

University

568 Today

FORTNIGHTLY

In This Issue

RegdDL(W)9/2052/06-08

RNI37006/81

This Raging Bull of DAV Management
New Delhi!— Edit

KU: A Shelter for Deputationists

DUTA Charter of Demands

AIFUCTO Decries Attempts to
Depoliticize Student Union Elections

Deteriorating Quality of Research in India

New Delhi; Vol XXVI, No 5

1 MARCH 2006

Rs 2.50

Punjab takes the initiative on ending DAV dadagiri No Minority Status for DAV Colleges

■ Given the political and financial clout of DAV bosses, will they be able to sustain it?

From *The Tribune*,
Anil Bhatia from Hisar, and
other sources special to UT

A significant development, reports *The Tribune*, a leading mainline daily of Punjab etc, the Coordination Committee of Vice-Chancellors in Punjab has decided on 19 February last to enforce UGC/state government's norms while selecting Principals and Lecturers in all the DAV Colleges (numbering 21 in Punjab) thus ending their 'minority status' enjoyed by the management for the last 35 years or so.

This implies that henceforth DAV institutes will have to have nominees of VCs and DPI as per UGC norms in their selection committees which they were loath to do earlier and perhaps also to adhere to the qualifications laid down by the UGC.

The meeting, presided by Ms Rajinder Kaur Bhattal, Dy Chief Minister of Punjab, and attended by VCs of Guru Nanak Deo University and Punjabi University, Patiala, and representatives of Punjab Technical University and

Punjab University, Chandigarh, had taken the decision on the basis of legal opinion sought from the Legal Remembrance, reports *The Tribune*.

Since the inception of Guru Nanak Deo University in 1969, the DAV educational institutions had been insisting on making independent appointments without involving representatives of Vice-Chancellors or DPI. The decision will hopefully affect 21 DAV colleges in Punjab and perhaps will have ramifications elsewhere also more especially in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.

It may be noted that the DAV management has been taking recourse to minority rights guaranteed under Article 30 of the Constitution of India. In Punjab, they claimed they are a minority because of being a Hindu body. Hindus are 48% of the total population in Punjab. In Haryana, the same DAV management has taken the position that they are separate religion (Arya Samaj) and hence the special constitutional rights. In Delhi, though the interference is relatively less, but there have been instances of DAV

management penetrating the governing bodies of PGDAV College via retired Principals like Mohan Lal and collecting money on the sly without DU being any wiser on the issue.

However, reports *The Tribune* the GNDU V-C, Dr S P Singh, who was also a party to the aforementioned decision, said that the interests of all the 'qualified' teachers and Principals appointed by the DAV management will be safe-guarded. It is hard to say if the "interests" of the non-qualified or underqualified Principals (like Marriya of DAV College, Chandigarh, who is not a PhD degree holder and yet appointed as Principal) will also be covered under the hold-all announcement. However, all the appointments after the decision will be reviewed, said Dr S P Singh. This, in effect, means that the universities/government is willing to let bygones be bygones.

Meanwhile, reports *The Tribune*, Dr D R Gupta, Director, DAV Colleges, New Delhi (some designation this!) said that the State Government was "misguided" on the minority status of the DAV

educational institutions in Punjab since 1970. He claimed that the judgment of apex court was in favour of DAV institutions by which the universities could not interfere in the appointment of teaching and non-teaching personnel by the DAV management.

The decision of the State Government, continues the report in *The Tribune* has also come as a big jolt for Sikh, Jain and Christian educational institutions which had been demanding 'minority status' on the pattern of DAV Colleges. It is time the government re-examined the whole concept relating to this minority status which is contrary to the original intent of the Constitution makers. Many laws on the subject have been laid down by the apex court and clarity is still eluding.

Clearly, it is a long haul before the law of the land is allowed to prevail. □

See also page 4 on
how minority
institutions are a
problem area for Govt

DUTA's Valentine Day wish list!

DUTA Demonstration at Jantar Mantar

From DUTA sources and UT
observers

It actually looked like a proforma protest. Anybody who is familiar with the national scene knows that the Government is seriously thinking of appointing 6th Pay Commission because it is already overdue as per JCM demands. This too is a convention that the UGC appoints a similar pay revision committee which more or less coincides and reconciles the recommendations of the relevant pay panel. Except for the 5th Pay Commission whose recommendations were implemented by the UGC via Rastogi Committee-II on all other occasions the teachers of Central Universities have got almost identical and matching pay revisions. But, then, there is always room for more!

An interesting highlight of the demonstration of 22 February last,

attended by hundreds of DU teachers, was the presence with much fanfare of Dr V K Tewari, General Secretary of AIFUCTO. Whereas Tewari spoke at length on how the teachers justified their demands, a wag demanded to know from some activists present as to how the DUTA proposed to reconcile its demand with that of AIFUCTO. Examples:

- AIFUCTO is seemingly opposed to any raise of retirement age beyond 60 years whereas DUTA (also JNUTA and others in FEDCUTA) want to be raised to 65 years.
- Earlier also the DUTA and other Central University teachers' bodies had to separate because AIFUCTO fellows did not involve DUTA in the right measure. This parting of ways is not being sought to be reversed. How?
- On 4 September 1998, AIFUCTO negotiated with the Secretary, MHRD and kept FEDCUTA/DUTA

out of the reckoning. Why, then, this new found love for AIFUCTO, people like to ask.

DUTADemonstration

A press-release of DUTA states that the DUTA held a massive demonstration in front of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) on 22 February, demanding setting up of the VI Pay Commission and the UGC Pay Review Committee, restoration of the Professorship/Grade, parity of Librarians with Teachers and implementation of Career Advancement Scheme wef 1 January 1996 in the colleges, provision for stagnation removal, restoration of benefit of five added years of service, amendment of study leave rules, Visitorial enquiry against former VC, Prof Deepak Nayyar, withdrawal of the proposal for Delhi Government takeover of the UCMS, etc.

The DUTA also demanded, states

> Contd on P 3 Col 1

Nagpur Vice Principal Arrested for Sexual Harassment

by Vrijendra, from Mumbai

In the first week of February last, the Vice-Principal of Nagpur College of Homeopathy and Hospital in Nagpur was arrested by the police on charges of sexual harassment by a lady lecturer of the college. Eight other women staff members are co-complainants in the case.

The police arrested even the Principal of the college for shielding the Vice-Principal. The president of the trust that runs the college, Satchikitsa Prasarask Mandal, is reportedly absconding.

> Contd on P 3 Col 4

Editorial

This Raging Bull of DAV Management New Delhi!

IMAGINE an organisation which exploits people in the name of a religious denomination, Arya Samaj, and collects big sums of money with hardly any accountability either to the pay masters, mostly the state or the donors, or even the so-called controlling and regulating bodies like affiliating universities and boards etc. That's DAV College Managing Committee, New Delhi, for you and I! The DAV body controlling DAV about 700 schools and colleges in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal and Delhi has, over the period, behaved like a bull running amuck crushing anyone and everyone coming their way.

The mode, method and organisational skills are the same and follow a set pattern. First collect a few influential individuals, mostly from the Arya Samaj, of the locality or town where the DAV organisation (of Delhi where all the controls all vested which are hardly remote) wants to establish a commercial educational monolith. Then, give it a high falutin name which is generally associated a big and famous name of the locality, town or state and whose credentials are generally impeccable and who is (generally and preferably) dead. Even if there be some doubts, the fact of death being a great leveller and given the Indian tradition that no dead person can ever do a wrong, the people around condescend or, most of the time, play footsie with ease. A grand name is given associated with the great "DAV" prefix or somewhere in the middle. Funds then flow for building. And then on it's all a familiar game. Appoint some, disappoint others. As teachers, As karamcharis. As members of this or that "managing" body with the real reins remaining in Delhi. The big-time locals use all their brain and brawn to get the school/college affiliated to the affiliating body. Some weight is thrown. And the institution starts receiving grants-in-aid money too which is 95% of the recurring expenses. With building(s) already in place, from now on it is time to make money via the familiar and unfamiliar routes. If and when there be any "objection", which itself is rare, throw rule book on them claiming "minority" rights under Article 30 of the

Constitution of India. And continue to make moolah. In the name of God. In the name of education. In the name of Arya Samaj! In the name of a local biggy. The masters know how to play the cards.

It is this all which has, perhaps for the first time, been negated by the coordination committee of Vice-Chancellors in Punjab and it is this which is going to be the real undoing of the DAV MC (New Delhi) bosses regardless of the noises they are making in the mainline media. Guru Nanak Deo University, Amritsar and (perhaps) Panjab University, Chandigarh have decided to not allow the DAV institutions to have their way. If true, the universities concerned deserve big kudos. But, given the culture of servitude and given that big names and big moneys are involved it is more than likely that these very Vice-Chancellors will sooner than later withdraw their *fatwas* and things will (hopefully) be their normal self. For the DAV bosses at least.

Let us all remember that one wrong tolerated will perpetuate many more down the line. That is exactly what has happened in the case of DAV Managing Committee, New Delhi. People (both affected and not affected) have repeatedly demanded to know from where does the DAV MC New Delhi derive its powers to appoint, suspend, transfer or even talk teachers in colleges affiliated to various universities in Haryana, Punjab, Himachal and Delhi. But the arrogant bosses will have none of this. They are secure in the knowledge that money and all else can take care of things at every level.

At the most basic level, can, for example, the authorities of Kurukshetra University or M D University, Rohtak educate us as to how and under what law of the land or under which ordinance or statute of the University does the DAV MC New Delhi advertises and fills the posts of Principals in various colleges without so much as bothering about the basic qualifications laid down by the UGC? Wrongs of this kind make people lose faith in law. DAV MC New Delhi is just an addition to the gross wrongs going on in India, this *Mera Bharat Mahan!* Someone somehwre needs to act fast. □

Readers' Voice

Dy Registrars in PU; DU flouts reservation rules; AIFUCTO plea to PM

AFTER going through the letter of Mr Jaswant Rana, reply of Punjab University, Chandigarh and the fitting comments of the Editor, *UT* [1 February, 2006] that 'Pray, tell us, how is the PU empowered'..to change qualifications?, it is submitted that neither a University (including PU) can prescribe the qualifications at its own level nor can alter the same.

Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars are the important functionaries in the university system. UGC has started prescribing the pay scales and qualifications for the post of Deputy and Assistant Registrars since 1989. Prior to that P B Gajendragadkar Committee on Governance of Universities [1971] had the prescription for the post of Registrar and a few other administrative officers.

Non-Teaching personnel — Registrar, Deputy Registrar and Assistant Registrar — are in the pay scale with their counterparts, the teaching personnel — Professor, Reader and Lecturer.

Till the judgment (Civil Appeal No 1819 of 1994) of the Supreme Court in regard to **Delhi University v Raj Singh and others**, the recommendations of the University Grants Commission were advisory in nature. But after this judgment the recommendations (or regulations, ie prescription for qualifications) of the UGC are not advisory but mandatory as has been clarified by the apex court.

In the above mentioned case, Mr P P Rao, Counsel for Delhi University, submitted that the 'regulations were recommendatory or advisory in nature and not mandatory' but the apex court held that "Delhi University is mandated to comply with the said regulations."

Andhra Pradesh established a

'Commissionerate of Higher Education' in 1985 and gave it the responsibility of coordinating the education including University to this Commissionerate. Osmania University Teachers Association went in the Court. The High Court upheld the law as adopted by the State Legislature but the matter went to the the Supreme Court of India.

Allowing the appeal of the teachers the Supreme Court held that the Commissionerate Act has been drawn by and large in the same terms as that of the UGC Act. Both the enactments deal with the same subject. Both deal with the coordination and determination of excellence in the standards of teaching and examination in the Universities. The Court has held that the "UGC Act falls under Entry 66 of List 1, it is then unthinkable as to how the State could pass a parallel enactment under Entry 25 of List III, unless it encroaches Entry 66 of List 1. Such an encroachment is patent and obvious. The Commissionerate Act is beyond the legislative competence of the State Legislature and is hereby declared void and inoperative."

