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**Report of the Expert Committee constituted by the University Grants Commission to consider the proposal of The Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for grant of Deemed to be University status under Section 3 of the UGC Act.**

The Chairman, University Grants Commission constituted an Expert Committee comprising of the following members to examine the proposal of The Indian Law Institute, Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi, for grant of Deemed-to-be-University status under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956:-

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|--|-----|------------------|
| 1. Prof. Mohan Gopal<br>Member of the Commission<br>&<br>Director<br>National Law College University<br>Bangalore – 560 072                    | ... | Convenor         |
| 2. Dr. S.K. Agarwala<br>(Former Secretary General, AIU)<br>3/454, Vishwas Khand<br>Lucknow – 220 010   | ... | Member           |
| 3. Prof. Ranbir Singh<br>Director<br>National Academy of Legal Studies and<br>Research Universty<br>3-4=761, Barkatpura<br>Hyderabad – 500 027 | ... | Member           |
| 4. Prof. Mool Chand<br>68, Basant Enclave<br>Delhi –110 057  | ... | Member           |
| 5. Dr. Tilak R. Kem<br>Additional Secretary, UGC<br>New Delhi  | ... | Member Secretary |

Professor Mool Chand could not join the Committee.

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The Committee visited the Institute on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2002, inspected the infrastructural facilities, perused the records and documents and held a series of meetings with the various academic and administrative staff of the Institute. This includes meetings with the Director, Heads of the Departments and non-teaching staff. The Committee had the benefit of the discussions with the Members of the Governing Council of the Institute viz. (1) Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.J. Rao, Chairman, Law Commission of India and former Judge, Supreme Court of India, (2) Dr. S.P. Narang, Secretary, ICSI, Member, (3) Mr. Rakesh Munjal, Sr. Advocate, Member, and (4) Shri P.P. Rao, former Law Secretary, Government of India.

The deliberations started with a detailed presentation made by the Institute. Various questions and inquiries addressed to, by the Members, from faculty were clarified. The Committee then went around the different departments to visit the various classrooms and academic and non-academic buildings to satisfy itself regarding the infrastructural facilities and future expansion possibilities of the Institute.

The Committee also had discussions and interactions with some of the students in the Institute and came across positive attitude of the students as well as their satisfaction about the course curricula, infrastructure availability and the interest shown by the faculty.

### **Background of the Institute**

The Indian Law Institute was founded in 27<sup>th</sup> December, 1956 with the objective of promoting and conducting legal research. The Institute is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860). Till 1962, the

Institute was housed in the Supreme Court Building. It later constructed its own building opposite the Supreme Court itself at Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi.

The President of the Governing Council of the Institute is Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.N. Kirpal, Chief Justice of India. Mr. K. Jana Krishnamurthi, Hon'ble Union Minister for Law & Justice, Mr. Soli J. Sorabjee, Attorney General of India and Mr. R.K. Anand, MP are the Vice-President. The Institute has very eminent members on the Governing Council viz. (1) Mr. Harish N. Salve, Solicitor General of India, (2) Mr. L.K. Adwani, Hon'ble Vice-Prime Minister of India, (3) Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Hon'ble Union Minister for Human Resource Development, (4) Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.J. Rao, Chairman, Law Commission of India, (5) Dr. Arun Nigavekar, Chairman, UGC, (6) Prof. Ranbir Singh, Director, NALSAR, (7) Mr. R.N. Mirdha, President, Indian Society of International Law.

### **Location & Campus**

The Institute at present is situated in Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi - 110 001.

The Campus of the Institute is built on one and a half acre land. The building is a magnificent structure and has four floors. On the ground floor, the Institute has a large library hall, stack rooms and books, conference halls, seminar and other rooms and offices of the research and administrative staff.

### **Academic Programmes**

The Institute has been actively engaged in imparting legal education at the post-graduate diploma courses, which was first commenced in 1964. It is running the following nine diploma courses :

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- (1) Administrative Law
- (2) Corporate Laws and Management
- (3) Labour Law
- (4) Tax Law
- (5) Intellectual Property Rights Law
- (6) International Trade Law including ADRs
- (7) Environment Law
- (8) Human Rights Law
- (9) Cyber Law and other related Laws

The last five diploma courses were started in 1999. For the future, the Institute has planned to start few more diploma courses viz. Law & Medicine, Competition Law etc.

