Indian University Suspends Student Group Accused of Spreading Hatred Toward Modi

NEW DELHI — A branch of India’s most prestigious engineering university in the southern city of Chennai has suspended a left-wing student group that was accused of spreading hatred toward Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a university official said on Friday.

In an email sent by the dean of students at the university, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, and shared by the student group, the group was notified that the university had dissolved it for “misusing the privileges” of an independent student organization.

But after the decision sparked an uproar on traditional and social media, K. Ramamurthy, the acting director of the university, told reporters on Friday that the group was only being suspended.

A letter signed simply by “students” at the university and addressed to the central government said the group, the Ambedkar-Periyar study circle, named after two Indian liberal intellectuals, had attempted to foment hatred toward Mr. Modi and Hindus.

Akhil Bharathan, a leader of Ambedkar-Periyar, said “right-wing forces” at the university were behind the move to disband the group.

“They feel that with their government at the center, they can drown voices like ours,” he said.

The action came after the group organized an event in April criticizing the new government’s policies, including a law that would ease the acquisition of land for development and a controversial beef ban in Maharashtra State, which was seen as part of the Hindu nationalist agenda of Mr. Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party.

The Modi government is “assisting the multinational corporates to loot Mother India,” the group wrote in a flier.

Students opposed to the group then wrote a letter to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, which oversees higher education in the country.

“We believe that this group is politically motivated and getting funds and encouragement from some outside organization,” the students wrote.

A ministry official responded with a letter to the university director on May 15 highlighting the “serious complaints” from students.

The ministry issued a statement on Friday clarifying that the action against the group was taken by the university alone.
The dean of students was not immediately available for comment, but the university issued a statement on Friday saying that the study circle had violated the university’s guidelines by publicizing its activities using the name of the university without official permission. It will be under suspension while it presents its case to the board of students, the statement said.
Why the student group was de-recognised

Brajesh Kumar

NEW DELHI: Even as the HRD ministry wiped its hands off the IIT-Madras controversy, IIT-M sources said it had taken exception to the students’ body, the Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle, a group of around 20 students, organising a speech that was critical of the government.

The ministry forwarded the text of the speech to the IIT director, saying it was unfortunate that the IIT campus was being used for such activities.

In his speech, titled Contemporary Relevance of Ambedkar, Dr Gopal said caste had become a political tool for the ruling class to impose its social oppression over Dalits and to economically exploit the working class.

“Modi government, while carrying forward its Hindutva agenda, is also assisting the multinational corporates in looting India,” Gopal said.

Smriti Irani backed IIT's action, saying the institution has clearly stated that some procedures by the students’ organisation were not followed and it knew that the Dean will derecognise it for violating norms.

Officials in the ministry said the Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle can put its case across to the students council of IIT-Madras even as it has violated guidelines.

Last year, the premier technical institutes had also courted controversy over reports that non-vegetarian food had been taken off menu in some of these institutes including IIT-Delhi.
Had nothing to do with IIT-M move: HRD min

Institute Mum On ‘Anti-Modi’ Complaint

New Delhi/Chennai: The HRD ministry on Friday distanced itself from IIT-Madras’s decision to temporarily derecognize a study group even as the issue snowballed into a political controversy, with Rahul Gandhi linking it to an assault on free speech and Congress’s student wing protesting at Smriti Irani’s residence, drawing a sharp retort from the minister.

Sources said even the Prime Minister’s Office had sought a report on the matter.

The ministry said the action against Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle for spreading “hatred” against PM Narendra Modi was taken by IIT-Madras “as per their own procedures and guidelines”.

Education secretary Satyendra Mohanty told TOI: “The ministry has no role in the decision. We had received an anonymous complaint which was forwarded to IIT-Madras for comments. The ministry did not give any instruction. In fact, we are yet to receive the institute’s comments.”

IIT-Madras said the study group had violated guidelines, namely not to use IIT’s name to publicize its activities. But it held out hopes of a review and chose not to dwell on the group’s activities or the speech by a guest speaker which triggered the controversy.

IIT-Madras defends decision on ‘ban’

IIT-Madras on Friday defended its decision to derecognize the Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle, saying it had violated the institute’s norms under which student bodies are not allowed to use IIT-M’s name or that of any of its official entities in any capacity to “publicize their activities or garner support, without official approval”.

“Some of these (student) organizations represent the entire student body elected and run by the students themselves,” an IIT-M statement said. If a group needed to use its resources, it must follow guidelines as prescribed by the Board of Students (a committee of elected student representatives), it added.

