IIT alumni may move court over joint engg test

The combined entrance test for admission to central engineering institutes including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) has come under fire from the institute's alumni and students, with the IIT Faculty Federation shooting off a letter to PM Manmohan Singh strongly opposing the move.

IIT Delhi alumni president Somnath Bharti said the group was considering legal recourse. "We are looking at legal options," he said, adding that the new format would increase dependence on coaching institutes and would be subject to the varying standards of different class XII boards, bringing down the standard of the premier institute.

Sources in IIT said several directors were unhappy with the decision to bring these changes but were left with little option but to comply.
**New IIT test format draws fire**

**IIT-Delhi Alumni May Go To Court To Stop Combined Exam**

Himanshi Dhawan | TNN

New Delhi: The combined entrance test for admission to central engineering institutes, including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), has come under fire from the institute's alumni and students, with the IIT Faculty Federation lodging a complaint to PM Manmohan Singh strongly opposing the move.

IIT Delhi alumni president Somnath Bharti said they were considering legal recourse. “We are looking at legal options,” he said, adding that the new format would increase dependence on coaching institutes and would subject to the varying standards of Class XII boards, bringing down the standard of the premier institute. Sources in IIT said several directors were unhappy with the decision to bring these changes but were left with little option but to comply.

All India IIT Faculty Federation secretary A K Mittal said, “We feel cheated. Despite promising us that no steps will be taken if there is any dissent, the HRD minister has gone ahead.” Mittal said they had written to the PM highlighting the practical problems of introducing a new format in 2013. Five out of the seven IITs had opposed the move and are opposed to academic control being taken away from IITs.

Author Chetan Bhagat, an ex-IITian, tweeted, “It makes me extremely sad to see an institution that gave me so much being destroyed by politicians.” Describing the decision to have a new exam as “disastrous”, Bhagat said, “The new IIT selection rules part of government’s ‘Can’t make new A-grade institutions. Let’s destroy what we have’ policy.”

Let’s destroy what we have policy.

I am sharp criticism about weightage being given to Class XII board exam, Bhagat said, “In my Class XII practicals, people who knew the teacher got full marks. Now that will count in the IIT entrance.”

He was joined by Super 30’s Anand Kumar who said the decision would tilt against rural students. “Students who come from rural backgrounds may be passed by studying on their own. They will not be able to compete with others,” he said.

“If there can be one test for more competitive AIIMS examination, which has fewer seats and more candidates, and IIMs, why can’t there be such a similar test for the IITs?” Kumar said, adding that the pressure of three tests, especially the JEE advanced that is expected to be tougher, will increase mental stress on children.

Anand also opposed the move to introduce the new system by next year. His Super 30, set up a decade ago, has been lauded by Time magazine as the best in Asia. The Institute provides free residential coaching to 30 meritorious students from the underprivileged sections of society and so far 263 students have made it to the IITs.

Maintaining that there was uncertainty still about the mechanism of the proposed two-tier test, a worried parent Sanjiv Malhotra said if JEE-mains and JEE-advanced were held the same day, it would be psychologically draining for the students.

“If the student is not able to give the test on the assigned day, he stands to lose one precious year,” he said.

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**IITs, Parents Criticise Sibal’s New Engg Exam Formula**

OUI/OLYMPIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI

HRD minister Kapil Sibal, who is also an IITian and former faculty member, said the new formula was not only more stress-free but also more objective.

The minister also assured that the new formula would not affect the quality of students entering the institutes.

However, some parents and faculty members expressed concerns about the new system, saying it would be unfair to students who have already spent years preparing for the exams.

The move was to make the new examination system more objective and reduce the weightage of subjective questions, the minister said.

The new exam will be conducted in a single sitting and will be evaluated by a panel of experts. The new system will also be introduced in the JEE Advanced exams, which are scheduled for May 2013.

The new exam will be based on the concept of ‘ad-mission by choice’, where students will be asked to choose their preferred course and institution from a list of options.

