Semester system: New DUV-C and protesting teachers discuss impasse

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: The officer bearers of the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) and the newly appointed vice chancellor, Dinesh Singh, met on Thursday to discuss the impasse regarding implementation of semester system in the 13 undergraduate science courses.

The DUTA members said the meeting was an indication towards an early resolution.

"We presented our case before the vice chancellor and maintained our position that the science courses under the semester system were passed illegally and therefore should not be taught. Beyond this there is nothing much to comment on," said Aditya Narayan Misra, president of DUTA.

When asked about the V-C's proposal that the university was open to suggestions from teachers about change in the course content of the science courses as reported by Hindustan Times on Thursday, Misra said, "There has been no concrete proposal about this as yet. We can take a call only when there is one."

Vinay Kumar Singh, secretary, DUTA, said the meeting was a positive move. "We are hopeful that with meetings like these an early resolution can be reached. The V-C gave us a patient hearing."

Vice Chancellor Singh said though there might not be any substantial development to speak about at the moment, the fact that a process of dialogue between the university and the DUTA members have begun is a positive development.

The DUTA members, too, are hopeful that the process of dialogue will continue through further meetings so that the semester issue can be resolved soon.

Meanwhile, around 25 principals of the various DU colleges met on Thursday to discuss the 'no work, no pay' circular sent by the varsity.

"We just took a stock of the colleges that have released the salaries for October keeping in mind the notice. Around 20 colleges seemed to have released the salaries with a five-day pay cut," said SK Garg, principal of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College and president of the principals' association.
Hindustan Times ND 05.11.10  

US wants summit on education  

A FIRST Talks to build on gains may involve Clinton, Sibal

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NEW DELHI: The US has proposed an education summit involving secretary of state Hillary Clinton and human resource development minister Kapil Sibal to build on gains achieved in the sector, during President Barack Obama's visit starting Saturday.

Indian and American officials are engaged in discussions over the proposal which the US wants to announce during Obama's visit, representatives from both countries said.

The officials, however, warned that the proposal may be tweaked based on the discussions, adding the final proposal may not be ready in time for announcement during the Obama trip.

"It will be discussed between the two delegations, but it could be touch-and-go as far as an announcement is concerned," a US official said.

No Indian HRD minister has been involved in summit-level discussions with an American secretary of state.

Both countries are keen on strengthening ties in education, a sector declared as a key partnership area by Obama during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to the US last November, sources said. Over one lakh Indians travel every year to the US for higher education.

The two countries have finalised the contours of the Singh-Obama 21st century Knowledge Initiative announced by Obama last year.

A joint working group of US and Indian officials will pick Indian and American universities for grants.

The Indian team will consist of former Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Deepak Nayyar, HRD ministry additional secretary Sunil Kumar and ministry joint secretary Amit Khare. The US team will consist of three officials from the United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF).

Officials of the two countries are however still undecided on the US proposal for a summit between Clinton and Sibal. The US wanted the summit announced during the Obama visit, an American government representative here confirmed.

“We believe the summit can add symbolic and tangible momentum to the educational ties,” the official said.

India has hinted it prefers a more regular and broad-based bilateral mechanism for talks in education over a summit.
SIBAL UNVEILS MINORITY EDUCATION STRATEGY

Charu Sudan Kasturi
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NEW DELHI: Human resource development minister Kapil Sibal has asked his ministry to formulate a minority education strategy focusing on reviving dying crafts practiced by Muslim artisans, many of whom now live virtually in penury.

The strategy will focus on hamlets of traditional artisans and craftsmen. It will include training them in modern skills needed to keep their craft alive, and on taking these crafts to modern educational institutions, government sources have said.

"We want to make these traditional arts and crafts a part of mainstream education so that today's students learn about them, study them, and lose these crafts forward," an official said.

Knowledge is passed on from generation to generation in the families of these artisans, but is not expanding beyond these select families. The new strategy is based on concerns that the knowledge held by them may soon expire unless taught to a broader segment of students.

