HRD Ministry may accept resignation of IIT Delhi Director Shevgaonkar


Recently, Anil Kakodkar made media headlines for resigning from his post of Chairman of the IIT Bombay Board of Governors due to his differences with the HRD Ministry over selection of IIT Directors. Even before Kakodkar resigned, IIT Delhi Director R K Shevgaonkar had resigned from his post on December 22, 2014 citing personal reasons. It is said that Shevgaonkar was under pressure by the HRD Ministry to release salary dues of a former IITD faculty member Subramaniam Swami who is now a BJP leader.

The government officials present other issue as the probable reason for the resignation. According to them, the government is investigating irregularities by the IITD Director while establishing the Mauritius campus and hence, he was feeling ‘cornered’.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has neither accepted nor rejected his resignation till now – even after more than three months. On March 13, IITD Board of Governors had written to the Ministry with the request that the last three months are treated as the required ‘notice period of 3 months’ and to relieve Dr Shevgaonkar by March 21. Now, the media sources say that Shevgaonkar’s resignation may finally be accepted.

The Higher Education Secretary S N Mohanty has moved the file to HRD Minister Smriti Irani which recommends acceptance of the resignation. However, Shevgaonkar will be requested to stay on the post till a new Director is appointed. If the letter gets accepted, the Ministry would constitute a search-cum-selection committee to replace Prof. R K Shevgaonkar, who might choose to go back to IIT Bombay once again.
पेड़ के नीचे पढ़ने को मजबूर आईआईटी छात्र

आईआईटी-जोधपुर के छात्रों ने निदेशक पर लगाए गंभीर आरोप

जोधपुर @ पत्रिका. आईआईटी-जोधपुर में निदेशक प्रो. सीबीआर मूर्ति के खिलाफ छात्र-छात्राओं ने पहली बार खुलेआम शृंखला को हल्का बोल दिया। आईआईटी कैम्पस में छात्र-छात्राओं ने पत्रकारों से बातचीत में बताया कि गत डेंडर वर्ष में आईआईटी का शैक्षणिक भावनात्मक अंतर्गत हो गया है। इस दौरान कई सेंटर्स और क्षेत्र बंद कर दिए, जिसमें छात्र पेड़ के नीचे और कैंडीन में पढ़ने का मजबूर है।

निदेशक पर लगाए आरोप

→ सिस्टम साइंस व बॉयलेजिकल सिस्टम साइंस के सेंटर बंद कर दिए। पहले इनकी सीटे घटाई और अब आधारी सत्र से इन ब्रांचों में एडमिशन नहीं होगी।
→ निम्नलिखित पैकेटली को इलाज प्रस्तुत किया कि वे इस्तीफा देकर चल जाए। प्रबंधन-कांड में चल रही पैकेटली को रिखू कमेटी के नाम पर नियोजित कर दिया। जिससे कई पैकेटमेंट करने वाले विद्यार्थियों का रिसर्च अध्ययन में लटक गया।
→ इन्जीनियर इलेक्ट्रिकल सेंटर (आईआईटी) को बंद कर दिया।
→ प्रबंधन बनाने आए छात्रों के पांडे रोक किए। वे सेंटर छोड़कर चल गए।
→ आईआईटी के इसकी गर्व पर अधिशिष ट्यूके संस्थान प्राधिकृत बीस्टेक प्रोग्राम के तहत आज तक कोई काम नहीं हुआ है।
→ पैकेटली के अपनी बात जबरदस्त मजबूत करने के लिए उबाल दाले है।

डॉ. गणेश अस्पताल में भरती

इस बीच आईआईटी से बर्खास्त किए गए असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर डॉ. गणेश बागलार अबसाद में चले गए हैं। इस मानसिक प्रताड़ना के बाद डॉ. बागलार को तत्काल खराब हो गई उनके शिक्षक को अस्पताल में भरती होने पड़ा। प्रबंधन कांड में चल रहे डॉ. बागलार की सेवाएं निदेशक ने वह कहकर समाप्त कर दी थी कि रिखू कमेटी ने उनके काम को संस्थापक नहीं माना। हालांकि निदेशक प्रो मूर्ति अब तक यह स्पष्ट नहीं कर पाए कि क्या बागलार को कौन सा काम अस्पताल कर पाया गया।
Protests against IIT 'dictator'

