers, we may get four or five,” Kalele said.

Beyond construction delays and potholes, experts say, the engineering shortfall poses outright dangers. Last year, for example, an elevated span that was part of New Delhi’s much-lauded metro rail system collapsed, killing six people and injuring more than a dozen workers. A government report partly blamed faulty design for the accident; metro officials said they would now require an additional review of all designs by independent engineers.

Acknowledging India’s chronic shortage of civil engineers and other specialists, the national government is building 30 new [universities](#) and considering letting foreign [institutions](#) set up campuses in the country.

“India has embarked on its largest [education](#) expansion program since independence,” the prime minister, Manmohan Singh, said in a speech last year in Washington. But the government may have only so much influence on what students study. And while the Indian government runs or finances some of the country’s most prestigious [universities](#), like the Indian [Institutes of Technology](#), fastgrowing private [institutions](#) now train more students. About threequarters of engineering students study at private colleges.

Moreover, many civil engineers who earn degrees in the discipline never work in the profession or – like Mandvekar – leave it soon after they graduate to take better-paying jobs in information [technology](#), management consulting or financial services. Industry experts say a big obstacle to attracting more civil engineers is the paltry entry-level pay. The field was considered relatively lucrative until the 1990s, when it was eclipsed by the pay in commercial software engineering. Ravi Sinha, a civil engineering professor at the Indian [Institute of Technology](#), Mumbai, says professionals in his field with five years of experience make about as much as their counterparts at information [technology](#) companies. But those starting out can make as little as half the pay of their [technology](#) peers. That is partly because of the lead set by government departments, where salaries for civil engineers are often fixed according to nearly immutable civil service formulas.

And in the private sector, developers and construction companies have often been reluctant to pay more and invest in the training of young engineers, because executives believe that new graduates do not contribute enough to merit more money or that they will leave for other jobs anyway. “If companies take a holistic view,” Sinha said, “they have the opportunity to develop the next generation’s leaders.”

In fact, a construction boom in recent years has led to higher salaries in private industry. Kolte-Patil now pays junior engineers \$425 a month, nearly twice the level of five years ago.

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HindustanTimes

Title : Doctoring doctorates

Author : J. Sri Raman

Location :

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Doctoring doctorates

J. Sri Raman

Kapil Sibal may congratulate himself on managing a 'stalemate' with Viswanathan Anand after the chess champion offered to accept the honorary doctorate even if he had declined earlier. Perhaps it's time now for the minister to think hard about an issue pertaining to higher education.

One should not have needed an Anand to set Sibal thinking about doctorates, honorary or otherwise. Anand was not the first to have declined an honorary doctorate. Lalu Prasad did the same in 2004. The point is not about the leader saying no to the degree. It is about Yadav's refusal being an exception. There's a rush of politicians and others to 'earn' an honorary degree. Our centres of higher learning, on their part too, have never fought shy of conferring the coveted doctorates on 'personalities'.

Honorary doctorates can be wrangled from foreign universities as well. Earlier this year, former Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy was awarded an honorary degree from the University of Jerusalem, Israel. It was announced that a private trust had 'approached' the university for the honour. The story was that this was a parity-seeking exercise in response to Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa being awarded an honorary doctorate from a US University.



■ Pawns of the system

Indian universities can be influenced more easily than foreign ones. Doctorates are considered the divine right of CMs in a state like Tamil Nadu. Both M. Karunanidhi and J. Jayalalithaa sport their 'academic' prefixes before their names. Outside politics, from Sania Mirza and Yash Chopra to Amritanandamayi Amma and Baba Ramdev, a flurry of honorary doctorates has been given on personalities representing fields ranging from sports and cinema to spirituality. What must strike Sibal, as he reflects on the abundance of honorary doctorates, is the contrasting status of non-celebrity doctorates.

Here are some points for him to ponder over. India is seventh among nations in terms of the total annual volume of research papers submitted for peer review. The country contributes less than 3 per cent to world research. Only 1 per cent of students who complete their undergraduate degrees opt for doctoral studies in India. Thirty-eight per cent of papers produced in India never find a citation elsewhere. Sure, let us honour extra-academic achievers by giving them honorary degrees. But how about getting real doctorates for meaningful research?

J. Sri Raman is a Chennai-based writer
The views expressed by the author are personal

HindustanTimes

Title : House nod to medical council amendment bill

Author :

Location : NEW DELHI:

Article Date : 08/27/2010

House nod to medical council amendment bill

NEW DELHI: Parliament on Thursday passed the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2010, to replace the corruption-hit Medical Council of India with a board of seven eminent doctors. Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said in Rajya Sabha that the amendment was aimed at restoring the credibility of the apex body of medical education.