Sources cited the example of Islamic architecture, which is understood and practiced only by families involved in building and maintaining structures like mosques. "There is a need to include this knowledge as a part of mainstream education in architecture schools," a source said.

The HRD ministry is keen to involve leading Muslim educationists and philanthropists in this project. "We will soon call a meeting with select Muslim educationists and philanthropists," a source said.
Exam for lawyers to decide eligibility

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NEW DELHI: For the first time, around 25,000 fresh law graduates will appear in a mandatory open book written exam on December 5, the result of which will determine whether they would be eligible to practice as lawyers in Indian courts.

The exam will be conducted by Bar Council of India (BCI), the regulator for legal profession and education in the country, in nine languages and in 27 centres across the country.

"The exam will be of three hours and 30 minutes duration with mainly multiple-choice questions to be answered by ticking the correct one. The candidates will be allowed to use reference books during the exam," said professor VB Coutinho, the chairman of BCI's directorate of legal education.

Candidates will have to score a minimum of 40% marks to qualify this exam, but there is no limitation on number of chances for a candidate to pass this test, which will be held twice a year from 2011 onwards.

BCI sources said the move to hold the exam followed a direction from the Supreme Court last year, following which the law ministry included it in the blueprint for legal reforms.

"The Advocates Act, 1961, may need to be re-visited in consultation with the senior member of the Bar to consider re-introduction of mandatory apprenticeship and introduction of a qualifying exam for advocates before admission to the bar," says the ministry's blueprint approved by the union cabinet in December last year.

Asked about the reported proposal from the law ministry to postpone the exam, a BCI functionary said: "We have not been approached so far. Moreover barely four weeks before the exam for which nearly 25,000 students have paid Rs 1,300 each and are preparing, it would not be possible."
Hindustan Times ND
05.11.10 p-30

ISRO to concentrate on education and health - Dr K. Radhakrishnan

"The future thrust areas for Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will be in food and water security, weather and climate, environment and ecosystem, sustainable development, support for informed decision making, education and health care, skill development and rural communications, as well as disaster management," remarked Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, Chairman, ISRO.
E-LEARNING TO REACH MORE DU COLLEGES

Joyeeta Ghosh
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NEW DELHI: Delhi University's Institute of Life Long Learning (ILLL), an initiative to take the processes of teaching and learning beyond classrooms, might have a presence at several more colleges.

Speaking to Hindustan Times, vice chancellor Dinesh Singh said, "We need to have smaller ILLLs to reach out to more students and increase the level of interaction between teachers and students."

He said increasing use of technology could help overcome problems of infrastructure such as lack of classrooms.

ILLL, which was started in 2007, has been involved in developing e-content for students. An e-portal launched in June this year hosts e-quizzes, e-lectures, e-labs and e-lessons, e-classes and more recently e-helper and e-paper.

All the content is designed to help students understand classes better, interact with teachers and help students prepare for examinations.
Govt OKs video link for IIM board meetings

Mathang Seshagiri | TNN

Bangalore: Welcome to the new-age board meetings at India’s elite B-schools. Reliance CMD Mukesh Ambani need not snake through Bangalore’s chaotic traffic to make it on time for the board meeting at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B), where he is the chairman (board of governors). Next time, he can click-start the meeting from any corner of the world.

Favouring the way for e-board meetings at all Indian Institutes of Management, the HRD Ministry headed by Kapil Sibal has approved participation in board and society meetings through video-conferencing.

Several IIMs have been reporting non-participation by high-profile corporate members and officials during board of governors meetings due to the fact that they are members of several other boards simultaneously and it becomes impossible for them to attend the meetings of IIMs which are located in different states. In fact, 50% of the members did not turn up for the IIM-B board meeting on September 7.

Some of the members and chairpersons of IIM boards include Kris Gopalkrishnan (Infosys), Jamshed J Irani (Tata Sons), A C Murthy (SPIC), R C Bhavagav (Maruti Suzuki), Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (Biocon) and LN Jhunjhunwala (Bhilwara Group).