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*Economic Times ND 31/05/2012*
Better system, relief for students

The move to have a common entrance exam for admissions to all centrally-funded engineering colleges, including the IITs, is a welcome step. Under the existing system, students have to prepare for a plethora of entrance exams to various engineering institutes. This not only puts enormous pressure on them but also makes their academic development patchy. A common Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) would significantly lessen the burden on engineering aspirants.

This streamlining of engineering admissions has other benefits too. Thanks to the wide gap between class XI and entrance exam syllabi, students often ignore the former to prepare themselves for the latter. This in turn has led to a mushrooming of commercial coaching institutes and created a nexus between schoolteachers, coaching tutors and college administrators, who fleece students and their parents for providing quality education that should have been available in the schools themselves. However, under the new system, significant weightage is to be given to class XII board results. This will be first-nation, one test formula leaves ample scope for separating the wheat from the chaff. While all engineering aspirants would be sitting for the two-step JEE — mains as well as advanced tests — it is only those who are shortlisted on the basis of their main scores and class XII board results — 50% weightage for both — whose advanced test scores would be considered for admissions to the IITs. For reducing the burden on students and yet providing a competitive platform for engineering admissions, the new system needs to be commended: as long as the tests are well-designed with sufficient input from the IITs.

This will ruin the IITs

The decision to change the admission process of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) is a big mistake. The government’s move to provide performance in class XII examinates the various state boards, almost half the total marks used for drawing the first list of the IIT admissions, substantially dilutes the autonomy the IITs enjoyed in devising the criteria for admission, a prime reason for the success and brand value of IITs. Even if one assumes that the plan to normalise marks secured by the students passing out from different states can work (a very big if), different state board exams are still a poor replacement for the IITs’ own rigorous admission tests which have so successfully identified the best students for so many decades.

The move is like replacing one central and proven filter with almost two dozen filters of varying qualities. And this can change results significantly in a process where even a decimal point change in marks can change the merit rankings rather dramatically.

Similarly, though it is true that a common entrance test will help students cut down on the time and resources spent for applying to different institutes, the move is unlikely to achieve the broader aim of whittling down the importance of the increasingly expensive coaching classes, which till the playing field in favour of the more affluent groups.

In fact, such a change can be even counterproductive because it ensures that students would now have to spend more time and resources for both board and the JEE, which expands the business opportunities of the coaching classes. So it would be best that the current IIT admission procedures are continued with some incremental improvements.

Times of India, ND 31/05/2012 P-20
Passes the test

The Centre has done the right thing in deciding on a common two-part joint entrance examination (JEE) for the undergraduate engineering programmes in all the 60-odd institutions under its jurisdiction. From 2018 onwards, there would be a JEE (main) and JEE (advanced) paper to select candidates for the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) as well as the National Institutes of Technology, the Indian Institutes of Information Technology and other centrally-funded engineering educational institutions. Moreover, candidates will be assessed not only on JEE 'main' and 'advanced' performance, but also their Class XII Board marks, with these accorded respective weightages of 30, 30 and 40 per cent. Even for the elite IITs, while the final markings are to be based on JEE (advanced) performance, there would, however, be a prior screening stage where the JEE (main) and Class XII Board results will form the basic eligibility criteria for selection.

Both these moves — having a common JEE system and taking into account Class XII performance — are laudable. The first move saves students the bother of preparing and writing multiple entrance exams, often at different locations. Considering the school-leaving exam results, apart from that of the main and advanced JEE, would mean assessing students on the basis of their scores in three papers, rather than one 'knock-out' exam. That probably will translate into a much better measure of merit. It would also be fairer: Not all parents can, after all, send their children to private tuition centres that would 'prepare' them for entrance exams. Besides addressing the inherent inequity in students from less-affluent backgrounds not being able to compete with those undergoing special coaching in such centres, the weighting to Board results would restore to the teaching of science subjects at the secondary school level, the primacy that it has sadly lost in recent years.

