



City Nation Edit Op-Ed Business World VivaCity Avenues Sports Columnists Forecast **Editor's Mail**

STATE EDITIONS | Bhopal Bhubaneswar Ranchi Kochi Lucknow Chandigarh Dehradun **SUNDAY PIONEER** | Agenda Foray

CITY | Monday, January 25, 2010 | [Email](#) | [Print](#) | ★★★★★

HRD action not deemed fit

Sidharth Mishra

After keeping quiet for sometime, the Human Resource Ministry under Kapil Sibal is back in news. In an affidavit before the Supreme Court, the Ministry has said that it did not find 44 Deemed Universities on the University Grants Commission list fit for recognition. The Minister has further clarified that it wanted to do away with the scheme of Deemed Universities altogether.

While some would like to believe that the HRD Minister has addressed a major issue, I would disagree. Addressing Editors conference on social sector issue, Sibal said last week, "It is a policy decision that all the Deemed Universities will finally go. The concept of Deemed Universities from the country will go in the near future and this is part of the reform process. We are putting in place the required legislations."

What would be the fall-out of the HRD decision? Estimated two lakh students pursuing the various under-graduate and post-graduate courses would have to look for enrolment in other Indian and foreign universities. The Tandon Committee, appointed by the Ministry, has pointed out that many of these universities were being run as "family fiefdoms."

If this is the premise to derecognise them, it must be pointed out that there has been tradition in our country of wealthy families contributing in the field of education. It wasn't limited to setting up degree colleges and schools in remote towns and kasbas. But for the Shri Ram family of Delhi, the national Capital would not have had some of its best institutions — Lady Shri Ram College, Hindu College, Shri Ram College of Commerce and the IP College.

The Birlas, too, made a seminal contribution in the field by establishing engineering/technology colleges in Mesra (Ranchi) and Pilani (Rajasthan). Both these institutions command lot of prestige and respect today. There are several prestigious management institutes in Mumbai, which have been built following the efforts of the business families. Therefore "family fiefdom" could not be taken as the sole condemning condition for derecognising some of these Deemed Universities.

Before we take the discussion forward, let's first examine the whole concept of Deemed University. Education is a concurrent subject with both the State and the Central governments responsible for setting-up universities under their respective legislative acts. These universities, however, have to enjoy the recognition of the regulatory authority — the University Grants Commission.

Additionally, the UGC can also recommend to the Central Government to give Deemed University status to certain prestigious institutions. The Deemed University status enables the educational institutes to frame their own syllabus and courses. They grant their own degrees but they cannot affiliate any other institution. If the UGC so recommends, a Deemed University can also get grants from the Government.

Deemed University is certainly not a synonym for tainted institutes. List contains names of eminent institutions like — Indian Institute of Science, Indian Law Institute, Indian Agriculture Research Institute, National School of Drama, School of Planning and Architecture, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Forest Research Institute and Deccan College among several others.

The Minister has not come out with a road-map to tell us what does he purport to do with these institutions, whose eminence is well-established. Their contribution in the field of higher education and research is unquestionable and they need to be told that the nation takes pride in their contribution.



In fact the "de-recognition" list too is bewildering. How does a more than century-old and well-established institution like Gurukul Kangri figures on it. The Gurukul, established in 1902 by swami Shraddhanand, got Deemed status in 1962 and has got a four-star accreditation from the National Academics Accreditation Committee (NAAC). How is that the NAAC and the Tandon committee, both the panels of the HRD Ministry, are working at cross purposes?

The foreign university angle to the whole controversy also cannot be missed. HRD Minister Kapil Sibal has said that foreign universities like Harvard were welcome in India. "If Stanford, Harvard or MIT want to come here, then what's the harm in it?" Sibal had said last year when Foreign Universities Bill was making news. In support of the Bill and on the question of their sensitivity to Indian requirements Sibal had said, "They will come to India on certain terms and conditions or else, we won't allow them to come."