With the HRD ministry giving its green signal, board members can now participate in discussions and even cast their votes through video-conferencing.

The ministry of law and justice, which examined the issue, has held participation in e-board meetings legally valid.
Hemophilia drug raises heart disease risk

Using high doses of Novo Nordisk's anti-clotting medicine to treat dangerous bleeding in non-haemophiliacs may raise the risk of heart attack or related complications, researchers said on Wednesday. The drug, NovoSeven, is a genetically engineered version of factor VII, a key protein missing in some people with the bleeding disease haemophilia. An analysis of 35 studies found that the overall likelihood that an artery would clog was 68% higher with NovoSeven therapy compared to a placebo.
Pancreas-transplant breakthrough raises hopes for diabetics

Pisa (Italy): Italian doctors have carried out the world’s first robotically-assisted pancreatic transplant in an operation that could help diabetes sufferers everywhere, they said.

The robotically-assisted operation "creates new prospects for the treatment of diabetics," because its "mini-invasive" nature strongly reduces post-operation complications, the team at the university hospital in Pisa said. The robotic technique allows surgeons to carry out the transplant through three small holes and a 7cm incision, the hospital said.

"This will put an end to the decades-old dilemma of whether it's possible to do pancreatic transplants because the operation is so invasive when done in the traditional way," Ugo Boggi, who heads the team, said.

The transplant was carried out on a 43-year-old mother of two who had suffered from type one diabetes since she was 24 years old and had already had a kidney transplant. The patient suffered no complications from the three-hour operation.

Pancreatic transplants have been very invasive until now because of the organ's vascular structure and the fragility of diabetic patients, who in 50% of cases develop post-operative problems. The medical team carried out the operation with the assistance of the "Da Vinci SHDI robot" — a large machine with several arms — designed in the multidisciplinary Robotic Surgery centre in Pisa.
Now, power will flow through windows

Washington: Scientists have fabricated transparent thin films capable of absorbing light and generating electric charge over a relatively large area.

The material, scientists at the US department of energy's (DOE) Brookhaven National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory say, could be used to develop transparent solar panels or even windows that absorb solar energy to generate electricity. The material consists of a semiconducting polymer doped with carbon-rich fullerenes. Under carefully controlled conditions, the material self-assembles to form a reproducible pattern of micron-size hexagon-shaped cells over a relatively large area.

The material remains largely transparent because the polymer chains pack densely only at the edges of the hexagons, while remaining loosely packed and spread very thin across the centers. The scientists fabricated the honeycomb thin films by creating a flow of micrometer-size water droplets across a thin layer of the polymer/fullerene blend solution. These water droplets self-assembled into large arrays within the polymer solution.
Pariahs no more? Isro, DRDO to be off entities list

Announcement To Be Made Tomorrow

**TALKING POINTS**

US dual-use export control system is managed by the department of commerce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>India’s demands from US</th>
<th>What US wants of us</th>
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<tr>
<td>Remove all 11 Indian entities from the Entities List.</td>
<td>Tightly separate Isro’s missile and commercial activities as well as between DRDO’s strategic missile programmes and other defence activities where the US can participate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Put India in the same licensing category as the UK and Japan</td>
<td>Harmonize export control systems to Wassenaar Arrangement and Australia Group for the US to streamline its licensing policy to India. The US has agreed to push India’s membership</td>
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<tr>
<td>For entities remaining on the list, rework licensing policy to presumption of approval from presumption of denial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to certain categories of advanced defence technology items or classified information</td>
<td>Isro subsidiaries (4 organizations)</td>
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<td>DAE subsidiaries in nuclear related (3 organizations)</td>
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**Indian firms on the Entities List**

- Isro subsidiaries (4 organizations)
- DAE subsidiaries in nuclear related (3 organizations)
- Unsecured H-reactors (9) and facilities
- DRDO subsidiaries like Bharat Dynamics

**TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

New Delhi: “Increased commerce between the US and India can be and will be a win-win proposition for both nations,” US president Barack Obama told top business executives in Mumbai on Saturday.