The proposed reforms in the engineering entrance examination system would have greater impact if they force State Governments to also follow suit. Ideally, they should bring their own engineering colleges under the purview of the JEE, so that students writing for it are eligible to apply to these institutions as well. True, education being a concurrent subject, the Centre cannot impose anything on the States. The fact that there are reservation quotas, varying from State to State, poses additional complications — though it may not be difficult to use the scores from a common exam for admission to engineering colleges across the country, even while adhering to the quotas fixed by the respective State. But the fundamental point is that we need to move to a system of standardisation in entrance exams, whether it is for engineering or medicine. By taking the initiative for its own institutions, the Centre may set the right example for not just State Government-run, but even private engineering and medical colleges to emulate.

We need to move to a system of standardisation in entrance exams, whether it is for engineering or medicine.
NEW DELHI: With the Andhra Pradesh high court scrapping the 4.5% sub-quota for minorities, the government may explore various possibilities to ensure that those under this category are not affected.

First of all, the government will move the Supreme Court for an interim stay, sources said, adding: "Only if that does not work in the government’s favour will it think of exploring other options. An amendment in the constitution could be just one of the options. After all, amendments have been made in the past also."

The Andhra Pradesh high court had on Monday passed an order scrapping the 4.5% minority sub-quota. More than 300 students had been shortlisted under this sub-quota for the IIT-JEE this year. The selection of these students could be affected in the light of the ruling.

This year, the IITs had allowed a 4.5% sub-quota within the 27% seats reserved for other backward classes (OBC) – the non-creamy layer-OBC (NCL). Though as many as 445 seats were reserved for this category, 335 students qualified.
All quota options on table, including amending statute

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

The government may consider amending the Constitution to retain the 4.5 per cent minority subquota in Central educational institutions and government jobs in case the Supreme Court delivers an unfavourable verdict, highly placed sources said.

The government has announced it will challenge this week's Andhra Pradesh High Court verdict striking down the quota on the ground that it is based on religion. A special leave petition in the Supreme Court could be filed as early as next Monday, the sources said.

The HRD Ministry has asked all Central educational institutions to allocate 4.5 per cent of the 27 per cent OBC quota for non-creamy layer minority students from this academic session. The IITs are already halfway through their admission process, and have shortlisted 325 candidates under the 4.5 per cent quota. Following the HC order, some IITs have held back on announcing admissions to these seats. "We are a little confused. We have, therefore, not announced admission to seats under the 4.5 per cent subquota. We have some time because the first semester starts only in July, but we are looking for directions from the HRD ministry," an IIT director said.

The Centre had notified the subquota in December 2011 ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. On May 25, the HRD ministry wrote to all Central educational institutions saying that they should clarify on the eligibility criteria under the subquota "well in time" so that "sufficient number of eligible OBC candidates are available for selection on the basis of inter-se merit against such reserved seats".
अल्पसंख्यक कोटे के लिए संविधान संशोधन पर गौर कर सकता है केंद्र

नई दिल्ली, 30 मई (ईएनए)। केंद्रीय शिक्षण संस्थानों और सरकारी नौकरियों में अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए 4.5 प्रतिशत आरक्षण पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट का प्रतिकूल कर्त्तव्य अपने पर सरकार इस कोटे के लिए संविधान संशोधन पर विचार कर सकती है। आगर प्रदेश हाईकोर्ट की ओर आपराधिक का यह प्रावधान नम्बर 2 करने के बाद केंद्र सरकार इस दिशा में संज्ञानी से विचार कर रही है। भरोसेमंद नूतनों ने बुखार को यह जानकारी दी।

...सरकार ने ऐसी प्रावधान की है कि यह हाई कोटे के... इस फैसले को चुनौती देनी। पिछले दिनों आपं... हाई कोटे ने पिछड़े के 27 प्रतिशत आरक्षण में 4.5 प्रतिशत अल्पसंख्यक कोटे को तुकार कर दिया है क्योंकि इस संबंध में धर्म आधारित आरक्षण की संविधान में कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। सूत्रों का कहा है कि इस फैसले को चुनौती देने के लिए समस्याएं तर एक विशेष अनुभवता याचिका सुप्रीम कोर्ट में दाखिल की जा सकती है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने सभी केंद्रीय शिक्षण संस्थानों को निर्देशित दिया है कि पिछड़े के लिए 27 प्रतिशत आरक्षण के भीतर 4.5 प्रतिशत या लोटा नियोजित अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए इसी अकादमिक सत्र में रखा जाए। कई आईआईटी में प्रवेश की प्रक्रिया आर्थिक बूढ़ी हो चुकी है और उन्होंने 4.5 प्रतिशत कोटे के तहत 325 उममीदवारों के नाम छांटे लिए हैं। हाई कोटे के फैसले के बाद कुछ आईआईटी ने इन सीटों पर दाखिले को रोक रखा है।