The HRD ministry said it had nothing to do with IIT-Madras’s decision; it had only forwarded an anonymous complaint against the study group to the institute. Asked why an anonymous complaint was forwarded, education secretary Satya Mohanty said, “Complaints are either disposed of at the ministry level or sent for comments as was done in this case.” He said all complaints were taken into account because grievance redressal was top priority for the government.

IIT-M made no mention of the anonymous complaint referred to it by the HRD ministry.
IIT-Madras defends ban on students' body
Group was temporarily derecognised for allegedly distributing pamphlets criticising Modi's policies

BS REPORTER
Chennai, 29 May

The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) has defended derecognising student's body, the Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle (APSC), for allegedly distributing pamphlets criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies. The activity on campus violated the institute's guidelines, IIT-M had said.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development had sought the institute's comments on the incident.

The ministry issued a statement on Friday, saying the action had nothing to do with the ministry and was according to the institution's procedure and guidelines. The statement added that the ministry only forwarded a complaint it had received to the director of IIT-Madras for comments.

"IIT-Madras has taken action as per their (its) own procedure and institute's guidelines. IITs, being autonomous institutions, are competent to handle matters within their guidelines and procedure," said the ministry statement.

An IIT-M spokesperson said on Friday according to guidelines, student bodies were not allowed to use the institute's name or any of its official entities in any capacity to publicise their activities or garner support, without official approval. "This group has violated these guidelines while conducting their meeting. Normally, violation of these guidelines leads to temporary derecognition, pending their presenting to the Board of Students. In the present case also, the same procedure is being followed," said the spokesperson.

While the institute does not curtail freedom of expression of the students, said the statement, student groups are expected to adhere to these guidelines.

The action triggered protests from political parties, including the regional wing of the Indian National Congress.

APSC members said the pamphlet, along with an anonymous letter forwarded by the ministry to IIT-M, had parts of a speech of an academic on the relevance of the thoughts of B R Ambedkar in today's situation and mentioned Prime Minister Modi's approach on various matters, including the land acquisition Bill, as "pro-corporate".

There are several student organisations functioning on the IIT campus. Some groups are formed based on the interests of the students. Student groups desiring to use the institute's resources are required to be recognised and follow the guidelines of the Board of Students, consisting of the elected student representatives, the statement added.
Facing flak, Ministry & IIT-M defend ban on student group

Say that it did not follow guidelines prescribed

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI/NEW DELHI: With the decision of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, to derecognise temporarily a student group, Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle, for alleged criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi attracting nationwide criticism on Friday, the institute authorities and the Union Human Resource Ministry went into a firefighting mode.

An IIT release said student groups were required to be recognised and to follow the guidelines prescribed by the Board of Students.

In the national capital, where the National Students Union of India staged a protest outside the residence of Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani, Higher Education Secretary Satyanarayan Mohanty told The Hindu that the decision was taken at the institutional level. “We received a complaint about a pamphlet issued by the Study Circle and we forwarded it to IIT-M. The autonomy of the IIT-M is secure,” he said.

Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi and Ms. Irani locked horns on Twitter over the NSUI protest. In Tamil Nadu, the Congress and the DMK slammed the decision.
Backlash against de-recognition of IIT-Madras study group

Sruthisagar Yamunan & Anita Joshua

CHENNAI/NEW DELHI: A number of student organisations come together to protest against the derecognition of a study group at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, on Friday.

V. Prabhakaran, a student activist, said black badges would be worn by students across colleges on Saturday to express their displeasure. “If the derecognition is not reversed, we have planned to start Ambedkar-Periyar study circles in all colleges and universities as a mark of protest,” he said.

Congress Tamil Nadu unit president E.V.K. Selvagan slams the IIT-Madras management and the Union Human Resource Ministry for stifling the voice of the students who were propagating ideas of social justice and rationalism on the institute campus. Mr. Elangovan said the derecognition was an extension of the doctrines of the RSS.

In a statement, DMK treasurer M.K. Stalin said he was shocked to see the level of intolerance displayed in one of India’s most reputable educational institutions, IIT-Madras.

“This incident displays a clear unwarranted interference of the Union government in the running of an educational institution. We should be urging and cultivating young minds to engage in societal dialogue constructively, and not stifling dissent,” he said.

VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan said such study circles served as a ground for students to have a critical thought process about the society they lived in.

With the National Students Union of India (NSUI) staging a protest outside the residence of Union Human Resource Minister Smriti Irani, the Ministry went into a fire-fighting mode, forwarding the IIT-M’s statement and issuing one of its own.

Ms. Irani challenged Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi to open debate on education.

The Minister took on Mr. Gandhi after the NSUI protest which he followed with two tweets: “IIT student group banned for criticising Modi Government. What next? Free speech is our right. We will fight any attempt to crush dissent and debate.”

Ms. Irani tweeted back: “Next time fight ur [your] battles urself [yourself], don’t hide behind NSUI.”

While the BJP defended the IIT-M’s decision, the Left parties, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) criticised the derecognition of the study group.

Earlier in the day, RJD president Lalu Prasad tweeted: Modi Govt crushing dalit voice & freedom of speech, bans a dalit group in IIT Madras for criticising govt. Is it ur way of honouring Ambedkar?”

Given the political backlash, the issue is learnt to have preoccupied the government at the highest level with the Ministry putting together a file for the Prime Minister’s Office in which it included the anonymous complaint against the study group on which the IIT-M’s comments were sought.

On why the Ministry chose to take cognisance of an anonymous complaint, officials maintained that every paper which came to the government was accounted for. “It is either disposed of or sent for comments.” Also, they pointed out that this complaint was substantiated with evidence.

The complaint sent to the Minister claims to be on behalf of Students, IIT-M” but the penultimate sentence suggests it has been written by one person as it says: “I am also sending you the original copy of the pamphlet”. As per the complaint, the Study Group was “trying to de-align the ST, SC students and trying to make them protest against the MHRD and Central Government,.... creating hatred among student in the name of caste,....and hatred against the Honourable Prime Minister and Hindus”.

Ed: IIT-Madras, the National Students Union of India (NSUI) and the Left parties all reported the incident. The Ministry of Human Resource Development explained its decision in a letter to the Prime Minister's Office. The letter was forwarded to the Prime Minister's Office, which is responsible for all government departments. The Prime Minister's Office has not yet commented on the incident.
AAP also slammed the IIT-M move to de-recognise APSC saying the govt had resorted to undemocratic ways as the PM was losing his popularity.

STUDENT BODIES SLAM DE-RECOGNITION MOVE

THE de-recognition of Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle (APSC) in IIT Madras has evoked strong reactions among student groups. Scores of National Students Union of India members held a protest outside HRD Minister Smriti Irani’s official residence over the incident on Friday.

All India Student Association (AISA) criticised the move to de-recognize the student study group following an allegation that it was instigating hatred against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

“The new government has an authoritarian approach. How can a study circle and the act of criticizing your government be a crime in a democracy. If we don’t have this freedom in a democracy then what are we left with,” said Sucheta De of All India Students’ Association (AISA).

The protesters from Congress’ students’ wing protested at Irani’s residence demanding that the action against the students’ body be revoked. Some of the protesters were detained by police when they tried to break barricades.

“Such an act is in complete violation with regard to the constitutional right of freedom of expression and speech given to every individual of the country. In banning the group, the NDA government has again showcased its dictatorial ways in dealing with such issues,” said Amrish Ranjan Pandey, national spokesperson NSUI.

Meanwhile, the Aam Aadmi Party slammed the IIT Madras decision saying the BJP was frustrated over the PM losing popularity and had resorted to this undemocratic move. “The Ambedkar Periyar Student Circle (APSC) on the IIT Chennai campus must be allowed to function as usual and its part of the democratic rights of the students to voice their concern over the policies and politics of the country,” AAP said in a statement.

DU Teachers’ Association (DUTA) flayed the move saying it was unacceptable. “This is completely unacceptable. Educational institutes are for questioning conformities in society. Any transformation can come only when you question,” said Abha Dev Habib, DUTA member.
विवादों में आईआईटी मद्रास
प्रतिबंध पर उठ रहे सवाल

बीएस तपाईताएं/एजेंसियां
चेन्नई, 29 मई

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की आलोचना पर एक छात्र संगठन की मान्यता किसी रूप से समाप्त कर दिए जाने को लेकर भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, मद्रास (आईआईटी-एम) विवादों में फिर गया है। केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय (एचआरडी) द्वारा विवादित पर्चें और पोस्टरों को लेकर विरोध दर्ज कराया था।