**Students enrolled and qualified in various diploma courses (from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002)**

S. No.	Diploma Courses	Enrolled 1999-2000	Qualified 1999-2000	Session Enrolled 2000-01	Qualified 2000-2001	Enrolled 2001-02	Qualified 2001-2002
1.	Administrative Law	17	6	--	2	10	Result is due to be declared.
2.	Corporate Law	99	41	69	38	72	
3.	Human Rights Law	--	--	44	9	59	
4.	International Trade Law	35	14	26	13	48	
5.	Intellectual Property Rights Law	65	21	52	28	68	
6.	Environment Law	17	12	14	6	15	
7.	Cyber Law	--	--	66	49	68	
8.	Labour Law	66	41	51	31	48	
9.	Tax Law	85	44	44	17	47	

### **Publications & Periodicals**

The Institute publishes four periodicals viz. (1) Journal of Indian Law Institute (Quarterly), (2) Annual Survey of Indian Law (Yearly), (3) Index to the Indian Legal Periodicals (1/2 yearly) and (4) Indian Law Institute Newsletter (Quarterly).

The Journal has acquired the status of a leading law journal in the developing world. The scholars from all over the World are regularly contributing in the Journal.

### **Faculty**

The current sanctioned faculty strength is 26 (1 Director, 6 Research Professors, 7 Associate Research Professors and 12 Assistant Research Professors). Against this, the staff in position as on date is, 1 Director, 1 Research Professor, 3 Associate Research Professors and 5 Assistant Research Professors.

In view of fast growing research activities at the Institute, the Institute is proposed to make further appointments in the research faculty.

The pay scales of the faculty of the Institute are as notified by the UGC.

### **Library**

The Library of the Institute is currently housed in the ground floor building and has good collection of text books, reference books, journals, periodicals, bound volumes of journals and Audio-Video materials. It contains over 65000 volumes. It receives over 270 current legal periodicals including serial publications.

The Library remains open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on all working days and from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

## OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee noted the important and pioneering role of the Indian Law Institute for nearly half a century in the field of legal studies and research. The Committee feels that strengthening the Indian Law Institute by expanding its work to cover new areas of degree programmes complementing its current research work and diploma programmes will certainly strengthen the Institute and legal education generally in our country.

Primarily due to inadequacy of resources, the Institute is currently facing the significant challenge of rebuilding its senior faculty capacity (currently 15 vacancies out of 26 sanctioned positions). Strong faculty capacity is especially important if the Institute is to embark upon the proposed expansion into new areas of research and teaching of degree programmes. It was noted that, apart from the Director who is a senior and very experienced Professor of Law, there are no other senior faculty members of the same stature. The Institute has, therefore, to rely largely on guest faculty. While the Institute's practice of involving guest faculty should be encouraged and continued, this cannot be, in the long term a substitute for strong in-house capacity. In saying this, the Committee also recognized the great difficulty legal educational institutions are facing today in finding competent and expert senior faculty.

**The Committee feels that urgent steps need to be taken to fill up existing faculty vacancies if the Institute is to be able to implement the proposed teaching and research programmes.**

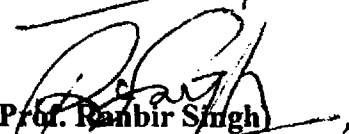
The Committee endorses the Institute's proposal that its proposed teaching programmes would concentrate on Masters and Doctoral degree programme. A strong

and effective LL.M. programme at the Institute will be an important source of future faculty for the country as a whole. Equally, providing existing law teachers opportunities for further training as well as for undertaking strong doctoral programmes in the Institute will also contribute to strengthening legal education in general.

The Committee noted that the UGC guidelines for deemed university status requires that the Institution should formulate a MoA and Rules based on the model prescribed by the UGC. This needs to be complied with. The model rules provide for the institution to have full academic autonomy with a Board of Management headed by the Vice-Chancellor/Director and with plurality of representation from academia. The model Rules also require that an Academic Council be established as "the principal academic body of the Institute to exercise general supervision over the Institute and to give direction regarding methods of instructions, evaluation or research or improvements in academic standards". The current governance structure of the Institute will need to be suitably modified to conform to the requirement in the UGC guidelines.

The Committee unanimously recommends that the UGC may confer the Deemed-to-be-University status on the Indian Law Institute upon its meeting the observations stated above.

  
(Prof. Mohan Gopal)

  
(Prof. Ranbir Singh)

26<sup>th</sup> July, 2002  
New Delhi

  
(Dr. S.K. Agarwala)

  
(Dr. Titak R. Kem)