

**TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEONAR, MUMBAI 400088**

March 5, 2018

Update on TISS Students Protest

March 2, 2018 – SU Strike is called off

An agreement was signed between the TISS Expanded Empowered Committee members and the TISS Students' Union Executive Committee members on 2nd March late into the night. The agreement was signed by 5 out of the 7 Executive Committee members and 2 of the members (the General Secretary and the Sports Secretary) did not sign on the agreement.

At 11.11 pm on 2nd March, the SU President sent an email to the Ag. Director, Prof. Shalini Bharat, stating that **the SU had decided to call off the strike across all four campuses, in view of the fact that the administration had agreed to the majority of their charter of demands.** The President added in her email that the SU believes that the Institute has done whatever it could in terms of fulfilling the charter of demands and hence they wanted to take these issues to the MHRD and UGC, as there are larger policy matters involved in the remaining issues.

March 3 and 4, 2018 – TISS Administration receives Off-Campus Student Delegation

A delegation of students (consisting of Student Council members and other students representing the general body of students) from the three Off Campuses (Tuljapur, Hyderabad and Guwahati) arrived on campus on 3rd March and requested for a meeting with the Ag. Director and Registrar to put up campus-specific issues and issues cutting across the Off Campuses.

In response to this request, the Ag. Director called for a meeting on March 4, 2018 at 11.00 a.m. with the student delegation to listen to them and understand the issues they wanted to raise. The Registrar, Prof. Janki Andharia, Prof. Shajahan and Prof. Vijay Raghavan, and Executive Committee members of the SU were present at the meeting, which was chaired by Prof. Andharia (at the request of the Ag. Director).

The delegation put forward campus specific issues and problems faced by them – both academic and administrative. They also put forward a charter of demands cutting across campuses which included some clarifications regarding student aid process and demands relating to scholarship matters for OBC(NC) and GOI-PMS MPhil students.

Free and frank discussion took place between the TISS Administration and the student delegation with healthy exchanges of ideas and the way forward. The administration acknowledged the seriousness of issues raised by the delegation and said that it was committed to address the issues, both short and long term. It was decided that the TISS Mumbai Administration would organize campus specific meetings in the presence of the respective DDs and administrative officials at the earliest (latest before 30th April 2018). The student delegation agreed to this suggested roadmap.

A Press Release was issued by the 5 member of the Executive Committee of the Students Union in the evening of 4th March, 2018 explaining the reasons why the strike had been called off.

March 5, 2018 – Disturbances at the Main Gate continues

Some of the TISS alumni and social activists has organized a rally called “TISS Chalo” to support the protesting students at the Main Gate of Mumbai Campus from 11.00 a.m. onwards. Such events are continuously causing disturbance in the normal functioning of the Institute and causing great inconvenience to residents and family members of faculty

and staff in the campus. The Administration has closed the entry of outsiders into the campus and has only allowed TISS employees and students with valid ID cards. The Administration is committed to maintaining peace within the campus premises and appeals to all members of the TISS community to continue with normal academic and administrative functions.

This note has been written in order to clear misgivings that the administration is not willing to talk to the students or is not sincere in its efforts to try and resolve the issues. It is also meant to inform everyone of the process followed for negotiations. The TISS administration stands fully committed to take the process forward in a manner that can address issues in the short run and the long run since these are issues that requires solutions in the immediate, short run and in the long run. This is an appeal to all students, faculty and staff to come forward and contribute to restore normalcy. The TISS administration supports the students' democratic right to protest but appeals to everyone concerned to engage in a constructive manner, one that does not inconvenience access of persons and vehicles in and out of the campus and their work spaces and does not derail the academic schedule/calendar, jeopardizing the process of graduation and employability of students.

Highlights of the agreement between SU and TISS administration:

I. Masters Students across Campuses:

For SC/ST GOI-PMS students enrolled in Masters programme in the 2016-2018 and 2017-19 batches, the current exemption for Dining Hall and Hostel charges will continue.

For OBC (NC) GOI-PMS students enrolled in the Masters programme of 2016-2018 and 2017-2019, students have already been provided upfront tuition fee waiver of Rs. 12000/ on admission, and need based student aid ranging from Rs. 15000/ to Rs. 50000/ per year. In addition, students can apply for financial support to the Office of Students' Affairs. They will be provided provisional degree/certified copy of their degree and marksheet till they pay off their dues, so that they are able to secure jobs or for further education.

II. For SC/ST and OBC (NC) GOI-PMS students enrolled in M. Phil programmes of 2016-2018 and 2017-2019 batches, students batches will be provided financial support upon application to the Office of Students' Affairs to complete their programme. They will be provided provisional degree/certified copy of their degree and marksheet till they pay off their dues, so that they are able to secure jobs or for further education.

III. For Bachelors Programme in Tuljapur, Hyderabad and Guwahati Campuses

For SC/ST students eligible for GOI PMS enrolled in BASS and BASW for the 2015-2018, 2016-19 and 2017-20 batches, the current exemption for Hostel and Dining Hall Charges will continue.

For SC/ST students enrolled in BASS and BASW programmes who move to the MA programme of 2015 -2018; 2016-2019; 2017-2020 batches, the current exemption for Hostel and Dining Hall Charges will continue.

IV. SC/ST/OBC (NC) students eligible for GOI PMS registered to be admitted for Masters and B.A. programme for batch of 2018

1. Candidates from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are eligible for GOI-PMS are exempted from payment of course fee, as per GOI norms.
2. At the time of admission, SC/ST GOI-PMS students are required to pay (a) the base fee of Rs 4500/- (towards caution deposit, student union fee and medical insurance fee) and (b) hostel charges of Rs.15000 for the semester. The Dining Hall charges shall be calculated on monthly basis and payable in two installments per semester. A policy for the same will be worked out with student involvement.
3. Students from OBC (NC) who are eligible for GOI-PMS shall pay (a) the course fees for the programme to which they are admitted and (b) hostel charges of Rs.15000 for the semester. However, a relaxed payment over the semester shall be worked in order to reduce the burden of upfront payment. The Dining Hall charges shall be calculated on monthly basis and payable in two installments per semester.
4. OBC (NC) candidates eligible for GOI-PMS can additionally avail the upfront

scholarship of Rs. 12,000 at the time of admission. Further, they are eligible for student aid upon application, after being admitted to the programme.

5. Hostel charges for Hyderabad campus students shall be payable on actuals to the service provider.

V. General

1. Funds to meet the support for Hostel and Dining Hall Charges mentioned in items above will be mobilized by Joint Scholarship Committees set up at all campuses and will work in synergy. This Committee will comprise of members from administration, faculty and students (including representation from SC/ST/ OBC [NC] students and faculty). This committee will continue to work for generating resources for the upcoming batches.
2. The Joint Scholarship Committee will work out mechanisms to further support SC/ST/OBC NC GOI PMS students for 2018-2020 batch.
3. A Programme Officer (PO) (from SC/ST/OBC) attached to the SPO will be appointed within two months. The position will be advertised within 15 days. The PO attached to the SPO will be responsible for liaising with the state governments and central government departments with regard to scholarship related matters. Students are required to remit to the Institute, the entire scholarship amount received till their penultimate year of graduation from their respective state government before they graduate. The scholarship amount received by the students for the final year shall be remitted as soon as it is received by them from the government.

TISS Administration
5th March, 2018, Mumbai