संस्थान के कार्यालय निदेशक रामपूर्णन ने कहा कि ‘ट्यू डिशा-निदेश’ के अनुसार छात्र संगठन अपनी गतिविधियों के प्रचार के लिए अथवा समर्थन जुटाने के लिए आधिकारिक अनुमति हासिल किए। बिना आईआईटी मद्रास या इसके अधिकारिक संस्थाओं का इस्तेमाल नहीं कर सकता है।’ प्रधानमंत्री के खिलाफ नक्सली रैली ने आरोप पर छात्र संगठन ‘अंबेडकर परियोजना स्टूडेंट्स सर्कल’ (एपीएससी) को मान्यता दी जाए जो खबरें सामने आए और बाद संस्थान की प्रतिक्रिया सामने आई है।

गौरलब है कि मंत्रालय ने 15 मई को संस्थान को एक पत्र जारी किया था जिसमें इन पत्रों और विवादित पोस्टरों पर सफाई मांगी गई थी। इस बीच मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय ने कहा है कि जो भी कार्यालय आईआईटी-एम द्वारा की गई है वह संस्थान के निर्देशों के तहत है। मंत्रालय ने बस अपनी शिक्षाविद्य संस्थान के पास भेजी है।

हालांकि संस्थान के इस कदम का कांग्रेस और आम आदमी पार्टी ने जमकर विरोध किया है। असम में केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री मुगल ने आईआईटी-एम की कार्यवाही का समर्थन किया है। दिल्ली में कांग्रेस उपाध्यक्ष राहुल गांधी ने कहा, ‘युवा अधिवक्ता हमारा अधिकार है। हम असहमति और बहस को कुचलने की किसी भी कोशिश के खिलाफ लड़ेंगे।’

दिल्ली में इंग्लिश के सरकारी आवास के बाहर सैकड़ों की संख्या में एनएसवीआई कार्यकर्ताओं ने प्रदर्शन किया। प्रदर्शनकारियों ने सरकार विरोधी नौं लगाए और छात्र संगठन के खिलाफ हुई कार्यवाही के पीछे एचआरडी मंत्रालय का हाथ ऊपर आरोप लगाया।
What IIT scientists are not telling govt about air pollution

There is something cynical about the air pollution debate in Delhi—almost like the annual cycle of air pollution itself. When air pollution control slows down and the courts step in to demand action against the killer polluter, especially into vehicular flames, the city gets smogged with scientific facts to prove that all other pollution sources matter more than the vehicles. Instead of science becoming an enable, it confounds action.

The stark evidence of this is the recent effort to counter the orders of the National Green Tribunal, which has 15-year-old diesel vehicles. A group of scientists from Indian Institute of Technology Delhi has shared scientific papers with the government of the need to reframe strategies to limit vehicular pollution. The policies are a major part of the particulate problem, and therefore, action against a small number of old vehicles will have little impact. More than the specific issue of turning of old vehicles, which can be addressed with detailed strategies, this tendency to underestimate the gravity of vehicular pollution and its health risk, has raised serious concerns over scientific guidance.

What did the scientists fail to tell us? Firstly, the level of confidence is so high today because the pollution is not caused by particulate matter, and therefore, action against a small number of old vehicles will have little impact. More than the specific issue of turning of old vehicles, which can be addressed with detailed strategies, this tendency to underestimate the gravity of vehicular pollution and its health risk, has raised serious concerns over scientific guidance.

What did the scientists fail to tell us? Firstly, the level of confidence is so high today because the pollution is not caused by particulate matter, and therefore, action against a small number of old vehicles will have little impact. More than the specific issue of turning of old vehicles, which can be addressed with detailed strategies, this tendency to underestimate the gravity of vehicular pollution and its health risk, has raised serious concerns over scientific guidance.

The benefits are greater when pollution sources are regulated for multi-pollutants. Delhi’s air is thick with particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, ozone, and air pollution. There is merit in NIO’s focus on diesel emissions which, with a multi-pollutant limit, could have a more significant impact. Exposure to vehicular emissions is highest on roads and up to 500 metres from them. The majority of our deaths are in traffic.

Thirdly, people are exposed to a mixture of pollutants whose combined effect has serious health impact. Benefits are greater when pollution sources are regulated for multi-pollutants. Delhi’s air is thick with particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, ozone, and air pollution. There is merit in NIO’s focus on diesel emissions which, with a multi-pollutant limit, could have a more significant impact. Exposure to vehicular emissions is highest on roads and up to 500 metres from them. The majority of our deaths are in traffic.

