



TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
V.N. Purav Marg, Deonar, Mumbai 400 088
(A Deemed University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)

Ref.Reg/2018

March 10, 2018

Preamble to the Plan of Action dated March 10, 2018

The TISS Students Union had called for a TISS strike on 21st February primarily against the withdrawal of waiver of fees / charges to eligible Govt. of India Post Matric Scholarship (GoI-PMS) students belonging to SC/ST and OBC NC in the context of Direct Benefit Transfer of Scholarship to the students account and various state governments not releasing scholarships in time. This made the support extended to GoI-PMS students unsustainable in future for the Institute.

There were several rounds of discussions since the afternoon of 21st February, 2018, some with the Students' Union members and other students' representatives, but several more with the entire group of protesting students.

In response to the specific demands raised by the Students' Union, the Institute had set up an Empowered Committee with 17 Faculty members at an all faculty meeting held on 28 February, 2018. It was decided that the Empowered Committee would carry forward the discussions with the Students' Union to arrive at specific measures to be taken in relation to the Charter of Demands submitted by the Students' Union.

In order to create a conducive environment for dialogue and goodwill, the Empowered Committee met and deliberated on issues with the protesting students and student's delegation in addition to the sustained dialogue with the Students' Union Executive Body.

A detailed Plan of Action setting out the immediate action points, was prepared and the same was shared with the Students' Union representatives on 1 March, 2018. The Plan of Action specified concrete measures in relation to the students eligible for GoI PMS belonging to SC/ST and OBC (NC), registered in the academic years 2015, 2016 and 2017. Measures to be adopted for admissions of 2018 were also detailed in the document.

After getting the feedback from the Students Union, the plan of action was modified and further it was agreed with the Students' Union that the document will be refined and amended with more provisions upon getting more clarity about the resources required for implementing the same.

In agreement with the above conditions, the Students' Union vide its letter dated 2 March 2018 signed by Ms. Archana Soreng, President, Students Union 2017-18, decided to withdraw the strike with five out of seven members of the Executive Body agreeing to the same. Thus, an agreement was signed by the administration with the Students' Union and the Plan of Action derived out of this consultative process was notified on 3 March 2018.

A section of the students, however, continued their protest demanding full fee waiver for all students eligible for GoI PMS from SC, ST including OBC (NC).

A student delegation from Tuljapur, Guwahati and Hyderabad comprising four members each from each of the campuses alongwith student council members and student representatives arrived at Mumbai Campus. They, along with the Students' Union Executive Body members, had a meeting with the Acting Director and some members of the Empowered Committee on 4 March 2018.

The Student Delegation also brought out specific issues related to their respective off campuses as well as common issues related to the GoI PMS students. Specific issues related to Bachelors programme at the Off-Campuses too were also brought to the notice of the administration.

It was decided that the campus specific issues will be addressed by a committee of two representatives from the Students Council Members, Deputy Directors of the Off-Campuses and the team of Senior Administration officials from Mumbai Campus to be initiated in a meeting to be held in Mumbai before 30 April 2018.

Further, it was agreed upon that the common issues related to the GoI PMS issue brought up by the delegates from the off-campuses will be taken up by the Empowered Committee while preparing a Final Plan of Action.

Some members of the Empowered Committee held further meetings with the delegation of protesting students and considered their concerns.

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In response to the original Charter of Demands by the Students' Union, and concerns raised by various students, student groups, delegation from the off-campuses as well as ideas emanating from the various consultations and deliberations by the Empowered Committee, a final Plan of Action was developed and the same was shared with the members of the Students' Union, Students' Councils and delegation of students across campuses.

The Institute is committed to provide all and feasible opportunities to students from socially, educationally and economically marginalized communities and solicit your cooperation and support in furthering this mission.

The Plan of Action dated 10 March 2018 is attached This Plan of Action is subject to calling off strike and removal of blockade, posters / banners and clearing of all materials used in the protest in all Campuses with immediate effect.



Plan of Action for GoI PMS Students

Subject to Calling off Strike and Removal of Blockade, Posters / Banners and clearing of all material used in the protest in All Campuses

10.03.2018

In continuation of the measures taken by the Institute vide the Plan of Action dated March 2, 2018 (agreed upon with the Students' Union), the Institute proposes the following measures, as detailed in this Plan of Action, which includes additional provisions arrived at on the basis of wider consultations with students from across campuses with members of the Empowered Committee and the Institute Management Team.

I. Masters Students across the Campuses

- 1. For SC/ST students eligible for GoI-PMS enrolled in Masters programme in the year 2016-2018 and 2017 - 2019**

The current exemption for Course Fee, Dining Hall and Hostel charges to eligible SC/ST GoI-PMS Students will continue, as decided in the Plan of Action of March 3.

- 2. For students of 2016-2018 and 2017-2019 belonging to eligible GoI-PMS OBC (NC) category**

Currently, the upfront Student Aid of Rs. 12000/- is provided at the time of admission to eligible GoI-PMS OBC (NC) Students. Additional Student Aid is given to OBC (NC) students after being admitted (ranging from Rs. 12,000 - 50,000/- per student per year).

Further, Student Aid would be provided upon application by the student to the tune of average Rs. 30,000/- per student per year, based on assessment of the balance requirement and fund available. It may be less or more than Rs. 30,000/- per year per student depending on the actual need .

They will be provided a certified copy of their degree and marksheet, so that they are able to secure jobs or for further education, in case there is any pending amount against them, as decided in the Plan of Action of March 3.

II. For Bachelors Programmes in Tuljapur, Hyderabad and Guwahati Campuses

- 1. For SC/ST students eligible for GoI PMS enrolled in BASW and Integrated BASS-MA for the batches 2015-2018, 2016 - 2019, 2017-2020 till the completion of their programme.**



The current exemption for Course Fee, Dining Hall and Hostel charges will continue for eligible SC/ST as decided in the Plan of Action of March 3.