POPULARISING SCIENCE

Post school, a 7-year Ph.D. programme

ht SPECIAL

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: You may soon get to join some of the country's top colleges and graduate — with a PhD.

India's top brand of science institutions is looking at offering programmes that, for the first time, will allow students straight out of school to graduate with PhDs in under seven years, under a government plan to lure the best brains back to research.

The human resource devel-

THE PROPOSAL

- Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research may introduce courses that combine undergrad, postgrad and PhD studies
- If the proposal gets the nod, a student fresh out of school could get a PhD in 6-and-a-half years

opment ministry has proposed that the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research introduce programmes that combine undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD research in a single course, top government sources told *HT*. The ministry

is scheduled to discuss the proposal with the IISERs directors on September 7, they said.

Loosely modeled on the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, the IISERs — in Kolkata, Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram — were set up on the recommendation of the PM's Scientific Advisory Committee.

Currently, they offer five-year integrated Masters in Science programmes — like in US universities — that allow students who join after school to leave with postgraduate degrees. Under the new proposal, programmes can be extended by 18 months to six-and-a-half years.

"Many people drop out of sci-

ence after graduation or masters. Here, they have an unparalleled incentive — stay a little longer, carry out research and get a PhD," a source said.

This would also mean students don't have to reapply for postgraduate studies and PhDs.

But not all in the IISERs are convinced that students can complete the programme in six-and-a-half years. "While the school-to-PhD plan is workable in principle, I'm not confident students can complete their PhDs in so short a time," IISER Bhopal director Vinod Singh said, adding that students usually take four years to complete their PhDs alone.

Education Tribunals Bill cleared by LS

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha today passed the Education Tribunals Bill, 2010 that aims at setting up dedicated tribunals to settle disputes in higher education, after the Opposition BJP initially raised concerns over the proposed legislation. The Bill will now be introduced in the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

Minority institutions' plea: SC tells HRD to respond

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

THE Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Human Resources Development Ministry (HRD) to respond to a challenge raised by minority-run, unaided educational institutions that a "hurriedly passed" Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act of 2009 affects their fundamental right to function.

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India S H Kapadia ordered the Union of India and the ministry to respond to a petition filed by the Forum for Minority Schools that the government is trying to "enforce" the free education law through private schools, including unaided minority ones.

The forum, represented by SC lawyers Romy Chacko and A Quamaradeen, contended that the Act strips minority institutions off the Constitutional guarantee that the government would not interfere in their establishment and administration.

"The SC has issued a notice on our petition to be returnable on September 6. The petition will be taken up along with another matter on the same subject," said Chacko.

The main opposition to the Act from minority schools is that they will be forced to admit children "belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups in the neighbourhood to the extent of at least 25 per cent of the strength of the class and provide free and compulsory elementary education till its completion".

Don't create barriers to migration, promote movement of people: World Bank expert

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AUGUST 25

STRESSING that the demographic and developmental differences between the rich and the poor countries will cause migration to increase, Dr Dilip Ratha, an economist and manager of the Migration Unit of the World Bank said, "Creating barriers to the movement of people for migration will only slow the bridging of these differences. Migrants do not only compete with the natives for a share of the pie-on the contrary, they contribute to the efforts to increase the size of the pie," he said.

Dr Ratha was in Pune to deliver a lecture on "International Migration and Development" at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics.

He said, "Since many countries are facing harsh economic conditions, they are tightening immigration controls. But, by and large, people do not like moving. Most people prefer to live and die where they are born. Worldwide, international migrants number about 200 million, which is only about 3 per cent of the world population and ninety per cent of the migrants are economic migrants. When faced with severe poverty and unemployment, a minority of them might move to find employment in foreign countries." "Secondly, migration generates significant benefits to everybody involved: the migrant, the country of origin and the destination country. The benefits to the origin countries are realised mostly in the form of remittances. But mi-

DR DILIP RATHA was in the city to deliver a lecture on "International Migration and Development" at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics

grants also provide trade networks, investments and enable exchange of skill and transfer of technology. Remittances reduce poverty. They finance education and health expenses and provide capital for small entrepreneurs. In addition, the diasporas from developing countries provide professional contacts, trade networks, technology and capital for their countries of origin," he said adding that the brain-drain problem associated with emigration of skilled migrants is a small-country problem.

"Migration is a complex phenomenon. People tend to take this personally and policies are often made on the basis of personal likes and dislikes. We can deal with migration issues better if we paid more attention to facts rather than anecdotes. However, migration cannot be a substitute for development and governments must implement development efforts at home to take care of the majority of their population who stay behind." Ratha said.