Fourthly, our air quality policies are off the mark. There is no real reduction in the health sector. Delhi is experiencing a rapid improvement in health, with large and rising burden of chronic diseases, estimated to be more than half of deaths and years lost to illness. Cancer, stroke, and chronic lung diseases are now major public health problems that are strongly influenced by air pollution.

Delhi has exhausted all other options. Recent generation air pollution control is about hard decisions. The city needs an implementation strategy before this winter to reduce traffic and vehicle, cut diesel, scale up integrated public transport, facilitate walking and cycling, tax polluting modes, decide to implement Bharat Stage IV nationwide in 2015 and Euro VI in 2020 and put controls on other pollution sources. Our scientific community has an obligation to speak out on public health and ensure that the government takes strong action to reduce the health risk.

(From the perspective of research and advocacy at Center for Science and Environment)
IIM-A Invites Govt Officials, Execs for New Faculty Post

Position will to be called Professor of Management Practice

Anumeha Chaturvedi
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In a first for the country’s premier business schools, IIM Ahmedabad (IIM-A) is planning to tap senior corporate executives and government officials for a new faculty position called ‘Professor of Management Practice’, inviting non PhDs to come and teach at the institute. The new position is different from visiting faculty members and is targeted at those considering a serious, full-time career in academics.

“We are pioneers in the field of management education and often act as change agents in our field. Our pedagogy is deeply rooted in practice and the new positions that we are creating, are aimed towards consolidating our connect with the industry and the society; and will be helpful for our students as they can learn from the experiences of these leaders in their field,” said Arvind Sahay, professor of marketing and international business, and dean, alumni and external relationships, IIM-A.

Professor Sahay added that the goal is to offer the opportunity to eminent people from the corporate world and government and those who have substantial years of experience and would like to take a break from their current responsibilities. These professionals should be willing to commit three to five years to academia.

Other IIMs may hire non-PhD faculty members, but on condition they finish their research and PhD in two to three years after joining or may not be full-time.

Bakul Dholakia, former director of IIM Ahmedabad and presently director at International Management Institute, New Delhi, called it a welcome innovation. “This is an excellent step and I am very happy to hear that by launching a position like this, director Ashish Nanda and professor Arvind Sahay have put in place a formal structure of engaging the industry for a full-time position without compromising the standards of recruitments. It will be a win-win for all, will make the pedagogy contemporary and contextual and the nomenclature will maintain the dignity of senior leaders who might be seriously considering a career in academics,” he added. With IIM-A pioneering this, he expects other IIMs to follow suit.

There will be no “quotas” for the position and professionals will teach elective courses in the area of their expertise, said Sahay. IIM-A plans to broadcast the availability of such positions in the near future. While paucity of quality faculty is not a challenge for IIM-A, the institute has 93 full-time faculty members and their faculty to students ratio is better than most management institutes.
Tech Mission to boost Rly's IT vision

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Railways has decided to set up the Technology Mission for Indian Railways (TMIR) on an investment-sharing model for taking up projects for applied research and use in railways. The TMIR has been set up as a consortium, along with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Industries.

TMIR will function through mission implementation and coordination committee, comprising NS Vyas (former head of mechanical engineering, IIT-Kanpur) as its chairman and Railway Board executive director Alok Kumar as co-chairman.

"The panel will formulate the 'mission management manual' for the functioning of TMIR and the domain specific subcommittees for various fields of railway working and also for monitoring the progress of research and technology projects," a official in the Ministry said, adding that the TMIR will also monitor the progress of research projects of the existing Railway Research Centre at IIT-Kharagpur and other four upcoming centres sanctioned in the 2015-16 Budget.

However, the Ministry has constituted an advisory council under the chairmanship of Som Mittal, former president NASSCOM, to prepare IT vision for the Railways. The terms of reference of the council will be to assist in developing a comprehensive IT Vision which will be in line with the overall vision and objectives outlined for Railways, to specifically integrate and cover passenger service, freight services, asset management and train operations, safety and security as well as operations/enterprise management of Railways.
State fails to finalise IIM Amritsar site

Centre may not agree to students taking classes on temporary campus in city

GS PAUL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, MAY 29

Even as the state government had facilitated a temporary campus for the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Amritsar where the classes in the new academic session were to start from July 15, the Centre may not go ahead with this stop-gap arrangement.