From the above, it can easily be concluded that the Punjab University has well laid qualifications criteria for Deputy Registrar's post and the University is not at all competent. University can accommodate the man, to whom it wanted but not through open selection but through Career Advancement Scheme. As per the CAS, 'Assistant Registrars and their equivalents will be eligible for promotion to the post of Deputy Registrars and their equivalent to the extent of 25%'. (whereas) 75% of the posts of Deputy Registrars and their equivalents shall be filled by direct recruitment through All-India advertisement and selection. But

probably the man to whom the University wants to oblige be not a fit one case under the CAS too.

OM PARKASH WADHWA

Head (Public Administration)
Government College
Gohana (Haryana)

Rajdhani College doesn't believe in reservation! Nor does DU

[Copy of letter dated 18 February 2006 sent to Prof Sukhadeo Thorat, Chairman, UGC]

Re: Rajdhani College, University of Delhi flouting the law of reservation

At Rajdhani College, Delhi University, the Principal Dr Vijay Lakshmi Pandit has made a mockery of the provision for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe reservation. The University of Delhi is colluding in this conspiracy and unless quick and strong action is taken, the reservation rule will remain a dead letter.

In the Department of Economics, a scheduled caste post was advertised in October 2004. A scheduled caste candidate was appointed on ad-hoc basis by the then Principal who retired in February 2005. In March 2005 Dr Pandit joined as the new principal. In July the scheduled caste post fell vacant

as the incumbent resigned. Dr Pandit appointed a non-scheduled caste person to this reserved post on ad hoc basis. She did not invite any scheduled caste person for the ad hoc interviews.

I have been reminding her to hold regular interviews so that a scheduled caste candidate can be appointed. But she has not listened.

On 16 January 2006, the post again fell vacant as the ad hoc non-scheduled caste person resigned. I wrote to Dr Pandit and to the Chairman, Governing Body that regular interviews should be held immediately. [Enclosure I]. The Chairman wrote to the Principal and to the Dean of Colleges that interviews should be held within four weeks. (Enclosure II). On 19 January Dr Pandit wrote to the University to send the names of VC's nominee and experts. (Enclosure III). Till date the University has not sent these names because Dr Pandit has privately asked the University not to send the names.

The classes have gone unattended for the last one month. Similarly, one post of Scheduled Tribes in the Department of Physics in the College was advertised in October. This post has remained vacant for one and a half year now. The University is not sending names of experts and VC's nominee for this post also, again on the request of Dr Pandit.

It seems that these persons who have been appointed to important posts feel that they have got these positions in dowry and they do not have any responsibility to fulfill their constitutional responsibilities.

This is a clear case of collusion between Dr Pandit and the University to keep the scheduled caste candidates out. They wish to defeat the law of reservation. I request you to kindly take immediate and strong action in this matter.

(Dr) DEVENDRA KUMAR

Reader & Incharge
Deptt of Economics
Rajdhani College
New Delhi 110015

> Contd on P 3 Col 1

DUTA Demonstration for Its Wish-List

> From P 1 Col 4

the press-release, "effective" and "uniform" medical scheme, an option to switch over from CPF to GPF and raising the age of retirement from 62 to 65. The DUTA also demanded for "improved" provision for the family of teachers killed for carrying out their duties.

Apart from the Office-Bearers of the DUTA, the General Secretary of the AIFUCTO, Dr V K Tiwari, and the Secretary of the FEDCUTA and the Jamia Teachers' Association, Dr Rizwan Qaiser, addressed the demonstrators. Members of Parliament Mr Nilotpal Basu (CPI- M, Rajya Sabha), Mr Ramchandra Dom (CPI-M, Lok Sabha) and Mr Sudhakar Reddy (CPI, Lok Sabha), and General Secretary of the NCP, Mr D P Tripathi, also came to the venue of the demonstration and expressed their support for the just demands of the teachers. The MPs also promised that they would raise these issues in the Parliament.

Later, the DUTA office bearers met the HRD Joint-Secretary and strongly demanded immediate resolution of its long pending just demands. They pointed out that in the absence of such a speedy resolution, the teaching community will have no option but to intensify their struggle. □

AIFUCTO Plea to PM

> From P 1 Col 4

AIFUCTO Plea to PM

[Letter dated 11 February to Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India]

Subject: Strong Case for allocating 6% of GDP for Education in the Union Budget for 2006-07.

It is high time that the NCMP'S pledge "to raise public spending in education to at least 6% of the GDP" is fulfilled in the forthcoming Union Budget.

Two important Reports ie of CABE Committee on Financing of Higher and Technical Education [23 June 2005]; and MHRD'S Committee on NCMP'S Commitment of 6% of GDP to Education [November 2005] have foregrounded the urgent need of implementing the commitment of 6% of GDP from 2006-07.

All of us know that the national commitment made in NPE-1968 to raise allocation to 6% of GDP by 1985-86 and the reiteration in NPE-1986 as well as NPE-1992 (Revised) to do so forthwith, has not been accomplished so far with the resultant negative impact on equity, quality as also national development.

Had the nation allocated 6% GDP by 1985-86 and progressively raised it hence, the national development would have taken many new strides. But the successive governments failed the nation and so stand accountable for the immense loss.

Though NCMP's pledge is heartening yet the steps towards its implementation are slow which do give impression of lack of political will. Dilly-dallying (beyond 2006-07) is not in national interest.

All the sectors of Education: Primary, Secondary, University, R&D are in urgent need of quality expansion, renovation so as to be highly competitive and productive.

The system is even today, inequitous and is a far cry from what NCMP resolves to ensure that nobody is denied education from Primary to Higher

CIEFL Parts With Information Finally; Mehta Denied Board Membership

Special to UT

It appears that the Right to Information Act is having the right kind of impact and effect in places normally not associated with strict adherence to rule of law.

UT had earlier reported how the CIEFL (Central Institute of English & Foreign Languages, Hyderabad) proposed to be a Central University soon was avoiding to provide information demanded under the Act to Dr Amrit Mehta, a Reader at the Institute.

It is now learnt that the desired information has finally been supplied

after he wrote to a few senior officials in the Ministry of HRD and perhaps a good bit of spanking from the MHRD the Institute officials have supplied the information. As it turns out, and as is the wont of bureaucratic bodies, the information supplied is not only tardy but also incomplete. The very purpose of the Act will be defeated if the officials keep denying or obfuscating on these issues.

Apparently someone somewhere needs to act. And act fast at that lest the people give it up as a hopeless case.

Mehta denied Board Membership

Meanwhile, it is learnt that Dr Amrit Mehta has been denied the

membership of the Board of Management of CIEFL on some grounds which Mehta feels are either flimsy or even non-existent.

Clearly, the game plan is to keep the trouble out of the Board. Whether the administration actually succeeds is something time will tell. But, going by the available indications, there be some more war of words between Amrit Mehta and the CIEFL V-C (by court orders) Prof VSS Sastry. The outcome of this duel will be watched with interest in the circles where it matters.

Rule of law, once again, is seemingly a casualty. But, then, who cares in this great country of ours. □

This damned or "deemed university"!

Harassment of Homoeo Students for Increased Fees

THE students of Rural Dental College at Loni in Ahmednagar have been asked to vacate their hostel rooms for non-payment of fees to the tune of Rs 2.45 lakhs each. The last day for payment of the additional fees was 31 January 2006.

Students, who were admitted to the college in academic year 2003-04, have been asked to shell out additional fees for the period after the college was granted deemed university status by the HRD Ministry in September 2003. Prior to that date, the college was affiliated to

Maharashtra University of Health Sciences.

From 1 February, students were barred from attending lectures and practicals. They were not even allowed to take internal examination in surgery. Students said that absence from lecturers and practicals would adversely affect their over-all attendance record. Then this excuse would be used to disqualify them from taking final exams in June 2006, students added.

Almost double fees

and more so as to sustain this rate of growth and increase it further and further.

This letter is not an academic exercise but the strong voice of nearly 4.5 lac teachers' national apex body which has the will and the capacity to campaign, to mobilize and to move the nation. The AIFUCTO has consistently demanded, at least, 6% of GDP for Education.

The AIFUCTO leadership would like to meet you at the earliest, pending which the national longing for 6% of GDP for Education in the Union Budget for 2006-07 be made a reality.

(Dr) V K TEWARI

Gen. Secy. AIFUCTO
493, Urban Estate (Ph II)
Jalandhar (Punjab) 144022

Form IV (See Rule 8) UNIVERSITYTODAY
1. Place of publication: New Delhi
2. Periodicity: Fortnightly
3. Printer's Name: Mohan Singh Whether citizen of India: Yes Address: 1160, Vikaskunj, New Delhi 110018
4. Publisher's Name: Mohan Singh Whether citizen of India: Yes Address: 1160, Vikaskunj, New Delhi 110018
5. Editor's Name: C S Kalra Whether citizen of India: Yes Address: 770, Vikaskunj, New Delhi 110018
6. Names and addresses of the individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one percent of the total capital: D Singh, 770, Vikaskunj, New Delhi 110018 I, Mohan Singh, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. MOHAN SINGH Dated: 28 February 2006 Publisher

THE college collected fees of Rs 67,000 per year for the years 2003-04 and 2004-05. For the year 2005-06, the state government appointed, Sikshan Shukla Samiti, fixed the fees at Rs 79000 per annum. However, the College insists on collecting fees of Rs 1.5 lakh per year for the period after it was granted the deemed university status.

When the aggrieved students approached the Mumbai High Court against the college, the court rejected their appeal on the grounds that the college could not charge different fees from students in different academic years. Students' petition is pending before the Supreme Court. □

Nagpur Vice-Principal Arrested

> From P 1 Col 4

The vice principal has been accused of sexually harassing women lecturers and girl students of the College for years. The complainant also said that at the time of appointment, the new staff member would be forced to sign a blank sheet of paper so that the management could write the resignation letter of the teacher whenever the teacher became troublesome for the college authorities. The girl students kept quite about the sexual advances of the Vice-Principal for fear that it would adversely affect their marks in practical examinations in the college. He is also accused of sending vulgar SMS to lady teachers. He would forcibly hold hands of women teachers and also force them to work late hours, the complainant added. □

AP Govt Merges 50% DA With Basic Pay

From our Andhra correspondent

THE Government of Andhra Pradesh recently issued a Government Order (GO) with Ms No 9 dated 08-02-2006 granting the merger of 50% of DA into the Basic Pay of University and College teachers. This comes into effect from 1 April 2006. Though the teachers have demanded the flow of benefit from 1 January 2006 the Government agreed to implement it only from 1 April 2006. The teachers have no choice except to express their deep sense of gratitude to the Government. Thus Andhra Pradesh has joined a select club of States wherein the said DA-merged scales are implemented to the college teachers. A positive development indeed! □

Law & You

Even Minority Institutions Must Follow the Rules

by Anil Bhatia, from Hisar

LATELY, on the issue of minority institutions, the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India, in a landmark judgment in the case of **P A Inamdar v State of Maharashtra** [AIR 2005 SC 3226], decided by a 7 judge Bench, held that "Once an educational institution is granted aid or aspires for recognition, the State may grant or recognition accompanied with certain restrictions or conditions which must be followed as essential to the grant of such aid of recognition."

It was also held that recognition is for purpose of conforming to the standards laid down by the statute while affiliation is with regard to the syllabi, the course of study and service conditions of teachers including their mode of appointment. Unless and until they are in accord with the prescription of the University, degree would not be conferred and appointment of teachers would not be fair and impartial. The educational institutions prepare the students for the examination conducted by the University and are obliged to follow the syllabi and the course of study.

Various High Courts and the apex court has held that affiliated- aided institutions are instrumentalities of the State and are "Other Authority" under Article 12 of the Constitution of India. The University would be well within its right to withdraw the recognition of college governing body and approval of college Principal if there is any violation of the University Act, Statute, Ordinance or Regulation. DAV Colleges are not

minority educational institutions in the State of Punjab and in other states. These colleges receive 95% grant-in-aid from the State Government and are affiliated to State Universities. Therefore, these DAV Colleges are bound to abide by the rules/regulations, etc, made by the State Government/affiliating University.

