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TOI
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Don't play with lives, HC tells DU, teachers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Pulling up Delhi **University** and its teachers for fighting over introduction of a semester system, Delhi High Court on Tuesday advised them not to play with the "life and career" of the **university's** students.

Taking stock of the situation after the **university** and teachers' union failed to reconcile their differences on introducing the semester system, Justice Aruna Suresh asked them to consult the students' union to end the standoff.

"Today, who is the sufferer? It is neither the **university** nor the teachers, but the larger interest of the students. Don't play with the life and career of students," the court said, adding that they should consult with the students' union to get their point of view on the semester system in the next meeting.

The court also pulled up Delhi **University** Teachers Association (DUTA) for not taking classes in protest. "How can you refuse to teach the syllabus? You can't decide that the semester system is not good," the judge observed after being informed about the failed attempts of DU and DUTA to resolve the issue through mediation.

On July 15, the court had suggested that both parties go in for mediation for a permanent solution and appointed a lawyer as the mediator with the consent of both sides. **SHOT IN THE ARM DU writes to principals again for implementing semesters**

New Delhi: The court's suggestion to DU and DUTA to go for mediation had come on a petition filed by the **university** seeking a direction restraining the agitating teachers from going on a strike and repeatedly holding demonstrations.

In the petition, the **university** alleged that due to strikes and demonstrations by teachers, the smooth functioning of the administration, **educational** and examination system has been affected.

Following a letter from the **University** Grants Commission (UGC) on March 21, DU has implemented the semester system for undergraduate students.

DUTA has been opposing the semester system for a long time but matters came to a head when vice-chancellor Deepak Pental approved the new curricula for 12 science courses at the Academic Council meeting in May.

Meanwhile, the DU administration reiterated its stand on implementation of the system. In a letter to the principals of colleges sent from the registrars office, it directed the principals to organize teaching only in the semester mode as per the decision of the **University**, in the larger interest of the students

who enrolled for these courses under semester mode and not create any circumstances against the interests of the students. If any body creates any objection in this regard the same may be immediately brought to the notice of the **University** authority, it said.

The letter also said: "It has come to the notice of the **University** that some of the colleges are not organizing classes in the semester mode prescribed by the **University** for the Undergraduate Science Courses for 2010-11 and only teaching topics that are common for semester and nonsemester (annual) modes on the plea that the issue of semester mode is sub-judice. It clarified that the **university** has already introduced the semester system at the undergraduate level science courses and the **university** has separately filed a civil suit before the Delhi High Court seeking restraint orders against DUTA office bearers from obstructing the implementation of semester system in the colleges."

According to DU vice-chancellor Deepak Pental, "The case is not about whether to implement the semester or not, but about teachers disrupting the **university's** functions. The semester system has been okayed and is to be implemented in 13 science courses from this year itself."

Can't crack JEE? One of many quotas can still get you into IIT

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A quota for the faculty and staff of IIT-Kharagpur for science courses wasn't the only route to get into the tech colleges without taking the highly competitive exam. The Indian [Institutes](#) of Technology have had several discretionary quotas under which students could get into these engineering [institutes](#) by either paying a higher fee or topping a board or, for that matter, being a foreigner interested in joining the IITs.

"None of these discretionary quotas was illegal. And they were all mostly introduced when the IITs weren't the torch-bearers of this country, when seats used to go vacant," said a senior [IIT](#) faculty member from Orissa. For instance, till the late 1990s, Indian nationals residing abroad could merely pay a higher fee and join any of the IITs; similarly, the IITs allowed direct admission to foreign nationals. "Post-IT revolution, the IITs became big. But then one has to keep in mind that the [institutes](#) weren't so famous in the 60s or the even the 80s," said a former director of IITDelhi and added that even the foreign ministry had a small quota for children of ambassadors.

Speaking about the quota in the five-year-long MSc courses, another senior faculty member said, "Students were given admission to science programmes which were never popular; even now, these seats are the last to get filled. These students were never allowed to shift to engineering, which was permitted to other students."

Under this quota, wards of IIT-Kgp employees merely needed 60% in their class-XII exam and they had to appear for the IIT-JEE to be eligible for the quota seats, which were given out on the basis of the director's discretion.