The reason is that the government has failed to finalise the site for setting up the permanent campus for the proposed institute later on.

But sources said the students selected for IIM Amritsar may not have to suffer as there is a ‘plan B’ with the Centre, if no consensus is reached over the permanent site.

Instead of banking on the state government, the Centre is thinking of holding the classes on the stipulated date from IIM Kozhikode, which was designated as mentor-trainer for IIM Amritsar, till it starts from its permanent campus.

With no decision over the final site, the Centre has put the project on hold ‘for the time being’.

With 65 students for the only postgraduate degree in business management (PGDBM) course on offer, the maiden two-year batch (2015-17) was announced to commence from the premises of the Punjab Institute of Technology near Guru Nanak Dev University.

The other management expertise programmes were to follow once the institute resumed full operation from its campus. Candidates, who cracked the Common Admission Test-2014, have already been shortlisted.

The monitoring team from Kozhikode — under whose supervision the work of the temporary campus was on — returned on May 13.

SP Goyal, Joint Secretary, Technical Education Department, Union Ministry of Home Affairs, said that under the present circumstances, classes for the current session could not be started.

“The sites offered to us were not found to be conducive for setting up the IIM and it has been conveyed to the authorities. As there was no communication from the state government about the alternative site, uncertainty prevailed about starting the classes from July 15. We have put the proposal on hold as of now,” he said.

The two sites — 192 acres at Awan village in Ajnala block and 150 acres at Sheron Bagha village near Baba Bakala — failed to impress the central site-selection committee which visited these places in April.

Awan village’s rural and remote location away from township and Sheron Bagha’s placement on the bank of the Beas were the major drawbacks.

It has been learnt that another site — where the Amritsar Central jail is located — had caught the fancy of the central committee, but the state government was not ready to part with this prime land located on Airport Road. There is a multi-crore profit-making proposal to construct multi-storey residential and commercial units on this PUDA land, as the jail would be shifted to its new location at Fatehgarh in a year or so.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sandeep Rishi said that negotiations were on for a 60-acre private land at Mannawala, near Amritsar.
Future of Jats admitted to DU’s MBA in doubt

DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS Their admissions may be cancelled after the SC scrapped OBC quota for them

Shradha Chettri
shradha.chettri@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Jat students admitted to the Delhi School of Economics (DSE) business management courses face an uncertain future. The uncertainty is the result of a Supreme Court (SC) ruling that quashed reservation for the community days after the admission process begun.

While students under the OBC quota were interviewed for admission on March 17 and March 18, the SC delivered its judgment on March 17.

The university is yet to issue a notification announcing the change in its admission procedure following the judgment.

Although the university declared the admission results on April 13, nearly a month after the SC judgment, the list of 128 OBC students admitted to the programmes included names of Jat students. The list included a note that read: “In view of court ruling calling for exclusion of Jat candidates from OBC category, candidates belonging to the caste will be called for counseling subject to DU’s approval”.

The Delhi University’s commerce department offers Master of Business Administration (MBA), Human Resources Development (HRD) and International Business (IB) at the DSE campus. Admissions to these courses are held on the basis of the Common Admission Test (CAT) score followed by a group discussion (GD) and a personal interview (PI).

JP Sharma, dean of commerce, DU, clarified that the admissions given to Jat students were provisional and depending on the notification the admission can be cancelled. “When students were admitted to the courses, we made them sign an undertaking, which said that the admission was provisional and that students well abide by the guidelines of DU. We have already written to the university seeking a clarification. Once they reply we will follow the rules,” Sharma added.

Sharma has written to the university on two occasions since the judgement but is yet to receive a reply.
OBC quota still valid in DU?

COMMUNITY Jat students given admission under OBC category, despite SC quashing the reservation in March

Vibha Sharma

NEW DELHI: Pointing out the violation of Supreme Court’s ruling, several parents have complained that Delhi University’s Delhi School of Economics (DSE) have admitted students of Jat community under Other Backward Caste (OBC) quota in the MBA courses.

Delhi University runs two MBA courses in Human Resource and International Business.

The admissions to the courses are held on basis of Common Admission Test (CAT) score, group discussions and personal interview. The students under OBC categories were called on March 17 and 18 for GD+PI.

While the Supreme Court judgment quashing the reservation for the community came on March 17.