Security of Service Act: Binding on all

The Punjab Government enacted Punjab Affiliated Colleges (Security of Service Employees) Act in 1974 to save the teachers of private colleges from the high-handedness of autocratic, corrupt managements. Under the Act, read with the statutes of the affiliating University,

the college is to have a regularly constituted Governing Body to manage the affairs of the college. The Governing Body alone is the competent appointing and punishing authority of its staff. In **Katra Education Society case** [AIR 1966 SC 1307], a 5-judge Bench of the Supreme Court of India held that "Committee of Management is vested with the authority to manage and conduct the affairs of the institution and not the society or its Executive Body". DAV Management is the Executive Body of DAV Trust and Society registered under Societies Registration Act of 1860 and is quite distinct and separate entity from the statutory Governing Body of

each DAV College which is the creation of the Act.

A full bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in the case **Dr M C Sharma v Panjab University Chandigarh** [AIR 1997 P&H 87] held that "it is not in dispute that the non-Government colleges are affiliated to a University and reason of such affiliation, they are governed by the rules and regulations of the concerned University". Even the High Court directives can't go contrary to the University Statutes vide **APC ME Society v Govt of AP** [AIR 1986 SC 1490]. The decision of the Punjab Government in the case of recalcitrant DAV College is indeed laudable. □

Govt in a Fix Over SC Order on Institutions

Sarbjit Dhaliwal & Ajay Banerjee in
The Tribune

CHANDIGARH, 21 FEBRUARY:

The Congress government in Punjab faces a test of nerves. The matter of withdrawing minority status from Sikh educational institutions in the state is on the boil and a final decision is expected in a day or two.

Two opinions have emerged on the matter at the highest administrative and political levels of the government. Politically, it seems difficult for the government to take the "bold step" of withdrawing the "minority status" of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee run educational institutions

such as medical, engineering and other colleges. Legally, the government is bound by an order of the Supreme Court which makes it clear which section comprises a minority community in the state.

Sikhs, who constitute 59% of the population, are actually a majority in Punjab. Hindus form about 37% of the population followed by Muslims and Christians at 1.6% and 1.2%, respectively. Across the country, Sikhs constitute just 1.9% of the population.

The Supreme Court judgment in the **TMA Pai Foundation case**, decided the question related to minorities with reference to the status of an educational institution. It says the minority has to be determined in the context of the state

rather than the status of minority at the national level.

The Advocate-General of Punjab, Mr Rajinder Singh Cheema, has already given his view that the concept of minority has to be seen by taking the state as the unit. Sources said the political thinktank of the party has pointed out to the Chief Minister, Capt Amarinder Singh, the possible political ramifications of withdrawing minority status from Sikh educational institutions in this state when the Assembly elections are only year away. Meanwhile, the Chief Secretary, Mr K R Lakhpal, has also pointed out how the Supreme Court decision allows no room for manoeuvre except withdrawing the status.

He has, according to the sources, put the ball in the court of the Chief Minister to decide the issue by taking all aspects into account. The government will have to decide the issue, because it is going to frame a law to regulate admissions and the fee structure in all professional colleges run by private organisations.

The government may even opt to seek a further clarification from the Supreme Court and allow things to "cool down". Till then, the status quo will be maintained, senior functionaries in the government confirmed. There are also reports that certain Sikh organisations may move the apex court.

At present, under the existing laws there was nothing anybody could do to prevent the SGPC-run institutions from being stripped of their minority status, said the sources. On the other hand, following the Supreme Court order, institutions like those run by the Sanatam Dharma Society and the DAV management society will be eligible for minority status. Christian and Muslim institutions already enjoy that status.

Also the decision of the Punjab Government will have no impact on the SGPC-run institutions in states like Haryana, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh.

Minority status was accorded to SGPC-run institutions during the tenure of Mr Parkash Singh Badal of the Shiromani Akali Dal as Chief Minister.

Interestingly, according to the latest census report Sikhs in Punjab have a lower literacy level of 67.3% when compared to their national average of 69.4%. □

KU: A Haven for Deputationists

From our Kurukshetra correspondent

THE style of Kurukshetra university is different. The University is always in the news mostly for wrong than right reasons. In the matter of appointments rules in KUK are very flexible. These days the University is playing with new funds to fulfill the shortage of teaching staff. A large number of teachers have joined the university departments in the name of deputation.

In the last EC meeting of the University, a rule was passed that the University may ask persons in foreign countries to join in the departments as faculty and vice-versa. This new rule is technically a boon to the wives of Haryana bureaucrats. All these teachers were teaching under-graduate classes in their respective government or private colleges. Now they are teaching Post Graduate classes in the university teaching departments. It is the general opinion of the university teachers that this all is being done just to adjust these incumbent deputationists against the vacant post lying vacant in the respective departments.

From Foreign on deputation

A lady Lecturer in Hindi, Mrs Shashi Prabha Attri has joined as Lecturer in University College on Deputation consecutive 5th year. She is from Government College, Karnal. Her husband, Dr V N Attri, is Professor in Economics in KU. She is a close associate of some political ally. On the health ground, she is unable to work in a Government College in Karnal. But, the University College is a good health center for her health. Hence her deputation was extended by the government.

Mrs Kiran Khayalia, Lecturer in Sanskrit from Government College,

Narnaul has joined as Lecturer in Music in the university department on deputation. Her husband Mr Y S Khayalia HCS is working as Registrar of Kurukshetra University. This is not a new phenomenon in Kurukshetra University. Whatever discipline may you come from you are fit to be posted anywhere.

Last time, when Dr Chawla was the VC of KU, his wife, Dr Usha Chawla, a Lecturer in Botany at Government College, Jind was put on deputation in the university college. She was not fond of teaching of Botany. Then, she was shifted to university teaching department. She was feeling uncomfortable. So, she was given to the charge of Additional Director Women Studies, where there was no work.

Mrs Suman Saini, Lecturer in Sanskrit from Government College Karnal, has joined on deputation as Lecturer in the university department. Her husband Dr S S Saini is a retired medical officer of Haryana Government and is presently staying in Kurukshetra. She is teaching in the Sanskrit department of Kurukshetra University for the last one year.

Mrs Usha Rani, Lecturer in Physical Education from Government College Israna, has joined on deputation as Lecturer in the university department. Her husband Dr Hukam Singh Ranga is working as a Finance Officer in the University. Her deputation is likely in the 4th year. Earlier, she was on deputation to the University College.

Very recently in the EC meeting of 28 January last, the University has asked to engage B K Kuthiala from G J University Hisar to join as Senior Professor in Journalism in KU on deputation. He has been issued appointment letter. He is likely to join soon.

A very interesting story took place when Dr Saroj Sharma, Principal Gaur Brahma College of Education (MDU Rohtak) joined as Reader in the Education Department of Kurukshetra University on deputation some time back in December 2005. Initially, her case was turned down by the Haryana Government vide letter no 2/39-200C-II(4) stating that there is no rule of such transfer in Haryana Affiliated Colleges (Security of Services) Act 1979 and 1993 of transfer/deputation of college Principal. She is the wife of Mr T K Sharma, presently Deputy Commissioner of Kurukshetra. So, all the rules were violated by the Haryana Government and KU in her deputation.

Deputation to foreign

Here are instances where no rule has been followed. A lady, Dr Anupma Chautan, Lecturer in English from University College, is on deputation in Government College Panchkula. Her Husband is staying in Chandigarh.

RAREST OF RARE: Mr Kulbir Singh joined Lecturer in KU way back in 1994. He proceeded on deputation to work as an Additional Executive Editor with Param Mittar Manav Nirman Sansthan, New Delhi. He was on Extra Ordinary Leave up to November 2005 ie 8 years. A per KU rules deputation can be allowed only for 3 years. It is beyond imagination as to when and who extended his deputation for a further 5 years. There is no such rule. In fact, there is no rule in the university for people close to Government or the university authorities who can be adjusted and fitted anywhere and everywhere. □

28 years of unadulterated truth of UT did not impress them; What will?

"As much of the truth will prevail as we make prevail; Victory of reason can only mean victory of reasonable people." — Galileo Galilei

AIFUCTO Decries Attempts to Depoliticize Student Union Elections

From AIFUCTO Sources

Depositing before the Lyngdoh Committee appointed by the Supreme Court of India to make recommendations on the proper conduct of College and University Union elections, AIFUCTO stated that the attempt to depoliticize the campus is an attempt to de-democratize it. Politics is a part and parcel of the praxis of democracy in this country; one cannot be separated from the other, AIFUCTO submitted in its written representation to the Committee. AIFUCTO regretted that the Supreme Court had dismissed 'politics' as one of the 'avoidable considerations' and held that setting such wrong priorities would only detract attention from commercialism, communalism and casteism which are the real scourges of the campus and the country.

AIFUCTO President Prof Thomas Joseph and Vice President Prof V Swami Nathan who met the Committee at Chennai on the 15 February made the following submissions on behalf of AIFUCTO.

1. Norms for the conduct of student union elections have to be framed by taking into account the need to ensure proper democratic representation of students in the governance of the colleges and universities in accordance with the democratic and secular ethos of the constitution and the democratic practices prevailing in this country and to promote the development of appropriate

societal and personal qualities among the students.

2. While the Supreme Court has rightly expressed its concerns about the need for eschewing the role of muscle and money power in student elections, it is unfortunate that the apex court has clubbed 'political beliefs' along with 'indiscipline' as one of the 'avoidable considerations'. Political beliefs and practices are a part and parcel of the democratic praxis prevailing in this country. It is linked up with the choices that we make in national development. AIFUCTO is of the opinion that it is neither possible nor feasible to dissociate politics from the campus. In our opinion, one of the important functions of student unions should be to politicize the student body with the objective of improving the praxis of democracy in this country. If politics is banned from the campus, the space will be immediately occupied by commercial, communal and casteist forces. Instead of banning campus politics, we should take steps to ensure its independence from commercialism, communalism and casteism, which could go a long to eventually cleanse our democratic polity from the scourge of these negative influences. Various extracurricular and co-curricular activities being held under the auspices of student unions provide the venue for self-improvement to a large number of students. Student unions could be involved in developmental planning and in designing the curriculum and syllabi. The participation of elected representatives of students in the governance of colleges and universities

could give a greater sense of belonging to the students at large.

3. The campus is but a microcosm of the larger society. University students are old enough to exercise their franchise in general elections. The campus elections should in fact be Mini General Elections. The same kind of qualifications, disqualifications, privileges and restrictions as applicable to the voters and the candidates in the general elections should be enforced in respect of student union elections as well. But the extent of the qualifications and disqualifications, privileges and restrictions would of course vary in the college and university union elections in comparison with elections to the Parliament and Assembly, in proportion to the smaller size of the electorate, limited powers and functions of the student unions and shorter frequency of elections. As in the general elections, the attempt should be to ensure maximum participation of students in the electoral process, both as voters and as candidates, subject to prohibitions in respect of criminal and communal practices and to ceiling in respect of money that could be spent on electioneering. As a rule, all students on the rolls should have the right to contest and the right to vote. There should be no ceiling on age or academic qualifications. Constitutional and statutory disqualifications other than relating to age applicable to candidates contesting general elections could be extended to candidates contesting college union elections as well, especially those relating to citizenship and soundness of mind under constitutional qualifications and to conviction in criminal cases under the Representation of the People Act 1951.

4. As a matter of fact, campus violence, especially those associated with union elections, is presently on the decline. More than criminalization, it is money power that distorts the true spirit of campus elections at present. Stringent regulations should be imposed restricting the amount of money that could be spent on campaigns, the mode and duration of campaigns. One of the important requirements is to hold the entire process of the election within a period of one week and to restrict the campaign to the campus so that union elections would not make serious inroads into the academic schedule. Each candidate contesting general seats should not be allowed to spend more than Rs. 10,000 on the election campaign. There should be provision for open campaigns through officially arranged 'Meet the Candidate Programme'. There should be proper provision for filing of returns before the college/university level Returning Officers who will be responsible for the scrutiny of these returns on the basis of norms framed by the universities concerned.