After the other IITs were set up, there was a lot of pressure from the [IIT](#) faculty fraternity from across the country to do away with this BOG quota. "But when the proposal to do away with the quota reached Russi Mody, the chairman of the board of governors, he went around the town of Kharagpur and said that there were no colleges for faculty and staff members' wards to pursue science. The BOG also has a mandate to look after the welfare of the [institute's](#) staff," said a former director. Hence the quota was continued.

July 29

CBI gets HRD nod to charge AICTE man

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: The scam in the All India Council for Technical [Education](#) has claimed another head. The HRD ministry has given approval for prosecution sanction to CBI against Manju Singh, former regional director of [AICTE's](#) south west regional office in Bangalore. This was confirmed by HRD minister Kapil [Sibal](#).

CBI has also said that O K Sreedharan, chairman of Kollengode [Educational](#) and Charitable Trust (KECT) be also prosecuted. Sreedharan, the promoter of Palakkad [Institute](#) of Science and Technology (PISAT), as per the CBI report not only failed to fulfill the requirement under [AICTE](#) norms but also allegedly bribed Manju Singh.

CBI has also sought regular departmental action against Dev Vrat Singh, adviser, [AICTE](#); Moses Santhakumar of [NIT](#), Trichy; K Paulose Jacob of CUSAT, Kochi; Ranjit Singh, a former Delhi [University](#) professor; and two others.

CBI report points out how Manju Singh, currently joint secretary in [UGC](#), allegedly took bribes. It was alleged that on one occasion even her father collected it on her behalf in Noida.

The entire case relates to [AICTE](#) approval for opening of PISAT. The application by KECT was, however, found inadequate on many counts including availability of funds. On being told of this, KECT, CBI says, allegedly produced bogus receipts of expenditure being made on purchase of books and computers. [AICTE](#) asked Sreedharan to appear before its hearing committee. Again, [AICTE](#) issued a letter of deficiency.

A month later, KECT wrote that all the deficiencies had been dealt with. Sreedharan was asked to appear before the hearing committee again. He came to Delhi with Anil Kumar, KECT treasurer, and appeared before the committee. After the meeting, CBI

said, Manju Singh asked Sreedharan to come to Khan Market where she was allegedly paid Rs 2 lakh. The next day, Dev Vrat Singh issued a letter of intent to Sreedharan to set up the [institute](#).

UK defends tighter student visa norms

Chennai: A week after the UK Border Agency (UKBA) reintroduced language restrictions on overseas students applying for visas, British minister for [universities](#) and science David Willetts on Wednesday strongly defended the new norms, saying that this was a measure to effectively check migrants coming in the garb of students.

“We’re committed to controlling the total number of migrants coming to Britain. But we support the genuine [educational](#) links between students in India and Great Britain,” Willetts said when asked if the tighter visa norms would cut down the flow of students. TNN

[DNA, July 29](#)

IIT-B starts grooming sessions for students

Move follows 20 firms not making any recruitment during placement season

Mihika Basu Mumbai



[Enlarge Image](#)

Merely getting into an IIT is no guarantee for a job. It is one thing to take your engineering subjects seriously, quite another to convince a recruiting firm that you know your stuff.

Despite a better 2009-10 placement season at IIT Bombay compared to 2008-09, 20 of 200 companies did not make a single recruitment. The students they interviewed were found inadequately prepared, lacking in focus or unclear about goals. Some

students had poor communication skills and not enough awareness about the companies.

Now, IIT Bombay is restructuring its placement system. “We found that some students were under-prepared from the technical point of view. They may have had knowledge and background, but didnt know what aspects to focus on,” said Ravi Sinha, professor-in-charge, placement, IIT Bombay. “Accordingly, we have decided to overhaul the system, which includes redefining the placement team to better meet students requirements.”

The system at present comprises department and institute placement nominees. But the new structure will comprise placement managers, department placement coordinators and company coordinators.

“Department placement coordinators in the previous structure would be tied up with too many things, including contacting companies, guiding students and verifying resumes. They never got enough time for anything,” Sinha said. “But now, since company coordinators will deal with the recruiters, department coordinators will be in a better position to prepare students through training workshops, group discussions and mock interviews.

“They can focus on what students are looking for and see if the companies they are keen on meeting fit that description.”

Placement managers, unlike institute placement nominees, will interact less with companies.