However, when DSE declared the result on April 13, a list of 128 OBC candidates was released, which also had the names of Jat candidates, with a note “in view of court ruling calling for exclusion of Jat candidates from OBC category, candidates belonging to the caste will be called for counselling subject to approval by Delhi University.

“On May 1, schedule of counselling was released and names of candidates in Jat community was also included in it. So many parents went to meet the dean of commerce and apprised him of the violation. However on May 26, the Jat candidates along with others were also given provisional admission,” said Karan Singh, an advocate at Delhi High Court.

However, JP Sharma, Dean of commerce DU say that the admission is only provisional and depending on the notification the admission can be cancelled.

DU REGISTRATION

For 54,000 seats to Delhi University’s undergraduate programme applications have been increasing by leaps and bounds. On the second day of the online application process, about 81,055 aspirants registered themselves and 30,829 made their payments online till 5pm on Friday.

NO PLACE FOR ACE SHOOTER

NEW DELHI: Ace shooter Apurvi Chandela may have got a direct entry to 2016 Olympics Games after winning bronze medal, however she is being denied participation at the World University Games to be held at South Korea in July. Chandela a student of DU. Since she could not attend the trial of the World University Games she is being denied participation.
8,000 Chinese students were expelled from US universities last year, mostly for cheating and bad grades

http://qz.com/415098/8000-chinese-students-were-expelled-from-us-universities-last-year-mostly-for-cheating-and-bad-grades/

Chinese students regularly rank among the best performing in the world, but that’s not always the case when they enroll in US schools. As many as 8,000 Chinese students in the US, were kicked out of their universities last year, according to the Pennsylvania-based education consultancy WholeRen. In 81% of 1,657 cases studied by WholeRen, the reason for expulsion was poor academic performance or cheating, according to a white paper released by the company.

“Chinese students used to be considered top-notch, but over the past five years their image has changed completely—wealthy kids who cheat,” Chen, chief development officer at WholeRen, told the Wall Street Journal. According to Chen, past generations of Chinese students were poorer and relied on their grades and scholarships to get into universities abroad, but now these students are often wealthy Chinese who weren’t able to get admitted to a good school at home.

This challenge to the stereotype of the “studious Chinese student” also calls into question the quality of education that Chinese students are used to at home. Critics say that China’s university drop-out rate is so low—just 3%, compared to 54% in the US or 32% in the United Kingdom—because professors rarely fail their students. (One theory is that the students, after years of enduring punishing hours of study and testing in order to get into university, are given a break.)

Plagiarism is also common and often goes unpunished. When administrators of China’s notorious college entrance exam, the gaokao, tried to crack down on cheating last year, hundreds of parents rioted, reportedly yelling, “We want fairness. There is no fairness if you do not let us cheat.” This week, 15 Chinese nationals were caught trying to scam standardized tests like the SAT and the GRE.

TISS, 7 other deemed varsities face fund crunch

UGC, HRD ministry working out new funding policy leading to delay

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

MUMBAI: The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), one of the eight deemed universities funded by the government, is suffering from a severe fund crunch, with professors at the institute saying their salaries have been delayed and maintenance work at the campuses affected.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) and the ministry of human resource development (MHRD) are in the process of working out a new policy to fund deemed varsities, resulting in the delay in funding.

Till recently, deemed universities received funds from the UGC as well as the government. TISS received a grant to the tune of ` 50 crore from the UGC in 2014. “We are reviewing the framework of funding deemed universities which is why there have been issues with releasing funds. We are aware of the problems faced by the institutes that depend solely on public funds and will devise a way out soon,” said UGC chairperson Ved Prakash.
TISS has had to dip in its reserve funds and apply for loans to make ends meet, a member of the administrative department said.

In a letter written by TISS director S Parasuraman to the higher education secretary last month, he said basic operational costs to run the institute were under strain and asked the HRD ministry to release funds directly.

However, when HT contacted Parasuraman, he said he did not wish to discuss the matter further. “There were issues and they have been taken care of,” he said.

However, some faculty members say the insufficient funds have cost the institute dear.

“The institute has expansion plans for some of its new campuses and courses which have been put on hold due the fund crunch. No new recruitments have been made while the pensions of several professors are still pending. The director has conveyed to the UGC several times the problems we are facing but little has been done,” said a professor.

Other deemed universities facing similar problems are Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore; Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra; Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad; Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Delhi; Gandhi Gram Rural Institute in Tamil Nadu; Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati and Gurukul Kangri University in Haridwar.