5. It should be mandatory for all universities and colleges to elect student unions through the system of secret ballots as it is necessary to impart the culture of democracy among the students. It is also necessary to reserve a few seats for women students as well as students from the backward communities to ensure the balanced representation of the entire student body in the student unions.

6. The argument over Presidential / Parliamentary mode of election raised by the Council of Principals of Colleges (Kerala) in the writ appeal before the Supreme Court has little substance in it. The argument of the council is that at present election is held in the presidential mode and that it has to be changed into

the parliamentary mode. As a matter of fact, elections are held under both modes simultaneously in the colleges affiliated to the universities of Kerala. The students elect the representatives of the College Union and the Councilors for the University Union as part of the same election. The College Union is directly elected under the presidential mode. The councilors elected from different colleges constitute the Electoral College which elects the University Union. The University Union is thus elected indirectly under the parliamentary mode. The present system gives exposure to students in both modes. If the present system is replaced by the proposed system of electing class representatives, the Electoral College for the constitution of University Union will be unmanageably large. On an average, there are about 200 colleges affiliated to each university in the state. If two representatives are to be elected from each class to constitute the Electoral College for the university union, there will be 50 students on the average from each college. The entire Electoral College for the university Union will consist of about 10000 students, drawn from three to four districts in the state. Obviously, campaigning will be expensive and malpractices will become the norm rather than the exception. The existing system has been functioning smoothly over many years. With the elimination of comparatively immature students from the campus and the considerable reduction in the number of students in each college with the de-linking of pre-degree courses from the colleges, campus violence connected with union elections are exceptions rather than the rule today.

7. Regarding grievance redressal, there should be bodies at the level of the college and universities, presided over respectively by the Principal and Vice Chancellor. The college level body could include, apart from the Principal, two senior most professors and two elected representatives of the teachers. The University level body could have, apart from the Vice chancellor, two syndicate members and two elected representatives, one each from the Senate and the Academic Council. The grievance redressal forums should have statutory powers, with the college level forums dealing with complaints at the college level and the university level body having power to hear complaints regarding University Union elections and to act as appellate authority in respect of college level decisions. Appellate tribunals which presently deal with service related issues could also entertain appeals in respect of university union elections.

8. It is finally submitted that the Hon. Supreme Court should only frame broad guidelines, on the basis of which individual universities should draft detailed regulations, which should be statutorily enforceable. The ground realities existing in different parts of this vast country are so different that different strategies might be required to implement the same set of principles. □

Motilal Nehru Lecturers Promoted Finally, Without Panda This Time

Special to UT

TWO young Lecturers in Political Science at Motilal Nehru College (University of Delhi) — Dr Narendra Kumar and Mr Pawan Sinha — were denied promotion as Senior Lecturer after the sham of an interview which took place on 5 July last year. This created an unprecedented storm in the College. But the 'Chairman' of the college governing body, Prof (Ms) Nirmala Jain, did not care to listen to the complaints and agitation of the teachers, including DUTA, and stuck to her guns steadfastly that the boys did not 'perform'. She, in fact, sneered at one of the lady agitationists, *lage raho...* etc. So much so that a major showdown in the governing body meeting of 6 September also did not record that the interview was not in order. The GB simply decided not to accept the recommendations of the selection committee which was neither here nor there. Anyway, the agitation continued.

The collusion between the Principal of the College, Dr Ramesh Sharma and Prof Nirmala Jain was obvious enough. Nirmala Jain was the PhD supervisor of Ramesh Sharma in Hindi.

Eventually, the Staff Association, aided and assisted by DUTA, adopted resolutions pointing out that no re-employed teacher can be on the selection committee according to UGC dispensations. The interview was null and void in view of the fact that Dr K K Panda (who became famous for his PhD degree in 4 months flat from Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, when he Registrar of the University of Delhi, was present in the selection committee to the exclusion of Dr (Ms) Suman Sharma who

should have been on the selection committee being senior most teacher in the Deptt in the College. But, obviously, the governing body, headed by Nirmala Jain, was not impressed. Nor, for that matter, a representative of SC category was presented which is mandatory whenever any candidate belongs to that category. Dr Narendra Kumar was from SC category.

The agitation on denial of promotion to aforementioned young teachers reached its crescendo when on 11 January last the teachers of the College sat on dharna at the office of the Vice-Chancellor. The VC, after some initial hesitation, agreed to meet the Association functionaries and observed that many wrongs were being done in the College of which he was aware.

Finally, and after some dilly-dallying, the Vice-Chancellor Deepak Pental quashed the proceedings of the sham interview held on 5 July last year and a fresh interview was ordered which eventually, and after some reservations of Prof Bidyut Chakravarty, HoD of Political Science in the University of Delhi, took place on 23 February last.

In a jiffy

This time, as against more than 4 hours on 5 July last year with a lunch break in between for just 2 candidates, the process was over in a jiffy and both teachers got promotion from the date they were eligible. This though is a different matter that according to the teachers were present on the day of the interview, 23 February, saw Bidyut Chakravarty red in the face for reasons which are not known but are difficult to guess. Make your own judgments about how fair or objective the interview of 5 July was. □

Please note: Our old e-mail id [utoday@bol.net.in] is no more valid. Our current e-mail id(s) are: universitytoday@gmail.com mail@universitytoday.net You may, of course, read UNIVERSITYTODAY www.universitytoday.net

DUTA Charter of Demands

Something for everyone: Adopted by the General Body of DUTA on 14 February 2006

Imperialist Globalisation and the Threat to the Universities

The DUTA views the initial offers made by the Government of India under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) as a surrender of the country's interest to neo-liberalism thrust by the imperialist powers through the WTO. The ensuing commercialisation of higher education and the freedom given to private foreign and domestic business will make access to higher education more inequitable. The content of higher education too will be dictated by the market and by transnational corporations. The possibility of independent, critical thinking and larger social concerns will be jettisoned. The DUTA demands that these offers be withdrawn immediately.

The capitulation to imperialist pressures is not surprising since the government over the past two decades has carried out a systematic policy offensive under the diktat of the IMF and the World Bank against public funding of higher education. By refusing to invest in expansion of public funded higher education, it has ensured the growth of private profiteers in education. By bringing about a decline in the quality of public funded higher education through cuts in funding, it has encouraged public acceptability of commercialisation. By insisting that public funded educational institutions mobilise their own resources, it is forcing them to commercialize.

In this environment, the phenomenon of contractual appointments of teachers is spreading and the authoritarianism of managements is on the rise; both are ravaging the academic functioning of educational institutions. Self-financing market-dictated courses are displacing the basic sciences, the liberal arts and humanities, and many of the social sciences. Fees are being hiked under various headings. In this commercialised environment, even the constitutional provision for reservation is being blatantly denied. As a result of all this, the working class, dalits, women and non-affluent sections, ie the majority of the people in this country, are increasingly being deprived of access to quality education, for that matter to any education whatsoever.

As a prelude to the Government's design to make higher education a freely tradable service under GATS, there is a move to cut funding further and make universities generate resources to meet 50% of their expenditure (30% through higher fees and 20% through other means). The DUTA is opposed to withdrawal of government funding of higher education, to increase in fees and to recourse to commercial activities by higher educational institutions. The DUTA demands the rejection of the report of the CABE Committee on Autonomy of Higher Education Institutions which has made this recommendation. The DUTA further demands that government expenditure on education be increased to 6% of the GDP, as repeatedly recommended by Education Commissions and reiterated by the CABE Committee on Financing of Higher and Technical Education.

Denial of Social Justice in Delhi University

The University should be a model of social justice. It has completely failed to live up to such an ideal. Most colleges have increased fees. Hindi medium streams in various academic programmes are being closed down and Hindi medium students are deprived of necessary study materials, thereby, increasing the disparity between them and English medium students. The

unwillingness and hesitation in implementing SC/ST reservation in appointments and admissions is widespread. The attitude towards the physically challenged continues to be insensitive.

Demands to be taken up with the UGC/MHRD

6th Pay Commission and UGC Pay Review Committee

The recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission were implemented from 1 January 1996. By this time the 6th Pay revision should have been implemented. Neither the 6th Pay Commission nor the corresponding UGC Pay Review Committee for university and college employees has been set up. The DUTA demands immediate setting up of both.

Honour Written Agreements on Service Conditions

The teaching profession was treated unfairly in comparison to other government employees in implementing the last pay revision, thus making the teaching profession even more unattractive for talent than it already was. The Commission's central principle of at least three assured promotions was denied to teachers while it was accepted for others. The government made written commitments in 1998 to correct the adverse targeting of the teaching profession in the face of massive protests. Most shamefully, it not only failed to honour them, but withdrew some of the provisions already notified. Teachers were denied the principle of at least three assured promotions and the limited promotional and other benefits were granted to them only from 27.7.98 and not from 1.1.96.

The lack of promotional avenues has resulted in a situation where the majority of teachers are stagnating in terms of pay. The DUTA demands:

- Restoration of Professorship in colleges and introduction of the third promotion (professor's grade) as per the written agreement.
- Implementation of the promotion scheme and all other benefits w.e.f. 1.1.1996.
- Fixation of pay of professors at par with that of principals and introduction of super time scale (Professor of eminence).
- Fixation of pay of all teachers having Ph.D. with two additional increments as on 1.1.1996.
- Immediate special provision for stagnation removal by extending the Reader's grade up to Rs. 22,400.
- Withdrawal of UGC circular denying teachers the government provision of stepping up of pay.
- Review of negative aspects of study leave rules such as reduction of the maximum number of years a teacher is entitled for study leave and denial of annual increments during the leave period.

Restore Parity of Librarians With Teachers

Librarians who earlier enjoyed parity in service conditions with teachers have received the worst treatment in the course of the last pay revision. They have been denied the new promotion scheme, they are now made to retire earlier and the provision of re-employment stands withdrawn. The DUTA demands:

- Restoration of parity of librarians with teachers (recognition as teachers, retirement at 62, re-employment, fixation at Rs 14,940, promotion scheme). Exemption from NET available to candidates for

lecturership should also be available to librarians.

Raise Retirement Age, Improve Pensionary Benefits

It is recognised everywhere that a teacher becomes better with experience. In many countries, teachers retire much later and only voluntarily. It has long been our demand that the least that can be done is to raise the age of retirement of teachers to 65. This is based both on the academic benefit of such a measure and on the fact that the average age of entry into a regular teaching position has risen significantly over the past years. Unless the average period span of earning a living for those who choose this profession stands in some reasonable comparison with other professions, it becomes even more unattractive to draw talent.

Instead, retiring teachers have been forced into worse post-retirement living conditions. While government employees continue to avail the benefit of five added years of service towards qualifying service of 33 years for grant of full pensionary benefits, teachers are now denied the same benefit. Only those teachers who have acquired Ph.D. before joining the profession are given some consolation of three added years for the purpose. Additionally, some teachers have not been allowed to switch from the CPF scheme to GPF scheme and are faced with a grim post-retirement life. Instead of doing justice to these Teachers, the UGC is now questioning the status of those teachers who had opted for GPF after 1987 when the University Executive Council had reopened the option. The DUTA demands:

- Raising the retirement age of teachers to 65.
- Restoration of the benefit of five added years of service towards qualifying service of 33 years for grant of full pensionary benefits.
- Re-opening the option to change from CPF to GPF (Pension) Scheme.
- Those who have switched to GPF after 1987 as per University notification should not be denied that right.
- Enhanced family pension for 7 years or till 69 years of age whichever is earlier.