While the formal announcement is expected only on Monday, the US has decided to take Isro and four of its subsidiaries and DRDO and its subsidiaries off its entities list. A significant removal from the entities list is expected to be Bharat Dynamics Ltd with its four subsidiaries, hinting at future Indo-US cooperation on missile defence, because BDL is part of India’s missile technology activities.

While that is certain to bring immediate cheer to the Indian strategic sector, a more long-term step by the US will have greater impact on India’s technology future.

The US will announce that India would get out of its country classification — that is, it would no longer be on classified along with Pakistan and North Korea, but move into a group populated by US top allies like the UK and Japan.

In the current classification system, India cannot even access some critical kinds of technologies that it wants.

The US will also support India’s membership to global non-proliferation regimes like Wassenaar Arrangement and Australia Group and, in future, Nuclear Suppliers Group.

This means India will have to harmonise its export control regimes to these groups. But membership to these groups also help India access critical technologies, software and equipment from all countries, who currently deal with such sensitive technologies.

Ravinder Pal Singh, international security expert says, full scope membership of Wassenaar can enable India to leverage technologies needed for satellites, space launch vehicles or propulsion systems for diverse fields such as environment and natural resource management, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, weather forecasting and disaster management through remote sensing, satellite telemetry.

Indian membership to these groups are a natural conclusion of the Indo-US nuclear deal. This means Indian businesses can finally be the beneficiary of the deal.
Should you try a mind machine?

They are touted as a tonic for the brain but experts can’t fully prove their effectiveness

Atul Sethi | TNN

Deborah Bennett is a college lecturer in the UK. For a decade, she has been religiously using a curious device to relax after a day’s work. It’s a small, hand-held unit, inset with stereo headphones and special glasses with light-emitting diodes. “The interplay of light and sound in the machine is like a soothing state,” says Bennett. “It’s regular use has helped me become calm and confident and better equipped to handle tense situations.”

Bennett’s device — referred to as a ‘mind machine’ — has increasingly been used in the West and is now gaining popularity in India. Udaipur-based Raj Bapna pioneered one of India’s first mind machines in 1993. He says they stimulate various parts of the brain. “Brain waves are of four types — Alpha, Beta, Theta and Delta. Beta stage is when brain activity is at its maximum. What mind machines do is take the brain from the Beta stage to the more relaxed Alpha, Theta and Delta levels,” says Bapna.

Most machines use a technique called hemispheric synchronization to achieve this level of relaxation. Developed by the US-based Monroe Institute, the technique uses synchronized sound waves known as binaural beats. Each ear hears these sounds differently, with slightly different frequencies, which leads to a change in brain perception.

Bapna’s machines use a similar technique called Dual Auto Peripheral Suggestion. He says different sounds are deliberately conveyed to each ear “to confuse the conscious mind. The moment it gives up trying to fathom these sound waves, the subconscious mind takes over and the person enters a state of relaxation.”

So why use a mind machine? Many people find that it’s easier to meditate with it. Vandana Upadhy, who has used a mind machine for some years, says that the biggest advantage is that “it relieves the mind of thoughts in a shorter time than is possible normally.” This might be good news for those just starting to meditate, but not so much for people at an advanced level.

Newton Kondev, a Hyderabad-based doctor and hypnotherapist concurs. “These machines have their uses, although the best way to meditate still remains the natural way. Also, these shouldn’t be used by epileptics or those seeking psychiatric treatment.”

Manufacturers claim that mind machines also improve memory and increase concentration. Preliminary research indicates that external stimuli can increase the performance of the brain to some extent, but this is yet to be validated by extensive research.

Rudresh Vyas, who did a PhD on mind machines at Gujarat’s Sardar Patel University, conducted hour-long sessions on a group of students using a mind machine. On comparing this group’s performance with non-users, he found there was a positive effect of electromagnetic waves and rhythmic sound on learning.