Bhutan looks at being South Asia's campus hub

The education city is only one element of the new Economic Development Policy that was unveiled in April this year. Isolated for long by geographic location and political choice, Bhutan is now determined to globalise, on its own terms.

The EDP is betting that Asia's growth is increasing the region's spending power on high quality education. This could become "a significant source for foreign exchange earnings and employment generation" in Bhutan, the EDP says.

The education city, Bhutan hopes, will meet its larger national objectives of building a 'green and sustainable economy', boosting 'culturally and spiritually sensitive industries', creating a knowledge society, and promoting 'Brand Bhutan'.

With annual economic growth rates

averaging near 8 per cent in recent years and per capita income reaching nearly \$2200, there is a new self-assurance in Bhutan to embark on new initiatives. With its emphasis on environmental protection and a demonstrated capacity to generate growth without destroying traditional culture, 'Brand Bhutan' hopes to leverage these values for expanding national prosperity.

"World class international schools, general education colleges and specialised colleges in the fields of ICT, architecture, engineering, medicine, law, management, and design will be encouraged to open franchise/campus in the country", the EDP says.

The Foreign Direct Investment policy announced this year by Bhutan lists education as a priority sector and will approve 100 per cent foreign equity in

these ventures.

Druk Holdings is inviting expressions of interest from Bhutan and outside to develop the education city concept. With many other countries, including Singapore, experimenting with global education centres, Bhutan will have an opportunity to learn from the challenges confronted by others.

The Ministry of Education, according to the EDP, has begun to frame policies on freedom of curriculum, fees, salary structure, immigration procedures and long-term land lease.

Besides education, other priority foreign investments are high end health services, business process outsourcing, high value tourism with low environmental impact, research and development, and consultancy services.

Bhutan's new FDI policy offers at-

tractive incentives in relation to repatriation of dividend and capital. While encouraging the recruitment of expatriate workers where needed, Bhutan would expect their replacement with Bhutanese nationals as local skills and educational levels increase.

In the next few weeks, Bhutanese officials are expected to organise road shows in India, Singapore and other places to explain the opportunities for foreign investors in the education and other sectors.

If Bhutan succeeds in its ambitious plans, it might well set a model for our other smaller neighbours on ways to tap into the growing demand for high quality education in Asia. India's own reforms, it would seem, may not be bold enough to satisfy the domestic, let alone Asian, demand for quality education and training.

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

Dragon Kingdom sees future in Asia education hub

CRAJAMOHAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

WHILE India struggles to open up its education sector, traditionally insular Bhutan is pursuing a bold new plan to become an education hub in Asia. As part of an ambitious effort to transform the remote Himalayan Kingdom into a globalised economy, Bhutan wants to build an education city with the participation of reputed international institutions.

In a report submitted last week to Bhutan's main national investment arm



Wants global participation in hub

Druk Holdings, a group of international experts endorsed the idea of an education city and underlined the nation's advantage, especially its fabulous location in a pristine part of the Eastern Himalayas.

The experts include Arun Kapur, Director of Vasant Valley School in New Delhi; A N Singh, managing trustee of the Dorabji Tata Trust; Dr Ian Chin Nam, adviser to Temasek Management Services; and Peter Bond, principal of Australian International School in Singapore.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

To get investors, Bhutan plans road shows in India, Singapore, rest of Asia

No foreign education providers without unanimity: Sibal

EXPRESS NEWS
SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

SEEKING to build political consensus on his reform initiatives in education sector, Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Kapil Sibal on Thursday assured the Lok Sabha that he will not move forward on the proposed legislation to allow foreign education providers in the country unless there was "full dialogue" and "unanimity" as it concerned the future of children.

He said the same while moving the National Education Tribunals Bill, 2010, in the Lok Sabha, which later passed the Bill.

Sibal said the Bill proposed to provide for the

future, considering the fact that India would need 800 more universities and another 35,000 colleges by 2020.

While speaking on the Bill, BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi pointed out that Sibal was the *dai* (mid-wife) of the legislation, to which the Minister got up to add that he may be the mid-wife but "you (Joshi) have to do the delivery." To this, the senior BJP leader said that delivery would be done in Indian way, as he did not believe in Caesarean.

At that point of time, the BSP's Vijay Bahadur Singh said the Opposition rather seemed interested in "abortion". The House was in splits for a while before Joshi resumed his speech.

7-member panel to replace MCI board

NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha too on Thursday passed a Bill to amend the Medical Council of India Act, 1956, in order to replace the existing MCI board with a seven-member panel of doctors.