Young entrants to the teaching profession face particularly bleak prospects. All those appointed since 1 January 2004 are being put under what has been euphemistically called the "new pension scheme." The "new pension scheme" is not a pension scheme; it does not ensure assured post-retirement earnings. It resembles the old CPF scheme, but is much worse. The PF contribution of employees is to be compulsorily handed over to pension-fund managers and other profiteers to invest in the share market. Even at retirement, employees cannot take back the entire accumulated (or reduced) balance of the PF amount. Part of it is to be left with these fund-managers. The returns, if any, from this part is called pension. The DUTA demands:

- Restore the GPF cum pension scheme for new teachers and scrap the "new pension scheme."

Better Medical Facilities

The teaching community is being provided the most inadequate medical facilities. With the spiralling cost of healthcare in an increasingly privatised sector, better schemes of medical facilities for teachers are urgently needed. The DUTA demands:

- Comprehensive medical facilities with 100% coverage.
- Provision of the CGHS Scheme in toto, including the right to membership of the CGHS, cashless treatment in various hospitals, etc. for teachers and karamcharis. Extension of the same provisions for retired employees.

Composition of Selection Committees

Changes made in the composition of selection committees for appointment of teachers and principals of colleges after the Visitor directed the University to follow the UGC Regulations in regard to private colleges have given excessive powers mainly to the Vice-Chancellor, and also to the chairpersons of the governing bodies, to choose members of selection committees. These despotic powers are being used arbitrarily. The possibility of non-academic concerns and pressures leading to large-scale manipulation in appointments is inherent and poses a serious threat to the academic future of colleges. In order to minimise these excessive powers, the panel of experts as well as the procedure for nomination from the panel should be decided by statutory academic bodies such as the AC. The selection committee should further include the Head of Department of the concerned subject. The DUTA demands:

- Change the composition of Selection Committees for appointment of teachers and principals in colleges to ensure that arbitrary powers are not concentrated in the hands of the VC or the chairpersons of governing bodies.

Withdraw 85% cap on teaching posts so that all vacancies can be filled. Withdraw freeze on appointment of non-teaching staff.

The UGC is at present allowing colleges to fill only 85% of the due number of teaching positions. This has adversely affected teaching-learning. Ordinance XIII of the Delhi University specifies the maximum teaching load for any teacher (18 periods including lectures, tutorials, practicals) in order to maintain standards of instruction. The practice of turning this maximum into a minimum and coercing teachers to teach beyond the maximum number of hours stipulated has adverse academic consequences. Moreover, the academic functioning of some colleges is hit particularly hard by the fact that the UGC's calculation of 85% of the number of teaching positions due to them falls short of even the bare minimum for conducting existing academic programmes. The academic and administrative functioning of the university and colleges is also suffering due to non-filling up of non-teaching posts. The DUTA demands:

- Immediate increase in the number of teaching positions in those colleges where the allocated number falls short of minimum existing requirements.
- Removal of the 85% cap on the number of teaching positions due to each college.
- Disbanding of the unconstitutional UGC committee on workload and respect for the academic autonomy of universities to work out teaching and other workload in the best interest of teaching-learning.
- Immediate withdrawal of the freeze on appointment of non-teaching staff.

Charter of Demands

> From P 6 Col 4

Funds for adequate infrastructure for academic reforms

For the last two years, the initiatives taken to revamp and improve academics through a series of steps such as introduction of internal assessment and strengthening the tutorial system have been hamstrung by the lack of physical infrastructure and additional personnel. Instead of using the rhetoric of knowledge society, learning society, etc. as an excuse for privatising, commercializing and opening up higher education for international trade to foreign transnational corporations, it is imperative to provide adequate grants for infrastructure to improve the teaching-learning process. We demand:

- Adequate infrastructural facilities to conduct academic programmes.
- Substantial increase in library and laboratory grants.
- Funds for study materials and books in Hindi for the large number of Hindi medium students.

Housing Facilities

- Adequate allocation of funds for construction of new houses and hostels in colleges and in the University.
- Increase in the limit on house building advance
- Reduction in interest rate on house building advance.

Visitorial enquiry against former VC

The DUTA had submitted a White Paper to the MHRD on the gross violations of rules and procedures by the former Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Deepak Nayyar. The White Paper brings out in detail the academic, financial and administrative irregularities committed by Prof. Nayyar. We reiterate our demand that a Visitorial enquiry into the functioning of the University during Prof. Nayyar's tenure as the Vice-Chancellor.

Provision for teachers killed while carrying out their duties

The DUTA had represented to the UGC in the past about a Liberalised Pension Scheme for teachers in the context of the tragic murder of Dr M N Singh, Reader in Swami Shradhanand College. He was murdered for having caught a student cheating in the examinations. The DUTA reiterates its demand:

- Liberalised pension scheme for the family (pension equal to the last salary drawn) of those killed for performing their duty.
- Provision of employment for a family member of the person killed.
- Ex-gratia payment of Rs 10 lakhs to the family.
- Provide Funds for Meeting Property Tax Demands
- The MCD has been making property tax demands on Delhi University and its Colleges even though these are publicly funded institutions and are not engaged in commercial activity. It has also begun attaching the accounts of these institutions to force compliance with the demands. The DUTA demands that either the MCD be persuaded to amend its position or the UGC provide the resources for financing property tax payments so that the University and Colleges are not further deprived of funds.

Demands to be taken up with the Delhi Govt PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES DCE & NSIT

Even after the acceptance of AICTE pay scales, the assured career advancement scheme is not being implemented in DCE and NSIT. The mandatory provisions to improve working conditions, which are part of the AICTE scheme, have also not been implemented. Most unacceptably, a despicable anti-academic system that requires each teacher to punch attendance cards at 9:00 am and 5:30 pm has been introduced in the DCE. There are attempts to introduce a similar system in NSIT. The reduction of the DCE to a government department poses a serious threat to its academic future. A similar move is afoot in NSIT. The autonomous status enjoyed by the NSIT has become merely formal. Arm-twisting by the Delhi Government has increased, with abuse of its role as funding agency through denial of democratic rights, such as faculty representation in the Board of Governors, and through appointment of authoritarian and manipulative administrations who terrorize the faculty. Half the faculty is facing some enquiry or other. The DUTA demands:

- Withdrawal of the reprehensible rule that requires teachers in DCE to punch cards to mark their attendance.
- Implementation of the AICTE career advancement scheme in DCE & NSIT.
- Representation of faculty members in the Board of Governors in NSIT.
- Withdrawal of frivolous chargesheet issued to NSIT teachers.

UCMS

The proposal to take over the administration of the UCMS by the Delhi Government is ill conceived. Instead of solving the problems faced by the UCMS teachers and para-medical staff, it will aggravate them. The status of the UCMS as a premier institution of medical education is directly related to its academic autonomy as an integral part of a University rather than as an institution controlled by the Delhi Government. The DUTA demands:

- Withdrawal of the proposal for Delhi Government take-over of the UCMS
- Handing over of the GTB Hospital to the UCMS.

A&U Tibbia College / Nehru College of Homeopathy

The takeover of the A&U Tibbia College by the Delhi Government has resulted in demotion of teachers. Large-scale contractual appointment of teachers on consolidated pay in A&U Tibbia College, Nehru Homeopathic College and other colleges is leading to serious erosion of academic standards. The DUTA demands:

- Filling up of teaching posts in A&U Tibbia College and Nehru College of Homeopathy on permanent basis and an end to contractual appointments.
- Resolve the problems faced by teachers of A&U Tibbia College since its takeover by the Delhi Government such as demotion, non-payment of retirement dues and non-payment of arrears.

Delhi Govt Maintained Colleges

The functioning of the governing bodies of Delhi Government maintained colleges is grievously detrimental to the academic atmosphere in these colleges. Most nominees of the Government on these bodies have shown least respect for or interest in academics. Unhealthy daily intervention by chairpersons, treasurers and other members in the academic and administrative affairs of these colleges in

violation of rules and norms are routine. The DUTA demands:

- Stop unwarranted interference of Delhi Government nominees in academic functioning of colleges
- Delhi Government nominees on governing bodies should be educated persons who have at least a graduate degree or its equivalent and who understand the needs of educational institutions.

Demands to be taken up with the University Authorities

While reiterating the demand for democratisation and transparency of governance at all levels and improvement in service and working conditions, the DUTA demands immediate redressal of the following issues:

Reemployment, Ad hoc appointments, Promotions

The academic environment in the university and colleges is threatened by arbitrariness in the grant and denial of re-employment to senior teachers and the conditions of service of a large number of young teachers who are forced to work for long periods in ad hoc and guest capacity due to the failure of University and college authorities to make regular appointments.

The criteria for granting re-employment have not been made transparent and do not have the sanction of the AC/EC. This selective scheme of re-employment not only appears arbitrary but is unacceptably humiliating and demoralizing for teachers who have given a life-time to the institution. Reposing arbitrary powers in the hands of the university administration and governing bodies of colleges encourages a culture of sycophancy, stifles dissent at every level and creates, as a consequence, an environment detrimental to academic freedom and fearless expression of opinion and criticism. Many teachers have been victimized by University and college authorities. There have even been political victimisation. This has gone so far that some principals are not placing re-employment cases before the governing bodies.

On the demand of the DUTA the R K Agnihotri Committee on Ad hoc Appointments was set up in 2002 with a view to minimise ad hoc appointments, safeguard ad hoc teachers from harassment emanating from insecurity of tenure, ensure them their dues and lay down such procedures for making ad hoc appointments which prevent them from becoming a channel for backdoor appointments. It is ironical that while the recommendations of the Agnihotri Committee remain to be implemented, an even more drastic form of contractual appointment - as guest lecturer - has made major inroads into the teaching profession. This situation is completely unacceptable to the DUTA.

Moreover, the incidence of misusing power to reward submission and punish dissent has been extended to the process of promotion of teachers. While every government employee gets at least three assured promotions as a routine, whatever little a teacher gets is, in the process, under attack. The other method used to harass teachers who are not willing to please the powers that be is to delay processing their cases for promotion, deny them such facilities as study leave etc. The DUTA, therefore, demands:

- Transparency and non-discriminatory procedures for re-employment.
- The criteria for re-employment be placed before AC and EC.
- Implementation of the recommendations of the Agnihotri Committee.

- No guest appointments against full-time vacancies.
- Teachers who have worked in temporary / ad hoc capacity for more than ten years should be absorbed as permanent teachers. Teaching experience be given due weightage in appointment to permanent positions.
- Immediate filling up of all permanent and temporary vacancies.
- An end to denial of promotion. Procedure for promotion should be completed within six months from the date of eligibility.
- Penalty on the concerned authorities for delay in granting promotion and for arbitrary denial of dues.

Academic Reforms and Restructured Courses

The DUTA demands immediate attention to the incomplete agenda of academic reforms and the need for a review of implementation so far. Necessary infrastructural support has still not been provided. The reform process has been further hamstrung by the failure to make regular appointments of teachers, the increasing phenomenon of contractual appointments on ad hoc and guest basis as well as the continuing ban on appointments of non-teaching staff. Academic reforms aim at academic renewal and not imposition of meaningless formal drudgery. Moreover, some decisions on examination reforms such as limiting the number of answer books a teacher may evaluate have not been implemented at all.

Of the restructured courses, which were hurriedly pushed through over the last two years, without proper discussion with the concerned teachers, the BSc programmes in particular are a tragic fiasco. Given the lack of essential infrastructure (e.g. labs) as well as of teachers in newly introduced subjects, these programmes cannot be taught. The content of the papers too demand urgent review. While the process of review through involvement of college teachers in accordance with statutory provisions should begin without delay, the University has to ensure that students already admitted do not suffer.

The syllabi of the BA (Hons) concurrent discipline courses and inter-disciplinary courses have similarly been hurriedly pushed through. These must be revised through the due mechanism of syllabus revision based on the participation of a large number of college teachers. The restructured BA Programme too needs to be reviewed after the experience of the past two years.