However, he says “better results can be achieved if other conventional methods such as reaffirmation are combined with the usage of mind machines.”
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The robotically-assisted operation "creates new prospects for the treatment of diabetes," because its "mini-invasive" nature strongly reduces post-operation complications, the team at the university hospital in Pisa said. The robotic technique allows surgeons to carry out the transplant through three small holes and a 7cm incision, the hospital said.

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Education Dept’s server hacked; cops fail to act

Case not filed despite L-G instructions

PURUSHARTH ARADHAK
NEW DELHI

Once again Delhi Police’s callousness has been exposed. Even after intervention of the Lieutenant Governor in a case of hacking of the Delhi Education Department’s server, the police have not taken up the issue. They have not even filed a case in this connection.

The accused, Sumeet Kumar, who impersonated as an officer of the Education Department of Delhi, hacked the server of the department and created a login as tenders@edudel.nic.in and rajesh.joshi@edudel.nic.in and cheated a Rohini-based annual maintenance entrepreneur.

Sources said the accused cheated them of Rs. 3.5 lakhs as earnest money and a new laptop in the name of providing them a tender of the Education Department. The victim, Atul Kuniyal, had approached the Delhi Police seeking action against the accused.

The fraud started in June 2009 and continued for almost one-and-a-half years when the victim got in touch with the accused. Sumeet Kumar promised to provide the victim a contract of technical gadgets like printers, UPS and modem in Education Department headquarters and its five other offices in the Capital.

With the reference of the accused, the victim applied for tenders. The victim received first e-mail from tenders@edudel.nic.in on June 15, 2009 in which it was said that his quotation had been received. The sender of the e-mail was Neeraj Buddhaja, Secretary to Additional Directorate of Education, Delhi NCT. A few days later, the victim again received another e-mail regarding acceptance letter of the rate of annual maintenance.

Meanwhile, the accused again established contact with the victim and demanded a brand new laptop for Government use and he was promised to pay the money within four days. He in this regard gave the victim a HDFC bank cheque of Rs 52,000.

The account was maintained with Sonipat. The cheque bounced three times. The victim then decided to register a case against the victim. He first met the officials of the Education Department.

The Education Department passed the buck to NIC (National Informatics Centre) department by saying server is maintained by the NIC and the department could not do anything in this case. The victim then established contact with the NIC Department but no response was received in this connection. The victim contacted the Delhi Police. He met the officials in Narinder police station. Instead of taking up the issue as it concerned national security, the police officials every time came up with excuses and did not register a case.

Meanwhile, the victim decided to produce the case before the MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs), Delhi Police and L-G (Lieutenant Governor). “I only gained response from L-G office. Some officials with L-G office contacted me and called me. I met with all the documents. After investigating the case L-G office decided to take up the case by saying case belongs to national security. L-G office wrote a letter to the Delhi Police Commissioner to register a case in this connection and investigate the case,” said Atul Kuniyal, the victim.

Delhi Police callousness did not end here. He met senior officials, but again no response was received. “I then established contact with Outer district police. Delhi Police official without considering the L-G letter said it is just the cheque bounce case and nothing else,” Atul added.
B-School academicians world over gun for Posco

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

It is not just the green brigade and the activists — even prominent international business school professors are gunning for Posco.

A number of academicians from the Universities of Massachusetts, Alberta, Morgan State University and others based in US, Canada, Europe and Asia have written to Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh on Saturday expressing concern over the ₹51,000 crore project in Odisha. They have even offered their assistance if necessary “for a solution that takes into account issues of environmental and social justice.”

Some of the prominent signatories include Sinéad G Ruane from University of Massachusetts Amherst, David J Cooper from University of Alberta, Canada, David Carroll Jacobs from Morgan State University, Jose Manuel Alcaraz from Barna Business School, Dominican Republic, Rahul Varman from IIT Kanpur, India, and Stewart Clegg from University of Technology, Australia amongst others.

