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Report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Bihar Yoga Bharati, Munger, to consider its proposal for the grant of deemed to be university status under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, on 28-29 April, 1999.

At its meeting held on 11th January, 1995, the Commission considered the Report of an earlier Expert Committee constituted by it in 1994 to examine the proposal of Bihar Yoga Bharati, Munger, for grant of deemed to be university status under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. The Commission resolved as under :

The Commission desired that the Government of India may be informed that the matter can be considered by the UGC after the following conditions have been met by the Bihar Yoga Bharati, Munger.

- i) All the movable and Immovable assets of Bihar School of Yoga be legally transferred by the parent body in the name of Bihar Yoga Bharati, Munger.
- ii) Bihar Yoga Bharati should take immediate steps to establish three faculties as proposed by it; work out complete syllabi for all the courses and start teaching.
- iii) Minimum faculty positions conforming to UGC guidelines be appointed on permanent and regular basis in each faculty.
- iv) The library should have more books on Comparative Religion, Philosophy, Modern Psychology etc. It should also have adequate books on Sanskrit, Pali and Hindi Literature.
- v) The laboratory should be adequately strengthened.

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The above decision of the Commission was conveyed to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education, Government of India, New Delhi, vide letter No.F.6-18/94(CPP-I) dated 2nd February, 1995.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education, Government of India, New Delhi, forwarded a copy of the compliance report received from Shri Shankrananda Saraswati, Chief Director, Bihar Yoga Bharati, Munger, on the points raised by the Commission in its letter dated 2nd February, 1995, regarding the grant deemed to be university status. The compliance report was examined in the UGC Secretariat, and point-wise observations/suggestions of the Committee were conveyed to Shri Shankrananda Saraswati, Chief Director, Bihar Yoga Bharati, Munger vide Chairperson's D.O. letter No.F.6-18/94(CPP-I) dated 3rd July, 1996. By this letter, the Institute was requested to fulfil the following conditions :-

- i. The moveable and Immovable assets may be legally transferred in the name of Bihar Yoga Bharati, Munger.
- ii. The Institute should start post-graduate courses with affiliation with one of the universities. The institute should also inform the UGC the likely date of introduction of PG courses.
- iii. The Commission would like to know whether the teaching posts, already advertised have been filled up or not. If not, the probable period by which the posts will be filled up.

The Bihar Yoga Bharati, Munger, vide its communications dated 04.04.97, 28.01.1998 and 28.05.1998, sent some more information relating to the compliance of UGC conditions.

In the meantime, the Commission received a communication from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education, Government of India, New Delhi, dated 09.06.1998, informing the Commission as under :-

1. The UGC may satisfy itself about the capacity of all the commitments from the Bihar Yoga Bharati, Munger, with regard to the capacity of resources/funds available with it to create a minimum number of faculties required and enrich those faculties before taking a final view in the matter.
2. The condition relating to transfer of property in the name of Bihar Yoga Bharati, Munger, will be referred to the Ministry of Law and Justice for clarification.

The position with regard to the UGC conditions and compliance reported by the Institute as indicated below was placed before the Commission to further consider the proposal of the Institute for the grant of deemed to be university status, at its meeting held on 21st July, 1998 :-

UGC CONDITIONS	COMPLIANCE REPORTED	OBSERVATION/REMARKS
1. All the movable and immovable assets of Bihar School of Yoga be legally transferred by the parent body in the name of Bihar Yoga Bharti.	The land of the Institute is Khas Mahal land of Bihar Government. This land has been leased out to Bihar School of Yoga, which is the parent organisation of Bihar Yoga Bharati. Bihar School of Yoga Bharati has no legal right to transfer the leased land in the name of Bihar Yoga Bharati. The District Magistrate of Munger has granted a 'No Objection	The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education vide their letter dated 10th February, 1999 informed the Commission that the legal opinion of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has been obtained which, interalia, reads as under :- "We are of the view that the

	<p>Certificate' to Bihar Yoga Bharati for the land. The Bihar School of Yoga has also made and executed an indenture on 8th February, 1996, before the Notary and has made available its movable and immovable property and other areas of Ganga Darshan to Bihar Yoga Bharati.</p>	<p>No Objection Certificate issued by the Collector, Munger is sufficient besides the right of Bihar Yoga Bharati to legally possess and use the properties leased out to Bihar School of Yoga in future.”</p> <p>A copy of the Ministry's letter is enclosed as Annexure-I.</p>
<p>2. Bihar Yoga Bharati should take immediate steps to establish three faculties as proposed by it; work out complete syllabi for all the courses and start teaching.</p>	<p>The Institute has established the following three faculties offering M.A./M.Sc. courses.</p> <p>It is affiliated to T.M. Bhagalpur University as a recognised Yoga Study Centre</p> <p>:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Faculty of Science (Department of Applied Yogic Science)2. Faculty of Social Sciences (Deptt. Of Yoga Psychology)3. Faculty of Humanities (Deptt. Of Yoga Philosophy)	