I have two queries to make to the Minister. One, do institutions like IIS, IARI and NSD not measure to international standards? Two, will he guarantee that a tough regime for allowing foreign universities will not get watered down over a period of time? Mr Minister, the need of the hour is to pull-up the people responsible for corrupting the system and not doing away with the system altogether.

Email | Print | Rate: 1 2 3 4 5

Post Comment

COMMENTS BOARD ::

■ **deemed are doomed.**

By dinesh on 1/25/2010 9:25:16 PM

Kapil is just trying to show off that he is a man of ideas although his ideas are weirdest. His predecessor Arjun tried to destroy education and this man is going to complete the job. MMS is just sleeoing. Education is doomed in India with Sibal.

■ **Well Said Sidharth Mishra !**

By Joseph on 1/25/2010 5:40:58 PM

It's an excellent report! Sibal is a modern Tuglaq. The need of the hour is to pull-up the people for corrupting the system and not doing away with the system altogether. It's a wonder that Tandon committee could judge an institute in 10 minutes ! All the members of the Tandon committee are heads of various govt. institutes who do not how to raise the day-to-day affairs of a private institution. Congrats to pioneer for coming with such a wonderful article.

■ **Agree with the views**

By Joy on 1/25/2010 4:44:24 PM

The announcement needs mors transparency. It is in public interest if the recommendations regarding each organisation being derecognised be made public. According to a newspaper reoprt the Tandin Committee did not visit the institutions. As per natural justice all institutions that have deficiencies should be given an opportunity to bring in the required changes. The Minister states that all students will get degrees.

■ **in my view**

By aaru on 1/25/2010 3:56:58 PM

i am one of the student of those deemed university and i am persuing my post graduation. HRD ministry did a right thing in case of deemed universities, because i am not satisfied with my college, but please cancel those universities from coming academic year, because i am a bit selfish.

■ **Why Media Lab Asia Went off?**

By jk on 1/25/2010 3:10:09 PM

Media Lab Asia (formed by MIT Media Lab) was there in India and then now we dont have them as it was suppose to be. It is not good to look for Results from Research effort in short span of time. Results might take time or it may not come as well. How one can say that he/she will get innovative result within 3 month or within 3 weeks!!! May be the best advice to our Honb'l'e HRD minister is the following. "Item 1: remove UG from IIT and all REC's.

■ **most imp**

By vinitha on 1/25/2010 1:49:40 PM

the most imp thing is too think about the students studying in these organizations....wht about them.....

■ **dangerous precedent..**

By Umesh on 1/25/2010 11:46:39 AM

In most rankings the best engineering college in Orissa is considered to be ITER. This comes under the auspices of Sikshya - O - Anusandhana campus. It is is universally acknowledged to be the best college in Orissa. How did the committe take a decision like this? What is surprising is that not a single college from Hyderabad is not there in the list? Mr. Kapil sibal might have some plans to reform education. But, his views seem to be a reflection of delhi-based-mentality.

■ **in favour of the article**

By rochit on 1/25/2010 9:46:19 AM

i totally agree with the above piece of writing..... i would like to add that those students enrolled in 3 or 4 year graduate programme and are presently in second, third or final year will suffer a vast change in their courses due to change of universities from 'deemed' to state-owned or foreign universities. coping up with the gap or void will going to hamper the career.... i suppose

■ **Biased criticism**

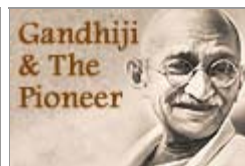
By Joe on 1/25/2010 12:50:46 AM

The author here presents a very biased opinion. Here he is trying to distort the overall picture with filling with random facts which may serve his purpose without thinking about the general relevance of the subject or topic in public/society. I would advice the newspaper not to public this kind of article, as for me it ruined the image/impression about the very news paper.

■ **The tuning of education would lead INDIA to glory...**

By sunita biswal, bhubaneswar on 1/25/2010 12:25:29 AM

Students of India, its the time to run before wisdom, success will follow u..Very very thanks to HRD minister for taking this step..



© CMYK Printech Ltd. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.
Email Pioneer Syndication Services at info@dailypioneer.com for reprinting rights | Email comments to feedback@dailypioneer.com