Established 76 years ago to regulate medical education in the country, the MCI was dissolved through an ordinance in May this year. A six-member panel of doctors, led by gastroenterologist S K Sarin, has replaced its board of governors.

ENS

Rlys to rope in IIT-K for Kanpur station facelift

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KANPUR, AUGUST 26

TO GIVE a facelift to the Kanpur Central Railway Station without disturbing its majestic look, Railway authorities plan to join hands with the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K).

Set up in 1932, the station — one of the oldest buildings in Kanpur — has been declared a heritage site. Keeping in mind the rising num-

ber of passengers, the Railway authorities plan to increase the station's interior without disturbing its exteriors. For the purpose, it is looking forward to take technical assistance from the IIT-K.

"The number of passengers has increased from 10,000 per day in the 1940s to 1.5 lakh per day in 2010. We need to provide more space to the passengers," said Shrivendra Shukla, Deputy Chief

Traffic Manager (DCTM) at the station.

A team of Railway officials has been working on the project for the last few months, said Shukla.

The Civil Engineering department of the IIT-K is likely to be roped in to provide technical assistance to the project.

At present, the offices of senior Railway officials are located on the first and second floors of the station

building. Shukla did not rule out the possibility that these offices may be shifted to another location after renovation work — which includes construction of an air-conditioned dormitory for passengers — is over.

"We are confident that in the next few weeks, we will forward a proposal to the IIT-K authorities for technical assistance in the project," he added.

Sanjeev S Kashalkar, IIT-

K Registrar, said: "Though there have been few rounds of talks with the Railway authorities, we are yet to receive any proposal in the regard."

He added that in past too, the IIT-K has worked on important projects related to the Railways.

"On receiving the proposal, we will ask our team from the Civil Engineering department to look into the matter," said Kashalkar.

CITY ANCHOR FROM TREES AND WATER HARVESTING SYSTEMS TO PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANTS, DELHI COLLEGES HAVE THEM ALL

Campuses across city turn a shade of hi-tech green

HAMARI JAMATIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

WITH 'green' being the buzzword of this time and age, campuses across the city are doing their bit by recycling, cutting down on energy consumption and banking on more renewable sources to provide for their everyday needs. *Newsline* takes a peek.

Jamia Millia Islamia: The university has received funds amounting to Rs.54.2 crore from the University Grants Commission (UGC) to improve its campus. Apart from enhancing its laboratories and increasing the

number of classrooms, the college has also chalked out plans to invest in a solar power generator and water recycling unit. Water from the waste water recycling unit will be used to water the parks and trees in the university. Jamia hostels already have solar water heaters installed in them.

JNU: Way back in 1992, the university came up with the idea of developing rainwater harvesting facilities. Since then, three water harvesting units have been set up, successfully completing its task of augmenting depleting ground water reserves in its rocky troposphere. "Every year, during the monsoons, our three water har-

vesting units collect 44,000 cu gallons of water. The water is then channelised underground, which helps in recharging the underground water. The units are cleaned and maintained every three years," says Dr Saumitra Mukherjee, a scientist from the School of Environmental Sciences, JNU. Solar lights and waste water management systems are also on the cards.

Delhi Technological University: The new DTU campus in Bawana will soon have 1/3rd of its classes lit through solar energy. Installation work on waste water harvesting units is also moving ahead in full steam. According to an offi-



JNU is among the campuses going green

cial, the university campus's master plan focuses on green energy technologies, green building architecture, a vehicle-free academic zone and waste water recy-

cling. The university has already installed 110 solar street lights and solar water geysers, and a 1 MW solar photovoltaic plant will also be set up soon. Work on a waste

water recycling plant will be completed soon.

IIT: The IIT campus was barren when it was established in 1961. However, in the last five years, about 1,500 trees were planted across its expanse, and over 90 rainwater harvesting units now dot the area. According to institution authorities, the years ahead will see more solar panels coming up on top of each building. The campus is also a semi car-free zone, where hostel students are only allowed to use bicycles. The college has also made it mandatory for students and faculty members to use paper cups and cloth bags.

Pioneer, Aug 27

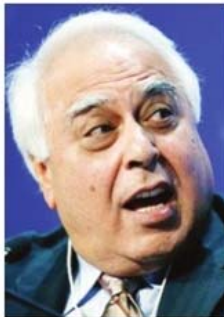
SC notice to Ministry over IIT irregularities

MOUSHUMI BASU ■ NEW DELHI

The IITs are now under the scanner of the Supreme Court following a Special Leave Petition (SLP) for allegedly continuing irregularities and bungling in Joint Entrance Examinations (JEE) for admissions.