एक आईआईटी निदेशक ने कहा कि इस मामले में हम ठोड़ा संशय में हैं। इसलिए 4.5 प्रतिशत उप-आरक्षण के तहत सीटों के बारे में अभी लोड़ घोषणा नहीं की गई है। हमारे पास अभी कोई काफी वक्त नहीं है, क्योंकि पहला सेमेस्टर जुलाई में शुरू होता है। फिर भी हमें मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय के निर्देशों का इतजाम है। इस बीच पिछड़े वर्ग के लिए आरक्षण कोटे में अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए 4.5 प्रतिशत के प्रावधान को आंध्र प्रदेश हाई कोटे की ओर से रख किया जाने के बाद विपक्षी दलों के निशाने पर आई कार्यालय ने बुधवार को कहा कि यह पार्टी के चुनौती घोषणापत्र में किए गए वादों को पूरा करने को लेकर प्रतिबद्ध है।
Won’t dump quota promise: Congress

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress on Wednesday dubbed 4.5% sub-quota as its commitment to minorities, betraying concern that judicial veto to its outreach measure may leave it vulnerable to political sniping.

In a suo moto statement, AICC spokesman Rashid Alvi said, “The progress of minorities is our commitment and responsibility. We will fulfill promises made in our election manifesto. The law minister has already said the government will move the Supreme Court against the Andhra Pradesh high court order. We have a commitment to minorities.”

The Congress’s bid to strongly own up the ‘minority quota’ came amid palpable resentment among Muslims over the quashing of the 4.5% quota and indications that quota-facilitated success in elite exams like IIT in its inaugural year could be set aside. The community leaders have also termed the order as unfortunate.

Though the Andhra HC has in the past struck down quotas given to religious minorities, sections of Congress are worried that scrapping of 4.5% quota could leave it susceptible to attacks from rivals from both sides of the ideological divide.

While BJP has already gone on the offensive to dub the measure as driven by communal considerations, quoting the court order to back its charge, Congress’s “secular” rivals have adopted a curious silence but could target the party soon. After Congress struck a loud pitch in UP campaign over the quota to woo Muslims, Samajwadi Party rubbished it as a decision meant only for electoral gains. The quashing has given the Samajwadi the perfect opening to target Congress, though they have preferred to keep quiet just yet. The same is true for other “secular” parties.

Congress’s concern to ringfence the party was evident in its independent move to reassure minorities even though law minister Salman Khurshid had earlier announced the decision to move the apex court.
PRANAB DHAL SAMANTA
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

A STUDY by the National Environmental Engineering Institute (NEERI) claiming that water in the Ganga has unique "anti-bacterial" properties has put a question mark on at least three important hydel projects on the Alaknanda in Uttarakhand. And forced Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to depute an official emissary to explain matters to environmentalist and former IT professor G D Agrawal—later rechristened as Swami Gyanwaroop Sanand—of the Ganga Seva Abhiyam who claims that the river will lose these properties if hydel projects come up on its upper reaches.

The PM's initiative comes amid fears of a major agitation building up to coincide with next year's once-in-12-years Malakumbh on the banks of the Ganga. Anna Hazare has already come out in support of the cause and even shot off a letter to the PM in March.

Such is the concern that Uttarakhand is not letting Swami Sanand enter the state. On Monday, Sanand attempted to go toward the Alaknanda but was stopped at the Uttarakhand border by the state police and brought back to Delhi, where he was admitted to AIIMS.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'Gangajal medicine' casts cloud on key projects

and later discharged. Insiders said the state fears its presence may stoke religious sentiments on an emotive issue.