The letter noted that the Government of Odisha intends to take over large tracts of forest land and hand it over to a global mining giant, while displacing communities that have lived there for generations and use the forest sustainably for their livelihood. “Even as India seeks to find a prominent place among the industrialised nations of the world, it must not do so at the cost of democratic norms and constitution al rights, especially those of poor and marginalised communities,” they observed.

According to them, the development projects across the world must be preceded by a rigorous socio-economic study, whose cost-benefit analysis must include the impact of this development on the lives and livelihoods of the people who inhabit the affected areas.

The professors argued that based on the recent report on NC Saxena and that of the Mining Zone People’s Solidarity Group, betel vine growers in the Posco region currently earn a modest sum of ₹40,000 per year through their sustainable practice of agriculture on a small piece of land. The Government of Odisha is offering them what appears to be an unfair compensation in the form of a one-time payment of ₹11,500 for that small part (called a decimal). “We strongly believe that while nation-states seek economic growth, they must not do so at the expense of the future of poor communities and their habitats, especially those from which they derive their livelihood,” they contended.

“It is our experience and observation that multinational corporations that seek to appropriate public land for their profit-making activities often over-emphasise the benefits of their project for local communities. The MZPSG report disputes the contention of the Government of Odisha that the Posco project will create 8,70,000 jobs in the region as contrary to the study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research, of which POSCO itself was a sponsor and paid NCAER for it. This constitutes a clear conflict of interest and should be enough to put the findings of the report in serious doubt,” the letter said.
Students could have a say in selecting new JNU V-C

By Kavita Chowdhury in New Delhi

The three-member search committee also includes Indian Institute of Science director, Professor P. Balaram and economist Nitin Desai. Hyderabad Central university V-C Professor Syed E. Hashmi is being seen as a strong contender. He was also shortlisted for the post pie di, but he withdrew his candidature.

JNU Professor R.S. Chima, of the Centre for International Legal Studies is also being seen as a likely candidate.

Other JNU faculty members who are in the contention include ZoyaHasan and Shambhavi Malhotra — both social scientists — former Rector Rajendra Prasad and Professor Kavi Shrivastav.

There is also a strong sentiment on the campus that it is time for a female V-C. "We have not had a female V-C till date. It is time to break the male bastion," a student said.

After Meenakshi Gopalakrishnan, the principal of Lady Sri Ram College, was in the reckoning for JNU's top post, it is now JNU's turn to demand a woman chief. Gopalakrishnan, however, pulled out of the race as did other two contestants, because of the ongoing turmoil on the campus with the faculty and administration pitted against each other.

In fact, Bhattacharya had attempted to amend the university Act and ensure a second term for himself, in April last year.

He had proposed to raise the issue in the executive council (EC), but the Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers Association strongly opposed the move to change the JNU Act.

Students also joined in the protest and even wrote to the UGC chairman, asking him to urgently intervene and stop the alleged illegal move.

As a scholar put it, "JNU needs a dynamic force as a V-C. The university has lost its standing in the academic world and its recent history shows politically sensitive issues such as student reservations and faculty reservations have taken centre stage. Student elections have not been held in the campus for the past three years and there is mistrust between the student body and the administration. There is a lot of grass that we need to recover."
IIT Kharagpur heads relied on ‘Prez letter’ to run fake institute

Letter appears fake; HRD Ministry orders probe

WHO WERE SILENT

- AK Ghosh: Former head, aerospace; IIT Kharagpur CVO and past JEE Chairman
- KL Chopra (1987-97): Former IIT Kharagpur director
- SK Dube (2002-07): Former director
- SK Lahiri: Retired deputy director
- YP Singh: Retired professor and head of Electrical engineering, IIT
- BC Biswas: Retired Professor of Electronics Engineering at IIT

Aditi Tandon
Tribune News Service

New Delhi, November 6
Subsequent directors of the IIT Kharagpur, the premier technical institutes of India, relied on what appears to be a fake "Presidential Secretariat" letter to run an illegal institute on their campus and award diplomas that had no legitimacy.

The Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEE) was set up on the IIT Kharagpur campus in 1987 and kept functioning for all these years claiming legitimacy of courses on the basis of a letter dated January 28, 1987, written by the then private secretary to the President.

The letter, which appears fudged, states, "The Associate Membership Examination of the IEE (India) is recognised at par with Baccalaurate (Bachelor/Graduate) degree in the Electrical Engineering of India and foreign universities in equivalent to the Associate Membership Examination of the IEE (London), which is recognised by India for the purpose of recruitment to superior posts under the Centre." A copy of the letter - accessed by The Tribune - was submitted recently to the Ministry of HRD by IIT Kharagpur director Damodar Acharya, who met HRD Minister Kapil Sibal to explain and distance himself from the issue. Senior aerospace professor of IIT Kharagpur Amit Kumar Ghosh (hitherto president of the IEE) is now under suspension. Ghosh is claiming the involvement of top IIT brass in the scam.

Acharya told The Tribune, "I have nothing to do with the IEE. I have given to the ministry this letter claimed to have been written by the then private secretary to the President, awarding legitimacy to the said institute. This letter is being cited as the basis of the institute."

The ministry has begun inquiries from the President's Secretariat about the veracity of the said letter. On close look, the letter appears fake, for example, it uses odd expressions like: "This institute will be more independent!" at another point it says the institute can "fix its policy based on its needs, without much thinking about policy of the government." It also suggests names for the institute - something that is not the President's job. Even the suggested name keeps changing throughout the letter's text.

The question now arises why the subsequent IIT directors did not get the fake letter investigated by the police earlier. It was only last week after students of the IEE complained to the present institute director about the poor-ness of its courses that he ordered an internal inquiry. Eventually, a criminal complaint was filed and the police stepped in, questioning Ghosh, who is alleged to have been misusing his IIT professor tag to lure students to join the IEE.

He even held admissions for the IEE at his IIT office, charging each student Rs 27,000 as fee for the course. He might ultimately be dismissed from professorship.

Ironically, from 2006 onwards, when Ghosh became the IEE president, he also assumed charge of the IIT's chief vigilance officer. But he claims he is not alone in the scam. The Tribune has accessed another letter dated December 24, 1996, where former IIT director KL Chopra (now chairman of the Board of Governors of NIT Bhopal) endorsed the IEE courses as being equivalent to the IIT's Electrical Engineering degree - this when the IITs have no power to order equivalence of degrees or recognise courses expect their own degrees.
Two US analysts conclude India will never accept a subordinate status to America

By Manoj Joshi

A

RMS and military equipment transfer from the United States to India is a major backdrop of President Barack Obama's upcoming visit. It is not that the president himself will sign agreements relating to such acquisitions, but that his visit will lubricate a process that has already begun with India beginning to acquire big-ticket items such as weaponized location radars, maritime patrol aircraft and specially configured transport aircraft for the Special Forces.

Waiting on the wings are concerns for heavy lift transport and 145 ultra-light helicopters, and a move further down the assembly line is the deal for 126 medium multi-role combat aircraft (MMRCA).

The book is how America can help India to help itself. In other words, how America's participation in India's military modernisation could be pragmatically managed by the emergence of a shared strategic vision between the two countries. The basis of the book's assertions is that India has not made the progress that was anticipated after the Indo-Pak war of 1999 when India was in the strategic position to leverage the US war on terror to its advantage.

There are three major errors in India's strategic interpretation of the US war on terror. First, India has been unable to utilise the US' anti-terror strategy to its advantage. Second, India has been unable to emerge as a major player in this strategy. Third, India has not been able to exploit the war on terror to make military strategic gains.

The book provides a set of prescriptions as to how India can be pushed in a manner that is better aligned to American interests — in both economic and military terms. The book does not advocate military confrontation but seems to be a push towards a shared strategic vision.