Our Correspondent
http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150404/jsp/nation/story_12591.jsp#.VR-6dyUdrs

Jaipur, April 3: Students at IIT Jodhpur are boycotting classes to demand the resignation of the director, C.V.R. Murthy, whom they accuse of sacking faculty to suit his whims.

Around 700 undergraduate and 150 post-graduate students boycotted classes on Wednesday and have been protesting on the campus against Murthy, describing him as a "dictator" who has terminated the services of 17 teachers in one-and-a-half years.

The termination of Ganesh Bagler, an assistant professor in the centre for biologically inspired science system, is the immediate trigger.

Bagler was on probation and was given an extension last year. But a decision has been taken to terminate his services from April 9, 2015.

"He has appealed and the appeal is pending before the review committee," Amardeep Sharma, the public relations officer of IIT Jodhpur, said.

A petition sent by the students to the HRD ministry and the institute's board of governors said: "We feel that our institute is in very bad condition and we are facing various serious issues all due to one person - the director. Over the past one-and-a-half years, there have been many instances of dictatorship, autocracy, favouritism due to which many faculty and staff have been terminated senselessly."

PTI quoted Murthy as saying the terminations were made following due procedure. "We take the faculty on probation and get their performance reviewed by a committee, which we have no control over, on completion of one year and if the performance is not found satisfactory, either the faculty is given one more chance or services are terminated," he said. "We cannot compromise on the quality of faculty."

Murthy, who took charge in September 2013, did not answer calls from this newspaper.

Spokesperson Sharma said: "When Murthy took over, the strength was 56. Now it is 45. Seven more appointments have been made and they are likely to join in July 2015," he said. Of the 11 who have left, seven chose to quit because they got better offers, he said.

IIT Jodhpur should have a faculty strength of 90.

IIT Jodhpur students urge Prez, HRD Minitsry to sack Director


Agitating students of the IIT Jodhpur have appealed to President Pranab Mukherjee and the HRD Ministry to remove Director CVR Murti for his "dictatorial attitude".

The students have been agitating against a recently passed Code of Conduct for the students, which prevents them from speaking to media about the institute and "on controversial topics".

"We have been left with no other option than to come out of the institute's walls. We are not being heard either by the government or the institute's administration," an agitating student said.

The students have sent a signed petition the HRD Ministry and the Board of Governors, demanding the resignation of Murti, annulling of the recent termination of faculty member Ganesh Bagler and a transparent probe into the terminations of faculty of the institute.

"The atmosphere has been non-academic since Murti took charge in September 2013 and all the progress or development has been held up," the students alleged in the petition.
"At a time when IIT Jodhpur is facing an alarming faculty crunch, Murti has been consistently and ruthlessly terminating the faculties in the name of unsatisfactory review," they said.

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**LEAVING IN A HURRY**

Yet another joint secretary leaves the human resource development ministry headed by Smriti Irani, making it the fifth senior bureaucrat to leave in 11 months of Modi government rule

‘Something Wrong’: Does HRD Ministry Have an HR Issue?

‘Difficult Place to Work’

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<th>OFFICER</th>
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<td>Jagmohan Singh Raju</td>
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<td>Tamil Nadu government</td>
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<td>Veena Ish, IAS, 1985</td>
<td>Jt Secy</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh government</td>
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<td>Praveen Prakash, IAS</td>
<td>Jt Secy</td>
<td>Union Urban Development Ministry</td>
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<td>Nagesh Singh, IES 1982</td>
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<td>Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion</td>
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<td>Aamarjeet Singh, IAS, 1983</td>
<td>Add Secy</td>
<td>Still at HRD Min, but divested of important charge</td>
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<td>Radha S Chauhan, IAS, 1988 UP cadre</td>
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There are 12 joint secretary level posts in the ministry.

