

Dear Colleagues & Friends,

This is to update you on the developments since November 19, when a detailed communication on the subject was shared.

On November 20, FICCI arranged a meeting with the Secretary, Department of Higher Education, MHRD, where we participated, and presented the facts of our case, as well as our views. The Secretary gave a patient hearing and advised that we respond to the UGC. The Joint Secretary (Administration) and the Joint Secretary (Higher Education) were also present.

The Registrar sent a detailed response to the concerned Deputy Secretary in UGC on November 20, again recalling all the details pertaining to the subject, stating that the UGC notice was counter to its role of furthering higher education, pointing out that the infrastructure, facilities, and faculty resources in the campuses at Goa and Hyderabad were of a level much higher than any prescribed or suggested norms, and without prejudice to our legal contention on the subject, seeking that a spot inspection of the campuses be carried out, and approval granted.

As a follow up, we met with the Additional Secretary (Technical Education) in the MHRD, as well as with the Joint Secretary (Higher Education), on December 1, and they advised that we meet with the concerned officials in the UGC and follow up with them. On December 2, we again met with the concerned Deputy Secretary and other officials in the UGC, to understand what progress, if any, there was, on our response and the request therein. On December 4, the Registrar wrote to the UGC again, summarizing the discussions during the meeting on December 2.

On December 14, we again met with the Secretary, Department of Higher Education, MHRD, and with the Chairman, UGC, and sought a speedy, fair and favorable resolution.

All those with whom we have met expressed high regard for our Institution, and the inclination to help resolve the issue speedily. However, in the interest of students, and pending a decision from the UGC/MHRD, we are constrained to file a writ petition on December 16 in the Delhi High Court, challenging the notice issued by the UGC.

The writ petition filed before the Delhi High Court was heard today, Tuesday, December 22nd. While Mr. Harish Salve appeared for BITS, no one appeared on behalf of UGC despite service of notice to UGC.

The Delhi High court has directed that no coercive action shall be taken by UGC until further orders. The court has listed the next date of hearing as 9th February 2016.

Regards,



V. S. Rao
Acting Vice Chancellor
BITS Pilani