The authors have diagnosed the problem as India's historic strategic restraint, though there are some areas where we may qualify with some analysis. It is not clear, for example, whether India's posture in the post 9/11 world is aligned with America's war on terror. There has been an impression that India has been able to align itself with the US' anti-terror strategy on the economic front, but this has not translated into military gains.

The book's main points are that: India's nuclear policy has an important dimension in India's modernisation process. Given the peculiarities of the post-cold war militarily restrained status in India, the authors point to the major roles that India could play in a credible deterrent posture vis-a-vis Pakistan and China. While you can see without aiming the process of the development of a nuclear arsenal, with no missile-missile tests and no nuclear-missile nuclear tests, with ballistic missiles, the government is not able to develop a strategic nuclear arsenal.

India's nuclear policy should be designed to make India a credible deterrent posture vis-a-vis Pakistan and China. While you can see the process of the development of the nuclear arsenal, with no missile-missile tests and no nuclear-missile nuclear tests, with ballistic missiles, the government is not able to develop a strategic nuclear arsenal.

The book is written in a manner that is better aligned to American interests, drawing a positive conclusion that the Indian political class doesn't want to set up institutional mechanisms to make the country strategically assertive.

HELPING INDIA HELP ITSELF

Though the authors offer prescriptions to push India in a manner that is better aligned to American interests, they draw a pessimistic conclusion that the Indian political class doesn't want to set up institutional mechanisms to make the country strategically assertive.

But it is likely to pose a dilemma for any Indian deterrent towards China because we do not have an adequately tested thermonuclear weapon. As a result, India's nuclear weapon would be less reliable due to the reliability of the thermonuclear weapon's test and the testing of the thermonuclear weapon's test.

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Despite the overall thrust of the book, which is on how India can serve American interests — from the American nuclear treaty with India to the role India can play in the American war on terror — the authors have come up with good suggestions.

The key recommendation the US work with India on an initiative to create a nuclear restraint regime in Asia, including China, Russia, India, South and Pakistan, as well.

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Yale University signs MoU with IIT-K, IIM-K

NEW DELHI: Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Kozhikode, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur and Yale University, USA have entered into a partnership to advance higher education in India through academic leadership development programmes for higher education leaders in India and through research on Indian higher education.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard was signed between Dr Richard Levin, President of Yale University, Dr Debasish Chatterjee, Director of IIM-Kozhikode, and Dr Sanjay Dhande, Director of IIT-Kanpur in the presence of Union Minister for Human Resource Development (HRD) Kapil Sibal and Minister of State for HRD D. Purandeswari, here.

Speaking on the occasion, Kapil Sibal said that this partnership, which will take effect from January 2011, will be sited in two new Centers of Excellence for Academic Leadership (CEAL) to be established at IIM-Kozhikode and IIT-Kanpur.

"The partnership will begin with a term of five years, and could be renewed thereafter," he added. He also said that a six member committee with equal participation from the three partnering institutes will determine the norms/qualifications for participating in these leadership programmes.

The flagship programme of the partnership will be a new "India-Yale University Leadership Programme," to be developed by Yale University in consultation with IIM-Kozhikode and IIT-Kanpur, that will expose university and academic leaders in India at the levels of vice-chancellor, director, and deans to the best practices of academic administration and institutional management in the United States.

Yale University, IIM-Kozhikode, and IIT-Kanpur would also engage in joint faculty research on higher education and collaborate to organise workshops and seminars on relevant areas of academic administration and leadership.

The first programmes under the agreement would take place in 2011 in New Haven, Connecticut. Yale President Richard Levin stated, "Yale is pleased to undertake this important and much needed effort on higher education with IIM-Kozhikode and IIT-Kanpur.

We look forward to working with them to advance the cause of higher education in India by sharing what we have learned over three centuries as an institution and we similarly look forward to learning from our partners in India in this age of global education."