Transferred officers, credited Iran for being "bright" and "sharp", but felt that her "impatience" could be rubbing bureaucrats the wrong way.
Smriti Irani led HRD Ministry to push for passage of 2 crucial education bills


The HRD Ministry would seek to push through during the second half of the Budget Session two crucial bills to help students maintain their certificates in digital format and empower prestigious IIMs to award degrees in place of diplomas.

In a fresh bid, the Smriti Irani-led Ministry would introduce the National Academic Depository Bill, 2011, which had lapsed with the last Lok Sabha.

Its passage would be a boon for students, cutting their woes to run around in case of loss of certificates or attestation, said officials in the Ministry.

The certificates will be readily available on a proposed depository that can be directly accessed by them, educational institutes as also by the government agencies for the purpose of recruitment.

The government shall appoint a depository as the National Academic Depository to establish and maintain the national database.

The Indian Institute of Management Bill, 2015 empowering the 13 premier B-Schools to award degrees in place of diplomas to its students at the end of the two-year MBA programme would also be taken up for passage, the officials said.

The legislation also seeks to set up a coordinating body of IIMs, much on the lines of the IIT Council in decision making process, but allowing enough flexibilities to the IIMs to chart their own course.

Significantly, the bill help the IIMs gain global recognition and attract more foreign students.

The Ministry is placing high hopes on the passage of these crucial legislations backed by confidence that three legislations on education was passed during the first year of the Narendra Modi Government as opposed to a very few of them passed during the previous UPA regime.

The government also intends to introduce a bill to bring about an effective regulation in education offered through distance mode, the officials said.

The Distance Education Council of India Bill has been drafted in keeping with the recommendations of the Madhava Menon Committee which had envisaged establishment, through an act of Parliament, of a regulatory authority equipped with necessary powers and resources to determine and regulate the standards of higher education including technical education through open/distance learning.
IIT Kanpur records 100 per cent campus job placement

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur has witnessed a record campus job placements. Eighty five per cent of 1,090 students have bagged jobs through campus placement during the four-month recruitment process from Dec 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

Placement in-charge professor Deepu Philip said that some 900 students got jobs during the four-month long drive. Most of the students were hired by top Multinational companies.

The remaining 10% of the students will prepare for the civil services exams. Also about 100 students have opted for the public sector companies.

According to Times of India, over 100 students received job offers in the first three days of the drive. Placement officers have termed this achievement as "exceptional hiring".

They also said that some 10 students of computer science, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering received salary packages of more than rupees one crore.

Students pursuing BTech and MTech in computer science, mechanical engineering, civil engineering and electrical engineering were in high demand among the companies. These students were hired by foreign multinational companies with high salary package. Some of the companies included IBM, Accenture, Larsen and Turbo and Microsoft.

IITians fall back on Kakodkar report

HUBBALLI: Even as various districts of Karnataka are trying to hard-sell their case to house the IIT, a team in Hubballi-Dharwad is busy collating data to justify why the prestigious institution deserves to be set up in their midst.

A team of enthusiasts, including alumni of IITs, techies, politicians, civil engineers, bureaucrats and other professionals are helping elected representatives and officials with data to bolster the argument in favour of Dharwad.

The team meticulously scanned a report, 'Taking IITs to Excellence and Greater Relevance', that was submitted by a committee headed by veteran nuclear scientist and mechanical engineer Anil Kakodkar in April 2011. The Kakodkar committee's mandate was to recommend autonomy measures to facilitate IITs to scale greater heights.

