

Publication: Mumbai Mirror ;Date: Jun 17, 2009;Section: City;Page: 8



## INHOSPITABLE

Hostel rooms without beds, an auditorium being renovated for 10 yrs, no library or lockers and a shifting canteen. Alpita Masurkar takes a tour of our state's 2nd best medical institute – the Lokmanya Tilak college

It ranks after KEM's GS college as the state's second-best medical college, but Lokmanya Tilak (LT) medical college at Sion seems to be devoid of some basic facilities. Its roosters boast of students who have secured the first 200 ranks in MHTCET, yet the hostel rooms do not have beds, forcing post-graduate students sleep on the floor; the library has been undergoing renovation for the past two years, while the auditorium has been closed for nearly 10 years.

"You have to enter the hostel through a toilet," says one student, "The 200-sq ft rooms, meant to accommodate four students, have no beds. Student who own cars resort to sleeping in them at times. We have brought this to the authority's notice many times, but to no avail."

As for the library: "We were told that they were fitting air-conditioners – that was two years ago," adds the student. "The revamp is not being monitored and has been going on for years. We lack basic facilities such as lockers, decent accommodation, a canteen, spacious reading rooms, etc. Other government medical colleges, such as the one at BYL Nair hospital, have been beautifully upgraded. We are still waiting for change," said the student. Dean Dr Sandhya Kamat said that the library and canteen will reopen in a couple of months, while the auditorium will take longer. "There are also plans of renovating the boys common room on the lines of the ladies' room and the hostel," she said.



**HOSTEL ROOMS** The 200 sq ft rooms are in stark contrast to the reputation of the college. There are no beds to sleep on, and students lay the thin mattresses on the floors



**LIBRARIES** The main library shut two years ago, so the undergraduate and post-graduate students share the small library meant for the latter. "The library is so cramped that if you get up to look for a book or use the toilet, your chair is gone," says one student



**BOYS COMMON ROOM-CUM-CANTEEN** Nick-named Rats' room, the Boys Common Room (BCR) served as the make-shift canteen till two months ago while the main canteen underwent renovation. A tap and bathroom was set up and the canteen workers did everything from bathing to washing utensils here. They moved when the main canteen was supposedly ready, but were forced to set up another make-shift facility in the Games Room since it wasn't



**LOCKERS** The lockers in BCR are old and rusty. "There is no security and we worry that if we keep any valuables here, they will get stolen," says a student



**AUDITORIUM** Work on the auditorium began eight to 10 years ago, but is nowhere near completion. Students expect that this place, which will have a capacity to hold a thousand students, will channelise exchange of information through seminars and conferences. The present conference hall can accommodate only 200 people