The NEERI study, commissioned by the Tehri Hydel Development Corporation and submitted last November, has become a key document for the protesters. It states: "The present study confirmed that the uniqueness of the River Bhagirathi/Ganga lies in its sediment content which is more radio active compared to other river and lake water sediments. It has bactericidal properties and can cause proliferation of coliphages that reduce and ultimately eliminate coliforms from the water column. Investigations revealed that particulate matters of Alaknanda have identical anti-bacterial property as that of Bhagirathi."

Protestors claim that these projects change the course of the river which leads to the loss of its unique properties. The Ganges, they argue, acquires these properties because of the sediments that are gathered along this path. Any obstruction in the form of a dam or a barrage impedes the river's course. The group's demand is that of an "Aviral (obstacle-free) Ganga".

A worried PMO is learnt to have asked the consortium of seven ITBs to validate the NEERI's claims. The consortium, which has been tasked to draw up a Ganga River Basin Management Plan, will now have to look into this first. Incidentally, the NEERI study gives a clean chit to the Tehri project, stating that it does not obstruct the course of the river.

The government has, in fact, conveyed to Sanand that it could consider modifying these projects to ensure that a part of the river continues to flow in the original course and the diverted portion joins the river later. But there has been no response yet.

If the government were to fully concede, the worst affected would be the 330 MW Srinagar hydel project being built by GVK that is 90 per cent complete. The other include the World Bank-assisted project in Vishnuval Pippalott, where the rehabilitation plan is complete and the Singoli-Bhatwari project.

A few years ago, the Centre gave in and scrapped three projects on the River Bhagirathi amid heightened protests in Uttarakhand. Now, armed with the NEERI study and increasing clout, the group feels the action on the projects along the Alaknanda is only a logical sequel.

Sanand, meanwhile, met BJP leader Uma Bharti besides scores of other RSS sympathisers. The Centre, sources said, is worried about this campaign acquiring a feverish pitch by Dushsera and carrying on till the Mahakumbh.
उच्च शिक्षा में उल्लेखनीय पहल

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के द्वारा उच्च शिक्षा में उल्लेखनीय पहल हुआ है। उन्होंने उच्च शिक्षा में उल्लेखनीय पहल दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के द्वारा मिली है। उन्होंने उच्च शिक्षा में उल्लेखनीय पहल दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के द्वारा मिली है। उन्होंने उच्च शिक्षा में उल्लेखनीय पहल दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के द्वारा मिली है। उन्होंने उच्च शिक्षा में उल्लेखनीय पहल दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के द्वारा मिली है।
Education without skills will lead to unemployment

Business is concerned with the employability, potential of a candidate, and is not overly impressed by educational qualifications.

A man cannot be simply employable. This has been the cry from industry bosses. Much of the teaching community is working to understand this. Education is not just about getting a job. Between employer who expect workaholics and educators who cannot or will not focus on employability, our students are left adrift.

Governments across the world have been bringing out white papers on employability for over a decade. It has been established that skills that make people useful and productive need to be taught formally. This is true for both vocational and professional education. These skills are the key to sustainable growth of progress for entire nations.

So when you recruit managers to get a job done without being told where — that is a sign of good training which augurs well for your productivity as a unit, and ultimately for the entire country. But most young recruits fail to deliver initially.

This inability is a cost to the business and of the recruit. The skills required by employers have been mapped out, and include seemingly simple things such as communication, initiative, reliability, presentation skills and most importantly — content delivery.

India's much vaunted demographic dividend is guaranteed to turn into a demographic disaster if our young people are not skilled and employable. The sheer mass of young people without adequate skills to develop themselves and their organizations is enough to create horrific scenarios for the near future. It is clearly acknowledged that there is not too much time — we need rapid upskilling networks to be in place in the next three to five years.