Sunil Nalavade, a senior techie and social activist, said the team found the 278-page report online and has drawn the attention of elected representatives and officials to it. Team Dharwad, the group on messaging app Telegram, also has officials like district-in-charge secretary P Manivannan, deputy commissioner Rajendra Cholan, MP Pralhad Joshi, MLAs Arvind Bellad and Srinivas Mane.
"This is a campaign from our end to support officials and representatives to advocate for an IIT in favour of Dharwad," explained Nalavade.

Subhas Managuli, an alumnus of IIT-Madras, noted that many experts have stressed on the need to establish new IITs in non-capital with supportive ecosystems. "Dharwad checks all requirements stressed on in the Kakodkar committee report. No doubt, wherever the institution comes up, it'll communicate at the national level. But it'll also create a motivating atmosphere in the surrounding areas. Though Dharwad is a hub of educational institutions and industries, it's surrounded by relatively backward areas. If the IIT comes here, various local problems can also be addressed," said Subhas.

Businessman Hemal Desai pointed out that Dharwad is the only city in North Karnataka that has an airport maintained by the Airports Authority of India. Former mayor Shivu Hiremath said, "This initiative is certainly strengthening our pitch. We are considering all points and preparing a memorandum to submit to chief minister Siddaramaiah, who will visit the city on April 11."

Hiremath pointed out that Kota in Rajasthan was denied an IIT due to lack of air connectivity.
Higher education, higher meddling

No quick-fixes can help public universities if successive governments exercise power unbridled by reason

Shahid Amin and Shobhit Mahajan

In the last six years, the USPA minister avoided a plan to create 14 world-class universities ("University of innovation") "unencumbered by history or culture of the past," something that no world-class institutions would want. The underlying idea is to build islands of excellence by relying on "the highly skilled Indian diaspora." Now, the idea of creating a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's direction is mandatory for all research institutes in its employ to put in place a system of awarding excellence in science and technology. As with other "smart" policies, this unbalanced approach yields the common-sense perspective: Global Initiative of Academic Network. Under this programme, a network of scientists will teach Indian institutions from August onwards to 2018. This is clearly an important step in the international academic movement, following the best practices of the US and the UK, and the Global Initiative of Academic Network. The network comprises examples from the US, Europe, and the UK to set up off-site education centres in India.

The normal flow of international and inter-university academic talent is, however, for such renowned institutions to hold regular joint appointments for a semester each in two universities. Ronald Dworkin, the late professor of jurisprudence at Harvard University (US), worked under this programme for a semester in Italy and for a year in India during 2009.

The present government is keen on pressing the high visibility insta-cook button, while stirring the slow bubbling grant of higher education with the ladies of ill-thought, top-heavy recipes. It is not in its interest to take action against the students who were apprehended for participating in the protests. The students were given an opportunity to speak their mind, and the government has not acted on their suggestion. There is no guarantee that the students will be taken into account in the future.

The present government is equally keen on pressing the high visibility insta-cook button, while stirring the slow bubbling grant of higher education with the ladies of ill-thought, top-heavy recipes.

Morality is a function of social and political conditions, and it cannot be imposed by fiat. The government should focus on creating a culture of meritocracy, rather than relying on top-heavy recipes.

Times of India ND 04/04/2015 P-15

Babies have an innate understanding of physics

Babies have an innate understanding of the world. They are not just passive observers, but actively engaged in understanding the world around them. This innate understanding helps them to learn and develop new skills.

Dr. Steve Connor, a psychologist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, has been studying how babies learn about the world. His research has shown that babies as young as six months old can understand basic principles of physics. For example, babies can learn to recognize patterns and predict outcomes of events. They are able to use this understanding to communicate their needs and desires to caregivers.

Dr. Connor has conducted experiments where babies are shown videos of objects falling from different heights. The babies are then observed to see if they can predict which objects will fall faster or slower based on their height. The results show that babies as young as six months old can make accurate predictions about the objects' behavior.

This innate understanding of physics is not just limited to babies. Researchers have found that infants less than a year old are already more interested in objects that seem impossible to understand. They will often reach for a ball or toy and try to grasp it, even if they cannot hold it in their hand.