2. **For OBC NC students eligible for GoI PMS enrolled in BASW and Integrated - BASS-MA for the batches 2015-2018, 2016 - 2019, 2017- 2020 till the completion of their programme.**

Currently, upfront Student Aid of Rs. 12000/- is provided at the time of admission. Additional Student Aid is given to needy OBC NC Students after being admitted (ranging from Rs. 12,000 - 50,000/- per student per year).

Further, Student Aid would be given upon application to the tune of average Rs. 30,000 per student per year, based on assessment of balance requirement and fund availability. It may be less or more than Rs. 30000/- per year per student depending on the requirement.

III. MPhil / PhD Programme

1. **For SC/ST students eligible for GoI-PMS enrolled in M.Phil programmes of 2016-2018 and 2017-2019 batches**

The current exemption for Course Fee, Dining Hall and Hostel charges to eligible SC/ST Students will continue, as decided in the Plan of Action of March 3.

2. **For OBC (NC) students eligible for GoI-PMS enrolled in M. Phil programmes of 2016-2018 and 2017-2019 batches**

Financial support can be given upon application to the tune of average Rs. 30,000/- per student per year based on assessment of the balance requirement and fund availability. It may be less or more than Rs. 30000/- per year per student depending on the actual need and fund availability.

They will be provided certified copy of their degree and marksheet, so that they are able to secure jobs or for further education.

3. **General Supports available to all MPhil / PhD Scholars**

Non-Fellowship holders (but, including GoI PMS) are given a one time "Young Researchers' Grant" of upto Rs. 30,000/- for MPhil and upto Rs. 50,000/- for data collection expenses (against submission of bills). This is currently being supported by the internal funds generated by the Office of Research and Development.

As per UGC rules, Scholarship holders cannot be given full time work. The Teaching Assistant / Research Assistant Policy Regulations of the Institute (communicated vide Circular dated 12/02/2018 entitled Engagement of Research Scholars in Teaching and



Research Work of the Institute” provides for Teaching Assistant and short term assignments, wherever possible, keeping in mind the requirements of students for financial support.

Currently Non-NET fellowships for Research Scholars is not provided to students of Deemed to be Universities. The Institute has been taking up this issue with the UGC and the MHRD and shall continue to follow up on these efforts.

IV. Admissions for the academic year 2018-19

1. SC/ST students eligible for GoI-PMS for Masters programmes

Exempted from payment of course fee, as per GoI norms. At the time of admission, 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. 15,000 for the semester are payable in monthly instalments. The Dining Hall charges shall be calculated on monthly basis and payable in monthly instalments per semester. The upfront payment will now be Rs. 4500 + Rs. 5000 (first instalment of Hostel Charges).

2. OBC (NC) students eligible for GoI-PMS for Masters programmes

Students from OBC NC pay (a) the course fees for the programme to which they are admitted and Hostel Charges of Rs. 15,000 for the semester payable in instalments. The Dining Hall charges shall be calculated on monthly basis and payable in instalments per semester. Further, the Caution Deposit money which is currently Rs. 10,000 is reduced to Rs. 2500 (at par with the eligible GoI PMS scholars of SC and ST).

At the time of admissions, for Course Fee, upfront Student Aid of Rs. 12,000 towards tuition fees will be provided to eligible OBC (NC) students. Student aid shall also be provided upfront for the first instalment of Rs. 5000 towards the Hostel Charges. **Therefore, the upfront payment at the time of admission would now be reduced by Rs. 50,500.** Additionally, after being admitted, upon application by the students, further financial aid would be provided based on assessment of requirement and availability of funds.

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

3. For SC/ST/OBC (NC) students eligible for GOI PMS registered to be admitted for BA programme 2018-2021:

- a. Candidates from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are eligible for GOI-PMS are exempted from payment of course fee, as per GOI norms.



b. 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 payable in instalments. The Dining Hall charges shall be calculated on monthly basis and payable in instalments per semester. **The upfront payment will now be Rs. 4500 + Rs. 5000 (first instalment of Hostel Charges).**

c. Students from eligible OBC (NC) pay (a) the course fees for the programme to which they are admitted and Hostel Charges of Rs. 15,000 for the semester payable in instalments. The Dining Hall charges shall be calculated on monthly basis and payable in instalments per semester.

At the time of admissions, for Course Fee, upfront Student Aid of Rs. 12,000 towards tuition fees can be provided. Student aid can also be provided upfront for the first instalment of Rs. 5000 towards the Hostel Charges. **Therefore, the upfront payment at the time of admission would now be reduced by Rs. 50,500.** Additionally, after being admitted, upon application by the students, further financial aid could be provided based on assessment of requirement and availability of funds.

d. Hostel and charges for Hyderabad campus students shall be payable in instalments on actuals to the service provider.

V. Students with Disability

1. Students with disability are encouraged to apply for scholarships available from their respective state governments (details are available with SPO, which have been notified from time to time). This will be facilitated by the SPO, as is already being done.
2. Students with disability from SC/ST or OBC categories from all the programmes will avail the facilities that are available for the respective programmes and categories.
3. They may also apply for student aid.

VI. General

The following measures were finalised in the Plan of Action of March 3:

1. A Joint Scholarship Committees will be 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).
2. The Joint Scholarship Committee will work out mechanisms to support SC/ST/OBC NC GOI PMS students for upcoming batches.



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.
4. 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 for the final year shall be remitted as soon as it is received and written undertaking shall be provided through the respective centres / schools.

This is issued with the approval of the Acting Director.


10/03/18
Registrar

Through : Dean, Students Affairs

To

The Students Union, TISS

CC to: Dean, SPO, TISS