	<p>T.M. Bhagalpur University has recognised Bihar Yoga Bharati as Yoga Study Centre. The syllabus for various courses has been prepared and adopted in accordance with T.M. Bhagalpur University regulations.</p>	
<p>3. Minimum faculty positions conforming to the UGC guidelines be appointed on permanent and regular basis in each faculty.</p>	<p>The Institute has informed that for the 3 faculties, the following posts have been filled up.</p> <p>a. <u>Faculty of Yoga Psychology</u> Professor 1, Lecturer 3, Yoga Instructors 2, Visiting Professors 5</p> <p>b. <u>Faculty of Applied Yogic Sciences</u> Reader 1, Lecturer 3, Yoga Instructors 3, Visiting Professors 4</p> <p>c. <u>Faculty of Yoga Philosophy</u> Professor 2, Lecturer 3, Yoga Instructors 3</p>	<p>The date of birth of the Professor is 18.7.1937 and is on re-employment.</p> <p>The date of birth of one lecturer is 27.7.1937 and is on re-employment.</p> <p>The date of birth of one Professor is 11.12.1937 and is on re-employment.</p>

As stated above the Compliance Report was considered by the Commission at its meeting held on 21st July, 1998, and the Commission resolved that a Visiting Committee may be sent to the Bihar Yoga Bharati, Munger, for the consideration of its request for the grant of deemed to be university status under Section 3 of the UGC Act.

Accordingly, an Expert Committee consisting of the following Experts was constituted to make an on-the-spot examination of the proposal :-

- 1 Prof. (Mrs.) Hamida Ahmad Convenor
Department of Psychology,
Aligarh Muslim University,
Aligarh.
(Member, University Grants Commission)
2. Dr. H.R. Nagendra,
Director,
Vivekananda Kendra Yoga
Research Foundation,
Bangalore.
- 3 Prof. P.V. Krishna Rao,
Director of Yoga & Consciousness,
Andhra University,
Waltair
4. Prof. A.M. Moorthy,
Head of the Department of Physical
Education and Health Sciences,
Alagappa University,
Alagappa Nagar,
Karaikudi.
5. Prof. B.C. Lodha,
Vice-Chancellor,
Jain Vishva Bharati Institute,
Ladnun.
6. Dr. Naresh Kumar
Director,
Central council for Research in
Yoga and Naturopathy,
Janakpuri,
New Delhi.

Officer of the Commission

7. Shri D.D. Mehta,
Under Secretary,
UGC.

Prof. B.C. Lodha and Dr. Naresh Kumar could not join the Committee.

The Committee visited the Institute on 28-29 April, 1999. The Committee members held discussions with the Director, Registrar, Finance Officer, Members of the Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff and the Students. The Committee also went around the Institute campus, its library, laboratories, class rooms, and the Administrative Buildings in order to assess the infrastructural facilities available with it.

Bihar Yoga Bharati is located at Ganga Darshan, in Munger, Bihar. It was established in 1994 by Bihar School of Yoga as its offshoot to serve as an advanced centre of yogic studies and research. It was registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 in June, 1994. Soon after, the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, was approached to recognise this unique centre of higher studies in yoga as a deemed to be university. As per suggestions of the earlier UGC Committee, the Institute was affiliated to T.M. Bhagalpur University as the approved study centre in Yoga. The syllabus for various courses has been prepared and adopted in accordance with the T.M. Bhagalpur University Regulation. A total number of 53 students from India and abroad are pursuing certificate course in Yogic Studies. 13 students had been enrolled for pursuing diploma course in Yogic Studies. The details regarding students pursuing M.A., M.Sc. course in Yoga Philosophy, Yoga Psychology and Applied Yogic Sciences are given below :-

Department	Academic Session	No. of students admitted		
		M	F	Total
Yoga Philosophy	1996-98	7	5	12
	1997-99	4	3	7
	1998-2000	4	0	4
Yoga Psychology	1997-99	7	4	11
	1998-2000	8	1	9
Applied Yogic Science	1997-99	4	5	9
	1998-2000	4	0	4