The inadequately prepared restructured programmes discriminate against students who study through Hindi medium, since hardly any study material in Hindi has been prepared. They also discriminate against students admitted in the Campus of Open Learning by directly excluding them. The DUTA demands:

- Review of the steps decided towards "Academic Reforms & Accountability," including the internal assessment system.
- Review of the structure and content of the restructured BSc Programmes.
- Urgent steps to ensure justice to the students who have been admitted to the BSc programmes.
- Review of the syllabi of the restructured BA and BA (Hons) programmes.
- The process of review be done through the general bodies of the concerned departments.
- All books and other reading materials for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes be made available in Hindi to reduce disparity between Hindi and English medium students.

> Contd on P 8 Col 1

Charter of Demands

> **Fom P 7 Col 4**

- Revamping of the Hindi Implementation Board for mass scale translation of classics and for bringing out new books and adequate number of textbooks.
- End the practice of closing down MIL courses by not admitting students without any approval from the AC.
- English should not be compulsory for admission to the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the university.
- End discrimination against students admitted to the Campus of Open Learning.

The University is slowly capitulating to the pressures of the government policy of withdrawing from funding higher education by closing down in a phased manner the Hindi medium stream in various disciplines and neglecting modern Indian languages. Instead, market-dictated courses on self-financing basis have been introduced on a large scale bringing in commercialisation of education by stealth. The DUTA demands:

- Concrete measures to preserve and promote the modern Indian languages.
- Reopening of Hindi medium stream in the various academic programmes in colleges.
- Review of short-term and full-fledged self-financing courses.

Accountability and Right to Information

While teachers are contributing their best to carry out academic reforms and teach the restructured programmes, the Committee on Academic Reforms & Accountability headed by the present Pro-Vice-Chancellor has not taken up Part II of the agenda relating to accountability of authorities. In fact the Committee has had no meeting after it submitted Part I of its report. Meanwhile, rules are being violated with impunity.

The University has already delayed in responding to the Right to Information Act. While opening up its working to public scrutiny, it must put in place rules and procedures for ensuring accountability of its administration. The DUTA demands:

- Urgent action on Part II of the report of the Committee on Academic Reforms & Accountability relating to accountability of authorities at all levels.
- Implementation of the rule requiring principals to take classes.
- Immediate steps to implement the provisions of the Right to Information Act.
- Public audit of the financial accounts of colleges, specifically with respect to the fees collected from students under various heads such as development fee, establishment fee, maintenance fee etc.
- Withdrawal of DU's nominee in the UGC committee on workload of teachers since such a committee undermines the academic autonomy of the University.

Campus of Open Learning

The fact that the issue of the Campus of Open Learning has been allowed to fester for so long shows a lack of commitment by the University administration to fulfil its statutory obligations. Academically, the Campus remains a non-starter. The failure to draw on the teachers of the erstwhile School of Correspondence Courses by placing them in the Department of Distance Education has meant that even the scarce expertise in the area at the disposal of the University is not being

tapped. The conversion of the School of Correspondence Courses into the School of Open Learning through Ordinance XX(8) is responsible for this failure. The refusal to put a person of proven calibre and commitment in charge of the Campus has worsened the situation. The alarming rate at which the number of teachers in the institution has dwindled due to posts not being filled and not a single teacher being granted re-employment is reflective of a negative mindset. Moreover, the University has failed to get the MHRD/UGC to fund the Campus of Open Learning and has, instead, converted it into a profit-making commercial enterprise through increase in fees.

The University must come clean on various corruption cases afflicting the Campus of Open Learning and take immediate disciplinary action. Since there is an EC resolution on the matter, this is a statutory obligation for the University administration. The DUTA demands:

- Implementation of the Act and Statutes relating to the Campus of Open Learning.
- Repeal of Ordinance XX(8) and completion of the conversion of the erstwhile School of Correspondence Courses to Campus of Open Learning as per Statutes.
- The teachers in the School of Open Learning should be placed in the Department of Distance Education.
- The Campus of Open Learning should be headed by a person with vision and experience in the field of distance education.
- A special audit of the School of Correspondence Courses by a Government Body. Stopping of the farcical library stock verification at huge cost and the conduct of a genuine investigation into the library affairs.
- The University must secure funds from the MHRD/UGC for the Campus of Open Learning.

Composition of Selection Committees

The present composition of Selection Committees for appointment of lecturers and principals concentrates overwhelming powers in the hands of the VC and chairpersons of governing bodies. It, therefore, needs to be changed. Meanwhile, the UGC has asked the University to get the panel of experts approved by the AC. Though such a procedure cannot eliminate arbitrariness, it will minimise it to an extent. Many principals are misusing the provision for a senior teacher of the college with at least 10 years experience to be a member the selection committee: they arbitrarily pick and choose a senior teacher. The DUTA demands:

- The UGC letter requiring AC approval for the panel of experts be placed before the AC.
- The panel of experts should be drawn from the Professors and Readers of Delhi University in the concerned disciplines.
- The inclusion of the Head of the Department as ex-officio member as one of the subject experts of the Selection Committee.
- The same set of experts should not be repeated till the panel of experts is exhausted.
- End to the practice of pick-and-choose by principals: the senior teacher on the committee should be decided by rotation. Democratisation of Governance
- Term posts for Principals.
- Enhancing the powers of Staff Councils.

- Statutory powers for Departmental Staff Councils.
- Increase in elected component in AC/EC and introduction of elected representation on college governing bodies in addition to teachers who are members by seniority by rotation.
- Strict implementation of the norm restricting membership of the governing bodies of colleges to a maximum of two terms.
- Regular meetings and effective functioning of the Consultative Committee on Teachers.
- More representation of college teachers in the Courses Committees. End to moves to reduce representation of college teachers. (This has been done in the Physics department where, instead of the practice of having one teacher from each college, only four college teachers have been put on the committee.)

Implementation of SC/ST Reservation

Many colleges are filling up reserved vacancies with general category candidates. The University's Monitoring Committee has met only once since the adoption of the roster for SC/ST reservation in teaching posts. Similarly, thousands of SC/ST students are denied admission due to faulty and unfavourable method of calculating the number of reserved seats. The DUTA demands:

- Regular functioning of the Monitoring Committee to ensure that the reservation provisions for appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff are duly observed by the university and the colleges.
- Institution of a position of Dean of SC/ST affairs in the University.
- A list of SC/ST candidates should be prepared by each department for the purpose of ad hoc appointments. This should include SC/ST candidates who have not yet cleared NET.
- Setting up of a Counselling Centre for SC/ST students.
- Remedial teaching for Dalit students.
- The quota for SC/ST students should be 22.5% of the actual intake and not the sanctioned strength as is the practice now. Reservation for SC/ST students in MPhil/PhD programmes.

Provisions for physically challenged

The University has failed to honour the mandatory 3% reservation for the physically challenged in teaching as well as non-teaching posts. Authorities at all levels are making cynical use of the fact that the University has failed to put into place a due roster system. Since no post is explicitly tagged for the physically challenged, every post becomes unreserved. While a huge sum is being spent on new buildings and for renovation of old buildings, the mandatory building laws such as providing ramps, lifts and all other necessary facilities to make public places accessible to the physically challenged are not being honoured. The DUTA demands:

- Institution of a proper roster system for mandatory 3% reservation for the physically challenged.
- All buildings in the University and Colleges should provide essential facilities for the physically challenged.
- Complete revamping of the Braille section in the University library; audio-recording of books for the blind and video-recording of educational resources for the deaf.

Medical Facilities

The medical facilities available to teachers and other employees and

the WUS Health Centre need urgent improvement in several respects. The DUTA demands:

- Expansion of the list of recognised hospitals and diagnostic centres to include all government recognised institutions.
- Increase in funds allocation for timely refund on local purchase of medicine and for diagnostic tests.
- Introduction of alternative systems of medicine such as Unani, Homeopathy, Chinese system and Acupuncture apart from the Ayurvedic system.
- Expansion of diagnostic facilities and availability of more specialists in all the Centres.
- Reimbursement of expenses on OPD treatment by the WUS Health Centre to its members.

UCMS

If the Delhi Government proposal to take over UCMS as per the Union Cabinet decision is implemented, the University of Delhi will lose its only medical college, and the UCMS will lose its academic autonomy, which is essential for the quality of teaching and research. Immediate and effective intervention by the University is required to ensure:

- That the UCMS remains under the University and that the GTB Hospital is transferred to the University.

Problems in specific colleges

In many colleges, absence of the rule of law and gross misuse of powers by Principals are on the increase. The DUTA demands impartial enquiries into the functioning of the Principals of Bhagat Singh College, Shivaji College, and Maharishi Valmiki College of Education. These Principals must be asked to proceed on leave pending enquiry. The false enquiry against three teachers in Kirori Mal College should be withdrawn. In Shyam Lal College, teachers are retiring without being considered for re-employment and a large number of teachers are working on ad hoc basis since no regular appointment has been made for a long time. This must be resolved at the earliest.

The DUTA also demands an immediate scrapping of the illegal inquiry committee constituted by the Governing Body of Swami Shradhdhanand College with the sole purpose of harassing and intimidating a teacher for refusing to succumb to the dictates of the Governing Body Chairman in manipulating appointments. It further demands blacklisting of the GB Chairman, Mr Surendra Kumar, and that no interviews for selection of teachers be held during the tenure of the present GB.

IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF PENSION TO THE WIFE OF LATE DR M N SINGH: The wife of late Dr M N Singh of Shradhdhanand College shot dead in December 2002 in the college by a student he had earlier caught cheating is still to receive pension.

Other Service and Working Conditions

- The DUTA demands:
- Increase in the sum assured under the Group Insurance scheme to Rs 5 lakhs.
 - Premium for GIS should be deducted from the salary from the time a teacher joins ie during the probation period.
 - Automatic grant of due increments for MPhil/PhD.
 - Fixation at Rs 14,940 should be automatic.
 - Honorarium for teaching non-collegiate students should be enhanced.
 - Library facilities for retired teachers.

An Interview With Swiss Author Franz Hohler by Amrit Mehta

“I am for European Union, not for SCHENGEN”



Franz Hohler

Franz Hohler was born on 1 March 1943 in Biel, and lives presently in Zurich, where he studied Philosophy. Hohler is well-known as a novelist, story-writer, poet, and is very popular as a Kabarettist, who performs one-man-shows as a political satirist all around the world. His short-stories and children's stories are also immensely popular. Many of his children's books are prescribed in schools. In 1968 he received Konrad-Ferdinand Literature Prize, in 1976 Hans Sachs-Prize of Nuernberg, in 1981 the prize of German Record industry for his cabarets, in 1991 Schiller Foundation Prize, in 1991 the State Prize of Costa Rica, in 1997 Suedwestfunk-Prize of German television and in 1998 the Literature Prize of the City of Zurich. Hohlers work has been translated into many languages of the world, including into Hindi, Punjabi and Assamese. He was recently on a recitation tour of India.

AM: What is the secret of your happy-go-lucky nature? Would you attribute it to your grandmother, or to your relation with nature, or to your wife and children?

FH: Am I really a happy-go-lucky author? I have this ability to remain happy. There are many reasons for that, certainly there is the genetic factor, I can observe this in my children. I grew up in the same atmosphere with my family. My sisters used to be little bit melancholic. It depends on factors like how one grows up, how one shapes one's life. My family encouraged me in pursuing my interests. Father a teacher, a great friend of literature, has a large library, used to play theatre. I could also go to theatre with him in Olten. Mother also a great music-lover. She plays violin. I play cello. I got family support for pursuing my interest in music, later I endeavored to shape my life in such a manner that life could be fun. So I became a happy-go-lucky child. There are people, who wear a mask of being happy, I suspect such people. I am not always in a happy mood. I can also be a sad person; personal and collective grief touches me too. Actually people do not admit that they are happy. It is a myth about writers, poets, that they personify grief, this is their view of life, which makes them so. My nature is a sort of provocation to such beliefs.

AM: does it lie in your genes to write? Is it because of your grandmother, who used to write poetry?