On we face the prospect of three to five million unemployables flooding our streets every year. Either they will need to invest in themselves to retain their jobs, or their employers will need to invest in them to ensure that they retain their jobs at a reasonable degree of competence.

In either case, a part of the cost will have to be borne by the employer, either in efficiency or in mistakes. Employers may also have to invest in tighter job descriptions, with clearer and simpler expectations to match the dumbing down of skills that they report.

This last option would actually be a shame, a miss mechanical jobs can be done by machines. Globally, jobs now seek skills that cannot be transferred to machines, making them more challenging to predict and deliver.

This is the core challenge for skill-providers. They truly have no means of predicting what skills may be required for the future, nor can they possibly estimate with much accuracy how long the need for those skills will last.

The best they can do is ask employers what they require in their employees and see to train people to meet requirements. This has led India to develop sectoral skill councils, which involve various industry associations. Sector skill councils are designed to provide insights into skills requirements that will inform colleges and trainers, who in turn will be able to design courses accordingly.

The ideal is both sound and is tested in many countries with some variations. It has proved to be a qualified success, which is why in India the model needs to evolve with a combination of sustainability and credibility built into the design. The National Skills Development Corporation has done some stellar work, while other initiatives including the upgrading of the ITI, the NSDC, etc. are in their infancy.

One of the biggest hurdles in developing strong skills building systems is the funding. Everybody seems to think that the responsibility for developing these skills lies with another set of institutions. Employers blame colleges, colleges blame schools and schools blame societal attitudes.

To compete the circle, prospective employers are blithely unaware of the standards expected of them, and blame employers when a mismatch occurs. This gap between abilities and expectations is traditionally filled by employers only for their current employees as they groom them for growth within the organization. They do this through in-house and external training, mentoring and coaching programs supplemented by appraisal cycles.

But there is no reason to invest in people they do not know yet. Schools and training colleges are stuck with ancient curricula. But more importantly, they do not see employability as an objective for the education they provide. Students and their parents may be willing, but if there is a clear understanding of the benefits that will accrue — without proof they will not invest.

Skills development training need collective investment from all employers, educators and employees, and ultimately from the Government too. The need for urgent action is easily urgent, not only because of the youth that deserve to be groomed to nurture potential, but also because the employment market is global.

If one country does not supply competent employees, the demand will rapidly move to another country. India cannot afford to allow others to steal a march on the employability of our youth. Without a home and safe space in our skills strategy, the youth of the country are due for a frustrating ride in the global job markets of the future.

(The writer is an education strategy consultant who has lived, worked and taught in London for over a decade. She is now based in New Delhi.)
UK rejects appeal on student visa curbs

London: The British government on Wednesday rejected an appeal by nearly 70 top university heads to review changes to the student visa regime that is likely to put off students from India and other non-EU countries from coming to the UK.

In a letter to PM David Cameron, university heads noted the economic and other contributions made by international students, and said Britain stood to lose out on the highly competitive international student market unless the recent changes were reviewed.

The curbs on student visas are intended to reduce the number of international students and prevent abuse, but critics say students should not be counted as immigrants since their stay is temporary.

Immigration minister Damian Green rejected the contention saying, “Public confidence in statistics will not be enhanced by revising the way the net migration numbers are presented by removing students. Students coming to the UK for over a year are not visitors — their numbers affect communities, public services and infrastructure.”
Army chief’s Ph D guide faces probe for ‘plagiarism’

CONTROVERSY First inquiry puts him in a fix

Ashutosh Shuka

Bhopal: In a strange twist of events, the PhD guide of Army chief General VK Singh, Kaishsh Tyagi, is all set to face a probe into the authenticity of his own research works for getting his Ph D and D L t degrees.

In 2010, amid much fanfare, General Singh had registered himself with the Barkatullah University, Bhopal, for a Ph D under the guidance of the professor of military science at the Motilal Vidywan Mahavidyalaya (MVM) here. The topic of General’s proposed thesis was ‘Geo-strategy of Wakhan’.

Two years on, the state higher education department has proposed an inquiry by the university into the authenticity of Tyagi’s own works towards his Ph D and D L t after a preliminary inquiry into a complaint. The complaint had accused him of plagiarising his thesis for Ph D and D L t degrees, both.