The apex court has issued notice to the Ministry of HRD, IIT Council (the apex body for management of the 15 IITs with HRD Minister Kapil Sibal as the Chairman) and Joint Admission Board (JAB), which is the managing authority for IIT-JEE.

The SLP was filed by Rajeev Kumar, Computer



Science professor at IIT Kharagpur challenging the dismissal of his PIL by the Delhi High Court in June

2010 on the ground that "he had no *locus standi* to challenge the validity of JEE."

Senior Supreme Court advocate Prashant Bhushan, arguing on behalf of the petitioner, said, "The PIL filed in the HC was based on detailed fact finding and analysis done by Kumar, an experienced IIT professor, who based it on the past data of five JEEs, otherwise kept secret by IITs."

"These facts could be extracted from the institutes only after receiving numerous orders from Chief Information Commission. However, they are still contravening the past orders of CIC and RTI provisions as they are yet to disclose

the complete data of JEE 2010," he alleged.

He said the whole purpose behind the exercise was to have some mechanism to minimise JEE and admission errors if not completely stopped in future — at least from next entrance examinations scheduled on April 10, 2011.

The SLP also called for a single entrance examination, replacing all existing exams as IIT JEE, AIEEE and State exams. It further says that the RTI data on JEE was ridden with many discrepancies as ad hocism in cutoff determination, unattended errors in question settings/evaluation, tampering/shredding of ORS

in undue haste, selecting IIT administrators' wards in some IITs, closed admission counselling resulting in irregularities in admissions and seats lying vacant, zero accountability for attending to apparent errors, poor ethics in JEE administration etc.

"The so-called corrective measures taken up by IITs was simply a face-saving exercise as none of them addressed any real issue involved," notes the SLP. The evaluation scheme was changed after the examination and there were serious flaws in admission counselling based on JEE 2010 result.

Proposals for corrective reforms have also been sug-

gested in the SLP for "investigation by Special Investigation Team into the alleged irregularities in the conduct of JEEs". A committee of independent experts to formulate single examination system rather than close-door committee of four IIT Directors too has been suggested.

It has proposed seven reforms for JAB including release of model answers along with solutions immediately after the examination is over, releasing of marks at the time of results besides publishing status of vacant seats and filled-in seats on day to day basis during the admission counselling.

The Hindu

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Higher education policy 'too rigid'



The Hindu (From left) Usha Srinivasan, Chairperson, IACC (Tamil Nadu); G Viswanathan, Chancellor, VIT University; Andrew T. Simkin, U.S. Consul-General in Chennai and R Veeramani, past National President, IACC, at the meeting in Chennai on Wednesday. Photo: R. Ravindran

The Indian education system has to be reformed to enable students to get quality education and to prepare them for the world market, said G. Viswanathan, Chancellor, VIT University, on Wednesday.

Addressing members of Indo-American Chamber of Commerce as part of 'Meet success first hand' series, he said "We have a rigid higher education policy that never allows students to switch over to other subjects. We have to introduce flexibility. Curriculum has to be updated on a regular basis. Amendments have to be made to education policy and more money has to be spent on higher education."

Universities offered higher education the world over, but in India it was the colleges that did so. These colleges did not have adequate infrastructure and that's why they were lagging behind in terms of global ranking of universities.

"We have to follow the US model, where the numbers are high and the quality is good. Unless we give quality education, it will not be possible to sustain the growth. We need qualified youngsters," he said.

Noting that only IISc and IIT Kharagpur were mentioned in the Best 500 Universities in the World, he said "We have a long way to go in terms of higher education. Only 12 per cent of 220 million students have access to higher education in terms of gross enrolment ratio. Government alone cannot invest money and it calls for contributions from private sector. Besides, only four per cent of the GDP was spent on higher education against the targeted six per cent. We have been lobbying to get higher funds for education as well as for the health. "

The Chancellor said that state governments should step in to offer education free to eligible candidates. Tamil Nadu government had exempted tuition fees to first generation graduate students, while the Andhra Pradesh Government paid tuition fees to poor students. “If Andhra Pradesh can do it why not other states?” he asked.

Mr. Viswanathan said that poor people should be extended help based on their economic status and education qualifications instead of the present reservation based on caste/religion. He pointed out that State governments do not fund private universities and the funds offered by the Union Government were insufficient. Industries should come forward to help private universities with regard to research, publications and patents.

“Despite all these funding problems, VIT students were able to successfully develop Rohini-200, a sounding rocket in collaboration with ISRO,” he said.