The following observations were made by the Committee :-

1. In compliance with the UGC's suggestion, the Bihar Yoga Bharati has been affiliated to the T.M. Bhagalpur University. It has started M.A./M.Sc. courses in the Department of Applied Yogic Science (Faculty of Science), Department of Yoga Psychology (Faculty of Social Sciences) and Department of Yoga Philosophy (Faculty of Humanities). Postgraduate course in Yoga Philosophy was started in 1996 and in Yoga Psychology and Applied Yogic Science in 1997.
2. The Committee went through the syllabi of the PG courses being taught and it was felt that they were of high standard. A fairly large number of books required for these new courses have been purchased and the library is well stocked. Computerisation in library makes access to books convenient and easy.
3. Internet facilities are also available in the Institute
4. Besides the three postgraduate courses already being conducted, the Bihar Yoga Bharati is taking steps to start an M.A. course in Yogic Ecology. Syllabi have been framed and it was observed that together with a study of classic yogic texts, the course would include papers in Environmental Philosophy, Ecology and Environment, the global Eco crisis water and soil management. Other departments visualized to be established in the near future include those of Indology and Language and Linguistics.
5. Research projects which have been carried out or are in progress include those relating to role of Yoga in control of disease, substance abuse, personality change in prison inmates through yoga, management of problems of soldiers working in high altitudes and extreme temperatures through yoga.
6. Awareness of ecology appeared to be a very strong point and it was observed that waste paper was being recycled to be used for writing and also as paper bricks for use as fuel.

7. The laboratories are reasonably well-equipped.
8. It was found that although the Institute had advertised its teaching posts, it was not able to fill up a large number because of the unique nature of the discipline and the non-availability of formally qualified persons in the field. With postgraduate courses now running in the institute, the problem may be alleviated in due course. It was however, pointed out that degrees are awarded by the Bhagalpur University many years after completion of the course, therefore, many good students particularly from outside India feel discouraged and demotivated with regard to pursuit of postgraduate studies. The problem with regard to filling of faculty position appears to be genuine.
The up to date position with regard to the teaching staff in position in the three postgraduate faculties and undergraduate section is given in Annexure ;
9. Together with the traditional positions of Professor, Reader and Lecturer, the position of 'Yoga teacher' is also found in the Institute. The yoga teachers associated with postgraduate courses and some in the undergraduate section have done a two year Yogacharya course after their B.A./M.A. The composition of their selection Committee is the same as that of lecturer and the salary drawn is also the same. They contribute to the courses as much as those designated as lecturers. In view of the distinctive nature of the courses run by the Institute, the Committee feels that those Yoga teachers who have done a two year Yogacharya course after B.A. be considered a part of teaching faculty and faculty position calculated accordingly.
10. It was observed that the institute has tried to overcome the problem of teaching staff by taking the help of visiting faculty. These visits are usually of one week (or more) duration and specific portion of the syllabi are covered by the teacher in accordance with his expertise.

11. The faculty strength was found to be the only weak point in the institute. The problem is genuine and a view based on a realistic understanding of the peculiar problem of this unique and important discipline needs to be taken. The presence of Yoga teachers and visiting faculty should be taken into account while determining faculty strength.
12. The Institute is financially viable to take care of its present financial requirements and future requirements. The institute has already created a Corpus Fund for the sum of Rs.11,32,01,394.00 (Annexure-III). The budget estimates for the year 1997-98, 1998-99, which show the allocation of funds for different heads as per the requirement of the Institute are given in Annexure IV. Further, the Institute has given an undertaking that in the event of grant of deemed to be university status, minimum amount of Rs. 40.00 lakhs will be provided every year for recurring expenditure, as per the requirement of the UGC.
13. The Institute fulfills the minimum eligibility criteria in terms of infrastructural facilities created by it, teachers residences, students hostels, library, library books & journal, equipment, finances, corpus fund, UGC scales of pay etc. (please refer to Annexure - V)

Conclusions

All the Committee members were unanimous that the Bihar Yoga Bharati has made a significant contribution to the discipline of Yoga in terms of its teaching, research and extension activities. It has acquired, infrastructural facilities over the years, and is financially viable to take care of present and future requirements. The Committee feels that, according deemed to be university status to the Bihar Yoga Bharati will be a significant step towards promoting a unique aspect of Indian heritage and culture as an academic discipline. As the first Deemed to be

university of Yoga in the world, the Committee hopes that it will endeavor to promote human wellness by imparting and expanding the wisdom of Yoga under the Gurukula system of Education in modern times at the highest level of learning.

The Committee places on record its appreciation of the valuable help extended to it by the Director, Registrar, Members of the teaching faculty and the non-teaching staff of Bihar Yoga Bharati in the work of the Committee.