FH: In my childhood I used to interact with people, who used to write. My grandmother, my granduncle, the brother of my grandfather, father too: articles, verses. So this gene did not sleep. There are sleeping genes also. Mine is awake, I used to express myself in verse. Since childhood I have been writing humorous, humanistic poems, stories, on my grandmother, birthday-

poems, on father, on friends. Then my short-stories started getting published in 'Oltener Tagesblatt' — at that time I was 17.

AM: Have you made your grandmother happy by becoming a writer, and that too a well-known (expensive) writer and poet?

FH: My grandmother was not satisfied

with the circumstances of her life. A very intelligent woman. If she were born now, she would have become a teacher or a journalist. At the beginning of 19th century she had to work in a factory. This was the life in villages in those days. My grandfather met her in the factory and married her. They always had to struggle with money problems. Grandfather was

a weaving-master, but was underpaid and exploited. He had done a teachers training course, then he became a teacher, went on to become a secondary school teacher. So when I became successful my grandmother became very happy. Before I became famous, an

> Contd on P 10 Col 1

An Interview With Swiss Author Franz Hohler

> From P 9 Col 4

industrialist wanted me to recite at his establishment, he sent someone to our house, where my grandmother told him that I would charge 1,000 Franks for a recitation, which was a lot of money in those days, but the industrialist agreed to pay this amount. She always used to tell me that I should demand sufficient money, because she had too little money — it was her revenge on the industry.

AM: Do literary prizes have any meaning for you?

FH: They mean nothing, but they mean a lot. It is nice to receive prizes. But they should not be overestimated. For me it is more important that my books are read, that I am with the people with my work. Readers are more important than the prizes. My most beautiful prizes were those, which were refused to me. I was supposed to receive a prize in 1982, it was the literary prize of the Canton Zurich, it is supposed to be a great literary honor. The jury, read the government, did not want to honor me because of this tv-show, in which I had spoken satirically about the problems of the day. But then there was a huge solidarity wave. Those who were honored gave me a part of the prize. My letter-box used to be full of letters. There were envelopes with 10 Frank notes, 20 Frank notes, self-made breads, honey. For the folk I was like a refugee. This was touching. That was the most impressive prize I ever received.

AM: One observes from your writings that you criticize the ills of the society. What changes would you like to see on national and international scene in these times?

FH: Nationally I would like to see my country become more open. To

foreigners. Last year the laws regarding grant of citizenship to asylum-seekers were supposed to be relaxed. If they are born here, know the language well, then they should get the passport without any problem, and the second generation and the children should get the passport automatically. This was rejected by a majority of MPs. Such a thing gets on my nerves. The world is becoming a world-family more and more. There should be more traffic from both sides. We feel very happy flying to Africa for a safari, but if the planes coming to us are full of Africans, we do not like it. And Internationally: more solidarity of the rich world with the poor world. More political influence of the world-family (like UNO etc) has to be organized against the vested interests of the powerful nations. The American ambassador in the UNO is a dangerous person. The protection of our world would have taken a different course if there were more solidarity. Every nation has to be there in a climate-convention, but the USA is not a part of it. First the poor have to start it, and then the big capital, which destroys the environment.

AM: What do you have to say about Switzerland joining SCHENGEN-States?

FH: I am for European Union, not for SCHENGEN. I am against this because of the propaganda of the rightist parties. Because of border-checks. In Schengen if an asylum-seeker has come to a country, he can stay there until his application is accepted, if not, he has to go back. The norms are very strict. Not in Switzerland. It may have to become part of a search-system, of a data-bank, which is there for protection against international criminality. The Interpol is anyway functioning well. Now we have an

independent system. They have a different system of controls. If we become a part of the Schengen then they can arrest anybody, anyone who does not look like someone from Schengen states. Now we have our own border controls. I am against any type of police-raj.

AM: What do you think of the banking system of Switzerland, where all the corrupt of the world hide their money?

FH: I am against bank-secrecy, because this system encourages the rich people from the whole world to take away the capital from their own land and invest it in Switzerland. They do not pay taxes in their own countries. It is like giving a boost to poverty in the third world. Switzerland wants to bargain with Schengen-countries too that the law of bank-secrecy is not touched.

AM: If given a chance, would you like to be born again in Switzerland? Any other country, where you would like to be born?

FH: Here the opportunities are good. One takes elementary needs of life as a matter-of-course. For democracy this land is well-equipped. Iceland would also be a nice country to be born in. Maybe, after autumn it could be India. (In autumn Hohler undertook a literary tour of India - AM.)

AM: What is your relationship to religion?

FH: I belong to a branch of Catholic Church: old Catholic Church, which separated from the Roman catholic church in 1871, when Pope was declared infallible and Maria the Mother of God. The Bible does not substantiate it. It was never a church with a large following. Celibacy was not practiced any more in this church, the system of confession was done away with. We do not come under Pope, we have our own Bishop. I wouldn't call myself a believing Christian. I sometimes visit the church, but rather for cultural than religious reasons. I do not believe that Christ was the Son of God. I have great respect for Christ, but I wouldn't attribute any godly charisma to him. He suffered for the mankind. I am skeptical against any dogma. Religions do not explain anything. Atom-physics does. I would rather believe in a world-spirit, which is a mystery to me. I like this aphorism very much: one who drinks from the cup of science, loses faith, but at the bottom of the cup he will see the God waiting.

AM: What is your opinion about the Iraq and Afghanistan wars?

FH: The Iraq-war has had a positive affect — namely, the dethroning of Saddam Hussain. On the other hand it becomes problematic, when another country brings the freedom, when it is not the people, who bring the change, when it is brought about by such nations, which culturally and linguistically have nothing to do with each other. It does not function. The case of Afghanistan is somewhat different. In this case there was international will to free the country from the clutches of Taliban. There was this old history also, but that has not solved the problem. The question is whether the western model can function? AM: Apart from writing in German you also write in dialect; are there any special reasons for this?

FH: I speak in the Solothurn-Aarau dialect. Those from Berne say that I write in Zurich's dialect, and those from Zurich think otherwise. I read before a public, which speaks dialect, in a dialect, also before children. I also write satire in dialect. For radio also. And those poems and stories, which I write also for reciting, are also in dialect. It is difficult to read dialect. Dialect is a spoken language, it is not for writing. I like to translate poems into dialect. For example I have translated the Beatles' song "When I am 64" into dialect. I have sung and have made a CD of this. It is no more a

pop-song now, but has become a folk-song, which everybody can understand.

AM: Your literature, particularly your novels, describe the life in a village, and somehow one gets the impression that you are a son of the soil. Do you feel comfortable in a city like Zurich?

FH: I feel quite happy here. A city has its advantages. A village too. I find the world-theatre happening in a city fascinating. In a village one feels like a frog in the well. There the social taboos are very strong. One has to be very strong to have a different opinion from the one, which the whole village demands of you.

AM: Do you feel that the political cabaret still has its significance? Can it make the politics practically clean?

FH: No. We offer only a comment, we do not interfere in the political machinations, we report about the pitfalls of these machinations. This is another form of democratic control. We use a humorous form, irony, do not report directly like newspapers, it is rather disguised.

AM: What are your views about globalization?

FH: It means that the world has become a large village, or a big city, the different parts of which have become approachable, they can communicate with each other. Work can be shifted from one part to another. Getting a book printed in China, which is meant for Switzerland, would be cheaper. But the reality is absurd. I am neither for nor against it. As a consumer I like buying my things from the places nearby. No asparagus from Chile, no apples from South Africa, no wines from California. Due to ecological reasons. As a consumer I reject the commercial globe. But there is a positive aspect — Family of Man. Globalization means for us that we are one family in this world. For example when human rights are violated in Burma, then we are near to them, it also becomes our concern. They are our cousins in the world-family. We can send faxes, mails to highlight the situation there. If some country wants to dig oil in Nigeria, then one knows how to behave oneself there. The flow of information has become easier through internet and emails. It is essential that we establish contacts with each other to strengthen our collective memory. Those people, who are suffering in other parts of the world, are not only our cousins, but our brothers and sisters.

AM: Would you like to visit India sometime in the future?

FH: Our world consists of different worlds. In one life one cannot see all of them. There are dreams, there are places one would like to visit, and for me one of them is India. I have waited for the opportunity, when one would say, Franz, come to India. And now I am looking forward to experience this world. □

WANTED

Application are invited from the eligible candidates for the following vacancy in Shri Murudeshwar Art's and Science Mahavidyalaya, Pethshivani Tq. Palam Dist. Parham Permanent Non- granted college run by Shri Murudeshwar Shikshan Prasarak Sanstha Pimpalgaon (Muruddeo) Tq. Palam Dist. Parbhani.

The application duly completed in all respect should reach the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of the advertisement at the following address.

Sr.No.	Post	No. of Post	Full time / Part time	Unreserved/ Reserve
01	Principal	01	Full time	Unreserved

Qualifications:

1. Postgraduate in M.A. / M.Sc. with atleast 55% of the marks on its equivalents grade of B in the 7 point scale i.e. Grades, O, A, B, C, D, E & F.
2. Ph.D. of equivalent published work.
3. Total experiences of 10/15 years of Teaching / Research in University / College and other institutions of Higher Education.

Pay Scales : 1. Pay Scales and other allowances as per the UGC/ State Government & Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded rules.

Note :

1. Eligible candidates should submit their applications through Proper channel.
2. No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview.
3. Application with attested Xerox copies of SSC / Degree / Marks Memo Caste / Character Certificates etc. in essential.
4. The senior Lecturers who joined before 27.02. 1 979 have relaxation of 55% for the post of Principal.

Applications completed in all respects should be reached to the following address.

To,
The President,
Local Council,
Shri Murudeshwar Art's & Science Mahavidyalaya,
Pethshivani, Tq. Palam, Dist. Parbhani.

Prof. Ram Sontakke
Secretary

Shri Murudeshwar Shikshan Prasarak Sanstha Pimpalgaon (Muruddeo)
Tq. Palam Dist. Parbhani.

“As a consumer I reject the commercial globe. But there is a positive aspect — Family of Man. Globalization means for us that we are one family in this world. For example, when human rights are violated in Burma, then we are near to them, it also becomes our concern.”

**Yuvak Vikas Shikshan Prasarak Mandal
Pimpaldari's
Tq. Gangakhed Dist. Parbhani**

WANTED YEAR 2005-2006

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the following vacancy in Shri Sitaramji Mundhe Art's Comm. College, Jintur Dist. Parbhani (Permanent Nongranted) College run by Y.V.S.P. Mandal Pimpaldari.

The applications duly completed in all respects should reach the undersigned within 15 days of the date of publication of the advertisement at the College address.

Sr. No.	Post	No. Post	Full Time/Part Time	Unreserved/Reserved
01)	Principal	One	Full Time	Unreserved

Qualifications :- 1) A masters degree with atleast 55% of the marks or its equivalent grade of 'B' in the 7 point made with letter grade O,A,B,C,D & E.
2) Total experience of 10/15 years of teaching/research in universities/colleges & other institutions of higher education.
3) Ph.D. or equivalent published work.
4) Pay scales and other allowances as per the U.G.C. Government and Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathi University rule.

NOTE : 1) Eligible candidates should submit their application through proper channel.
2) No T.A./D.A. will be paid for attending the interview.
3) Attested xerox copies of certificates, Marks Memos, Caste Character Certificate etc. should be attached.
4) The condition of 55% at P.G. Level is not obligatory for those who were appointed before 27-02-79 as Lectu

Application complete in all respects should be reached to the following address.

The President/Secretary,
Y.V.S.P. Mandal,
C/o Shri Sitaramji Mundhe Art's and Comm. College
Jintur Dist. Parbhani — 431509

WANTED

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the following post in **LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI MAHAVIDYALAYA, DHARMABAD** run by **DHARMABAD SHIKSHAN SANSTHA, DHARMABAD, (Grant-in-aid Basis)**. The applications should reach the undersigned within 20 days from the date of publication of this advertisement at the College Address.