The principal of Govt Benazir Science & Commerce College, Umakant Misra, had made the preliminary inquiry into the complaint. The complainant, Dinesh Trivedi of Jhansi, had charged Tyagi on several counts, including grave financial irregularities. He had initially lodged a complaint with the economic offences wing (EOW) of the police, which forwarded the matter to the higher education department for appropriate action. Following this, an inquiry into the charges against Tyagi was initiated at the behest of the officer on special duty (OSD) with the education department.

On plagiarism charges, the complainant said, “Tyagi can’t write a single paragraph correctly in English, but his research papers for Ph D and D L t, which has absolutely been plagiarised, are in English. Let alone English, the learned professor can’t write correct Hindi either.” When the inquiry officer put the question to Tyagi, he replied, “It’s a casual spread by my detractors. It’s the result of their jealousy. I don’t have to say anything further.”

Based on his reply, the inquiry officer recommended a detailed inquiry into the allegation by the university with an interesting comment: “His command over Hindi could well be gauged by his letter written on March 13, 2012. Some of the words...

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Army chief’s PhD guide faces probe as probity of his own thesis comes...

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misspelt by the professor are Bindoo (point), Vibhagiya (departmental), mangadhant (baseless) and Vridhhiyaan (increase or increment)."

In fact, Mishra has found Tyagi prima facie guilty on eight of the charges, including collection of lakhs of rupees from fellow teachers and depositing the same in his joint account with his wife at the State Bank of India’s branch in Shahpura here in the name of teachers’ union that he runs, indulging in unnecessary litigation against the state government, buying three cars during the last five years, manipulating fixation of his salary in a manner which shows that he is the highest paid professor/principal in the state in spite of being recruited as late as in 1984, taking increments as the incentive for PhD, D Lit degree and family planning several times over.

When contacted, Tyagi described the inquiry to be a conspiracy by his detractors. He said the person, who is said to have lodged the complaint against him, does not exist, and charged that Mishra, who has been handling the preliminary inquiry into the complaint, is himself the complainant. “It’s his handwriting. There are more in my fraternity who are jealous of me, and some officers of the department are also conniving with them. I am the PhD guide of the Indian Army chief. This also does not go down well with some of my colleagues,” he said.

HUNDREDS OF BKU ACTIVISTS ARRESTED IN ANUPPUR

The arrested BKU workers were kept in temporary imprisonment at different places including a stadium. Earlier, Tikait, said that farmers must be given their rightful compensation. He said that their agitation was peaceful and it was a democratic right to hold demonstration anywhere in the country.

TREAT EVERY TIGER DEATH AS POACHING, SAYS NTCA

Maharashtra — taking the state’s 20:2 death tally to 12. Recently, the state allowed forest officials to shoot poachers at sight.

The NTCA has asked tiger reserves to carry out a detailed probe before declaring the reason for the deaths. Officials are required to scan nearby areas to rule out the presence of metal traps, snares and evidence pertaining to unauthorised vehicular movement. The NTCA also wants officials to check for toxic elements in watering holes or livestock killed by tigers.

3-FOLD JUMP IN YOUNG URBAN WOMEN SMOKER

One in three (35%) adults (274 million) use tobacco in India.

Research has established that young women are more likely than men to get addicted to smoking and are at higher risk of developing heart disease and stroke.

The WHO links smoking with 25 women’s cancers—lung, cervix, breast and colorectal to name a few. Even secondhand smoke raises breast cancer risk in women. "More than in men, smoking increases risk of stroke and heart disease among young women, with those also taking contraceptive pills increasing their risk 10 fold" says Dr Ravi Kasliwa, chairman, preventative and clinical cardiology, Medanta.

And this upward swing will continue. "With cigarettes being marketed with images of modernity, emancipation... the gender disparity among smokers will soon even out completely and you’ll see as many women smokers as men in the next five years," said Dr Sam Parikh, director of behavioural sciences at Fortis Hospital.