These findings suggest that innate understanding is a fundamental aspect of human development. It may be that this understanding is built into our brains from the very beginning, allowing us to make sense of the world around us. As babies learn and develop, their understanding of physics will continue to grow and expand, allowing them to make sense of even more complex phenomena.
Mega research on mobile tower radiation gets nod

CENTRE OK TO 16 INSTITUTES

ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS REGULATIONS

- The Electromagnetic Fields limit permissible in India is 450 milliwatts per square metre
- DoT says every cellular operator must certify that all public areas around a tower

PUNISHMENT FOR VIOLATION

- DoT imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh per over-radiating Base Transceiver Station (BTS) in 2013
- It was ₹5 lakh before

HOW TO COMPLAIN

- Contact the local TERM cell office of DoT
- Call helpline 9969555000
- Email Emr.termmcellmumbai@gmail.com

Somit.Sen@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Sixteen leading scientific institutions across India have been allowed to conduct research on the effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF), particularly radiating from cell phone towers, on human health.

The permission by the Union government’s Department of Science and Technology will not affect research underway by Mumbai’s Tata Memorial Centre and the Indian Council of Medical Research.

“It is the first time the Indian government is going for a massive evaluation of the health aspects of mobile radiation,” said sources. The scientific institutions have been identified for support through a peer review process, primarily based on the competence of the individual researcher(s), their research track record, availability of infrastructure, etc.

The focus will be on the impact of EMF-related issues on the human body, including dosimetry, brain-related effects, biochemical studies, etc.

Sciences in Andhra Pradesh. World Health Organisation, which monitors such studies and releases periodic updates, had said in its October 2014 advisory: “A large number of studies have been performed over the last two decades to assess whether mobile phones pose a potential health risk. To date, no adverse health effects have been established as being caused by mobile phone use.”

However, anti-radiation activists fear clusters of cell tower antennae close to residential buildings pose a major threat to health.
IIM Bill: Other B-schools see red

Nearly 50 B-schools in the country offer PGDM programmes well accepted by the student community. These B-schools say with IIMs being empowered to award MBA degree instead of Diploma in Management through the IIM Bill, it may jeopardize the creditability of their PGDM programmes. Thus they would want to have a better legal status for their programmes too.

"We are planning to approach the MHRD and seek recommendation for our programmes. If IIMs begin degree granting, our programmes may suffer," said the director of a Noida-based management institution.

IIM directors said the idea behind an IIM bill was to turn the institutes into statutory bodies to offer masters' degrees and doctorates, instead of diplomas and fellowships. Currently, the IIMs cannot award degrees, as they have been set up as societies, under the Societies Registration Act. Degrees can only be awarded by universities and institutes such as IITs, set up by Parliament or legislatures, and those declared deemed-to-be-universities under the UGC Act. Currently, the 13 IIMs issue a certificate that their PGDM programme is equivalent to an MBA degree.

The IITs have an IIT Council, which is the governing body responsible for all of the IITs. The minister-in-charge of technical education is the council's chairman. Other members include three Members of Parliament, the chairmen and the directors of all the IITs, the chairman of the University Grants Commission, the director-general of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), the chairman and the director of IISc, the joint secretary in the HRD ministry, and three appointees each of the Union government and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

IIM Ahmedabad had opposed the idea of IIM Bill saying it would threaten its autonomy. "The IIM council draft Bill's high points are the degree-granting status, as well as autonomy to IIMs," said an IIM-director who was part of the committee drafting the Bill.

Four years ago, the Union ministry of human resource development had granted greater autonomy to IIMs. These institutes, however, remain under the Right to Information Act, and have to get their accounts audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General. The changes were based on the recommendations of three committees (on governance, faculty and funding), constituted by then HRD minister Kapil Sibal.

The PGDM institutes would be meeting the MHRD minister this month seeking an equivalent recognition for their diplomas as that of the IIMs.