Sr. No.	Post	No. of Posts	Reservation
1.	Principal	One	Unreserved

Educational Qualifications:

- 1) A master Degree with at least 55% of the marks OR its equivalent grade of **B** in the 7 point scale with letter grades O,A,B,C,D,E & F.
- 2) No T.A./D.A. will be paid for attending the interview.
- 3) Attested xerox copies of S.S.C. certificates, Degree, Mark-Sheets, Caste certificate etc. should be attached to the application.
- 4) The condition of 55% is not applicable to those candidates who were appointed before 27-02-1979 as a Lecturer.

Application complete in all respects should be reached to the following address.

To,
President/Secretary,
Dharmabad Shikshan Sanstha,
DHARMABAD—431809.
Dt. Nanded
(M.S.)

PRESIDENT **SECRETARY**
DHARMABADSHIKSHANSANSTHA, DHARMABAD

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

**OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (IUST)
AWANTIPORA. KASHMIR**

Advertisement Notice No. 02 of 2006 Dated- 11-02-2006.

Applications on prescribed form invited for the following positions:

S.No	Position	No. of Posts
1	Reader-(Rs.12000-18300)	5
	i) Computer Application	1
	ii) Business Studies	1
	iii) Food Technology	1
	iv) Arabic	1
	v) Islamic studies	1

Qualification & Experience

- Essential**
1. Good academic record with a Doctorate degree in the subject concerned. In addition the candidate shall also possess atleast 55% marks or an equivalent grade at the Master's degree level.
 2. A minimum of 8 years experience of teaching / research / extension education and community work as Lecturer or equivalent including upto 3 years for research degrees.
- Desirable**
1. Proven research experience as evidenced by publication.
 2. Contribution to educational renovation, design of new courses and curricula.
 3. Leadership skills and ability to incorporate interdisciplinary approaches.

2 Lecturer (Rs. 8000 - 13500) 10

i) Computer Application	2
ii) Business Studies	2
iii) Food Technology	2
iv) Arabic	2
v) Islamic studies	2

Qualification

- Essential**
1. Masters Degree with atleast 55% marks or equivalent Grade Point Average in the concerned subject. Candidates with PhD degree or equivalent or having qualified NET / SLET in the subject concerned will be given preference.
- Desirable**
1. NET / SLET qualified
 2. Leadership skills and an ability to incorporate inter disciplinary approaches.
 3. Communication skills both oral and written

General conditions or instructions

1. Allowances payable as per university rules.
2. Candidates selected for the post shall have to exercise option within 3 months for pensionable or non pensionable service.
3. The candidates in employment should forward their application through proper channel.
4. Application forms along with copy of the notification can be obtained from the office of the Registrar, Islamic University of Science & Technology Awantipora Kashmir against the payment of Rs. 300/= (Rupees three hundred only) in the shape of Bank Draft pledged to Deputy Finance Officer and payable at Awantipora Kashmir. While making request for the application forms by post, candidates are required to send a self addressed envelop (12cm x 27cm) duly stamped.
5. Application forms complete in all respects duly supported by attested copies of certificates and testimonials with five copies of curriculum vitae and accompanied by Demand Draft for Rs 500/= drawn in favor of Deputy Finance Officer, Islamic University of Science & Technology Awantipora Kashmir should reach office of the Registrar by or before 3rd March 2006 up to 4pm. Applications received after the expiry of the said date will not be entertained.
6. The application forms will be issued during office hours between 10.30 am to 4.00 pm (except gazetted holidays and Sunday)
7. Eligible candidates will be informed about the date and place of interview through intimation under certificate of posting. However, university does not take any responsibility for non receipt or delayed receipt of the intimation by a candidate.
8. Submission of application for any position advertised here-in- above does not by itself entitle an applicant to be called for an Interview.
9. The University reserves right to make appointment either in the grade shown under the posts advertised here-in-above or in lower grade, depending upon the qualification / experience ; suitability of the selected candidates, and or other reasons.
10. Candidates not fulfilling the requisite requirements prescribed here-in-above as on the last date of receipt of applications need not apply.
11. It shall be open to the university to consider names of the suitable persons who may not have applied or to consider eligible persons in absentia.
12. The posts advertised here-in-above shall be filled subject to the requirements.

Sd/
Registrar IUST

Deteriorating Quality of Research in India

by M P Chaudhary*

ACCORDING to a compilation for the year 2004 by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Institute of Higher Education, not a single Indian university ranks among top 100 institutions in the world. The criteria for ranking in the list included the faculty and alumni winning Nobel prizes and field medals, international research citations in 21 broad subject categories, and articles published in journals such as *Nature* and *Science*. In fact, India fares dismally even among the top 100 Asian universities with only IISc Bangalore, IIT Kharagpur and University of Calcutta making it to the list. The Asian list is dominated by institutions from Japan, South Korea and Australia, with a smattering of Chinese and Israeli institutions. The Government of India is investing huge amounts of money for education sector, but still the position of Indian universities/institutions is very bad. There are various reasons for that.

The first major reason, perhaps, is the role of CSIR/UGC etc. Being apex bodies they are accountable for the quality of research. It is very strange that there are no rules and regulations to check the rewriting or rehash work going on in the name of "research" in most of the Indian universities. To ensure that our researchers compete with international ones, it would be desirable if the CSIR/UGC makes 'one foreign examiner of repute' a rule for these evaluation. This would bring an end to various influences, privileges and prejudices in case of Indian examiners.

Secondly, one would like to probe into the role of the "guide" or research supervisor. The present UGC norms

make only person with a general qualification of lecturership eligible for guiding a research scholar. But in Indian universities many lecturers may not even know the meaning of research! One wonders if having a Master's degree, or

even a PhD degree, is all that is needed to be a guide!! Majority of the research supervisors do not have any significant research publications to their credit. Many research supervisors do not have a foggiest idea regarding work plan and

depend mainly upon previous work. When a student enters in the field of research, he hardly knows anything about the topic or how the work is to progress, and thus is completely dependent on the guide.

Thirdly, it is unfair to compare the research work of a student from a university laboratory which is generally deprived of funds with that of a student from well-furnished labs or institutions. Even in university labs there are specks of good research(es) amongst heaps of weak quality ones. The Indian examiners rarely go by the quality of research work included in the thesis and are rather highly influenced by friendly relations with the research supervisor, which too is a "give and take" relationship. No academic merit is involved at all.

It can be concluded that a quality check for thesis submission should soon come into action. Researchers should be considered on the basis of their research quality since, many a time, ordinary students prove to be much better researcher(s) than JRF/GATE/SRF/RA students. It is time the UGC/CSIR resorts to some kind of deeper introspection to trace the reasons that have led to present-day deterioration in the quality of Indian research. Otherwise, getting a PhD degree would be cheaper and easier than getting a high school certificate. □

*The author is a research scholar in the Deptt of Maths, University of Delhi; Fellow of Society of Sciences and Member of American Mathematical Society, USA. His book Higher Education in India and Problems has been recognised by Dr K R Narayanan.

"Pack of Lies", Really Mr Pental?

IT had to happen. When in a social meet someone wanted to prick (or praise!) Prof Deepak Pental,



Deepak Pental; VC of DU

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, saying that *UT* had become almost his PRO, the pompous VC reportedly observed, "Don't believe him. It's a pack of lies."

Since *UT* was not present on the scene, it is hard to confirm this one way or the other. But, no problem there, Dr Pental. We have questioned the "quality and content" of his "research" as also the fact that he was terminated from TERI (The Energy Research Institute).

We'll oblige. *UT* will go that extra mile... to seek "information" under the Right to Information Act. The results will be communicated to the readers, via *UT*, of course. So, over to Pental Sahib now.

Meanwhile, and after reports of alleged plagiarism by the luminaries of Mathematics Deptt of the University of Delhi, Prof S C Arora and Dr Pankaj Jain, there are fresh and similar charges against Prof S K Tandon, currently Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi. A good "team" indeed! □

For Your INFORMATION

LISTED: The second writ petition filed in Delhi High Court by Mr S D Siddiqui of Aurobindo College (University of Delhi) challenging the election of Mr Amar Deo Sharma as President of DUTA came up for hearing on 13 February last (just a day before the DUTA general body meeting of 14 February) and the Court ordered that the University as also the DUTA file their papers with the Asstt Registrar by 23rd March and the case be listed for further hearing on 3 April 2006. The main ground taken by the defeated candidate (only by 12 odd votes) is that the Election Officer, Prof S N Singh, changed the rule midway through the counting to favour Amar Deo Sharma. The first writ petition was filed within days of the election on 31 August 2005 but the Court dismissed it even though it did not accept the DUTA plea that since DUTA is not a 'state' within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution the writ petition was not maintainable.

ENDED: A stormy era has ended in Harvard University (Mass-USA) with the resignation on 21 February last of the controversial and authoritarian Prof Lawrence H Summers, an economist who was President of Harvard University for the last 5 years. Summers will formally lay down the office on 30 June this year and Derek C Bok, 75 year old former President of Harvard University from 1971 to 1991, will work as interim President.

LISTED: The petition filed by the GB of Lakshmbai College (Univ of Delhi) challenging the Arbitration Award by the Chancellor's Committee in favour of Dr (Ms) Sunita Puri, Principal, who was removed, will now come up for hearing on 27 February.

AWARDED: Parmod Sagar of the Deptt of Physics at Shivaji College (University of Delhi) has been awarded PhD degree in the convocation held on 25 February last by the University of Delhi. Parmod Sagar worked under the supervision of Prof R M Mehra of the Deptt of Electronic Sciences, South Campus, University of Delhi.

ORGANISED: KPKUM & SV Colleges of Education for Women, Kadi jointly organised a lecture by Dr Daubhai A Ghanchi, a former Vice-Chancellor of North Gujarat University, Patan on the topic "A Multi-Mantra Model of Teacher Education for the 21st Century". [From official sources] □

University Today Rates of Subscription

Term	Individual (Rs)	Institutional (Rs)
1-Yr	60	125
3-Yrs	150	300
LIFE	600	1200

All remittances by D/D, MO or Cheque (add Rs 60 towards bank charges for outstation cheques since our banks have become 'globalised' and 'liberalised' and are charging us sky for collection) in the name of "University Today" drawn at Delhi.

DU Holds Convocation Sans Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor

Special to UT

THE University of Delhi held its convocation on 25 February last with much fanfare and grandeur which always is the hallmark of such ceremonials in almost all the universities.

This time, however, the Convocation did not have the Chancellor (the Vice-President of India, Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat) as the Chief Guest. Nor, for that matter, in his place, the Pro-Chancellor (the Chief Justice of India, Y K Sabharwal). Instead, Deepak Pental himself was the Chief Guest.

It is perfectly possible that none of the aforementioned dignitaries

were "available", But, this too is possible that, like many times in the past, the authorities simply "forgot" the dignitaries. After all, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat is politically inconvenient and has rubbed the University the wrong way. Remember the case of Dr Sunita Puri, the Principal of Lakshmbai College of DU, who was removed from job and later re-instated by the Chancellor.

The DU has no use for such commands of the Chancellor and did not move even a small finger to reinstate Sunita Puri and, perhaps by design, became a party to the ongoing petition filed by the governing body of Lakshmbai College where Arjun Dev is Chairman for the 6th term in a row despite rules to the contrary. □

Editor: C S Kalra

Regd DL(W)9/2052/06-08

Managing Editor: M Singh Registered with Registrar of Newspapers India

Regional Editors: 1. I Venkateswarlu

1-8-459, Naik Nagar, Nanded 431605

2. S B Lall, 80, Arihant Nagar

Panjabi Bagh, Udaipur (Raj) 313001

E-mail: universitytoday@gmail.com;

mail@universitytoday.net

Phone: 011-55333756; Fax: 011-2550-8071

Printed and published by M Singh on

behalf of H D Singh, 770, Vikaskunj,

New Delhi 110018 and printed at Samrat

Offset Works, B-62/5, Naraina Ph II, New

Delhi. R No 37006/81

If undelivered, return to:

UNIVERSITYTODAY

770, Vikaskunj

New Delhi 110018

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE

PIN □ □ □ □ □ □