Anil Sahasrabudhe is new AICTE chairman

KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai, 23 June

Anil Dattatraya Sahasrabudhe, director of the College of Engineering in Pune, is the new chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

Sahasrabudhe takes over from Shankar S Mantha, who demitted office early this year. Mantha had taken over in January 2012. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) had recently invited application from renowned persons in the field of technical education for the post of AICTE chairman for a term of three years.

A mechanical engineer, Sahasrabudhe has 23 years of teaching experience. He is also a member of the committee, headed by higher education secretary Satyanarayan Mohanty, formed by MHRD to determine land requirement for central higher educational institutions. Confirming his appointment, Sahasrabudhe said he would take charge next month.

In Maharashtra, one in three seats of engineering and technology courses are likely to go vacant this year, too.
‘Draft Bill ignores our proposals’

Anuradha Raman

NEW DELHI: Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) Director Ashish Nanda expressed surprise at the version of the draft Institutes of Management Bill, 2015, that has been put online for wider consultations.

Speaking to The Hindu, Mr. Nanda said: “We had exhaustive consultations with the Government last October and we felt we had mutually agreed upon several issues. The next thing we hear is this draft, which runs counter to whatever we proposed.”

He also worried that the proposed Bill uses the word regulate once too often. “To my mind, this will impact the strategic and operational activities of the IIMs ranging from the fee structure to the maintenance of the buildings,” he said.

By this Mr. Nanda implied that the HRD Ministry would become the decision-maker with the academic board of the IIMs being reduced to a recommendatory body.

“I feel the Academic Faculty of IIMs should have the freedom to choose the academic board. Also, how to compensate the faculty should be left to the IIMs and not based on Government Rules,” Mr. Nanda said.

He clarified that the government must hold institutions accountable, but it should allow them complete operational autonomy. It is also learnt that all the IIMs are on board with the IIMA on the issue of erosion of autonomy.
IIMs up in arms against draft bill curtailing autonomy

Brajesh Kumar
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NEW DELHI: Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have rallied together against the draft IIM bill, which proposes to curtail the academic and financial autonomy of the business schools including its freedom to decide on fee structure, and emoluments of the faculty.

A number of IIMs — Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Bangalore — have registered their concerns on the bill with the human resource development ministry asking it to re-draft it in consultations with the IIMs.

The board of governors (BoG) of IIM-Lucknow met on Monday and shot off a letter to the ministry asking to make changes in the draft bill.

“While the main body of the bill allows autonomy, the board strongly feels that section 35 and section 36 of the bill interferes with the basis spirit of autonomy and the functioning of the IIMs. Therefore, these sections should be completely removed from the bill,” JJ Irani, IIM-Lucknow BoG chairman, wrote to the ministry on Tuesday.

IIM-Bangalore chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw told HT all IIMs are very concerned over the provisions of the draft bill.

“The bill in its current format compromises on the autonomy of the IIMs. We have requested the ministry to not only extend the time for public consultations by a month but also re-draft the bill,” she said.

While IIM-Lucknow and IIM-Bangalore have already written to the ministry, IIM-Ahmedabad will submit its concerns on Wednesday.

“The draft bill has several provisions which centralise powers; there is a risk that these provisions will curtail the drive for excellence and innovations because these flourish when institutions are autonomous,” Ashish Nanda, director of IIM-Ahmedabad, said.

The draft bill proposes that the IIMs will need the approval of the HRD ministry before notifying any change in the fee structure, salary and remuneration paid to its employees, admission criteria, scholarship and fellowships to the students and even construction of new building blocks.
IIT कोचिंग देने वाले को करोड़ भी कम!
इतनी सैलारी पर भी कोटा में टीचर्स को रोक कर रखना मुश्किल होगा।

नवभारत टाइम्स ND 24/06/2015 P-12

नागपुर मेट्रो का आइआईटी-बी के साथ कसर
नागपुर मेट्रो ने आईआईटी आधारित उन्नत पहिराज्य प्रबंधन प्रणालियों पर पश्चिम ग्राहक करने के लिए आईआईटी मुंबई (आईआईटी-बी) के साथ कसर किया है। इसके तहत परियोजना के वास्तविक क्रियान्वयन से पूर्व ही उससे संबंधित समस्त परियोजना प्रबंधन प्रणालियों को बिल्डिंग इफारेशन सिस्टम का उपयोग करते हुए डिजिटल रूप में प्राप्त की जा सकेगी।

नेशनल दुनिया ND 24/06/2015 P-9
स्मृति ईरानी की शैक्षणिक योग्यता विवाद
पर में आज आ सकता है फैसला

नई दिल्ली, 23 जून (जनसत्र)।
केंद्रीय मानव संस्कृति संदर्भ में स्मृति ईरानी की ओर से चुनाव आयोग के समक्ष दाखिले हलफाने में अपनी शैक्षणिक योग्यता के बारे में कविता तौर पर गलत जनता के आंदोलन के खिलाफ शिकायत पर दिल्ली की एक अदालत बुधवार को फैसला दुनिया तक सकती है। मेडिकॉलिक नोवलिटी आर्काईव जैन ने एक जुलूस को इस मामले में प्रदान कर दिया जो पांडे तौर पर जता रहे हैं कि स्मृति ने लोकसभा और राज्य सभा के अधिराजकों के लिए नामांकन पर दाखिल करते साथ चुनाव आयोग के समक्ष तीन हलफाने पेश किया था। हालांकि उन्होंने अपनी शैक्षणिक योग्यता के बारे में अलग-अलग व्यवहार किया है।

खान की ओर से पेश किए हुए विरोध के तहत, न्यायिक अदालत का नतीजा बताया कि अप्रैल 2004 में लोकसभा चुनाव के लिए अपने हलफाने में कहा था कि उन्होंने 1996 में दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के राष्ट्रीय आफ वर्धिकंप्लेक्स में लोकसभा चुनाव के लिए दाखिला दिया। जबकि 11 जूलाई 2011 को गुजरात से राजस्थान चुनाव नंबर के लिए दाखिला दिया। अपने हलफाने में कहा था कि उन्होंने 2011 के नतीजे के लिए दाखिला दिया। अतः न्यायाधीश का प्रतिक्रिया यह है कि 16 अप्रैल 2014 को उन्हें दिल्ली की अमेजी सीट से लोकसभा चुनाव के लिए नामांकन के संबंध में अपने हलफाने का उल्लेख किया गया था।

अपने हलफाने में अपने नामांकन के दाखिले को बदलने, आईसीटी शिक्षा प्रान्ती में एकीकरण, शिक्षा की युवा और नवीकरण नियमादि, ज्ञान और विकास्कर्ता के लिए नामांकन के संबंध में अपने हलफाने के बारे में अलग-अलग व्यवहार किया है।

स्मृति ईरानी को अदालत में भाग लेने के लिए स्वागत है।
आईआईटी कानपुर के छात्र ने नस काट कर आत्महत्या की कोशिश की

वेश्य न्यूज

कानपुर। आईआईटी कानपुर के एक पीएचडी छात्र ने कर्मित रूप से पारिवारिक समस्याओं से परे शान होकर गा नस काटकर आत्महत्या का प्रयास किया। उसे तुरंत अस्पताल पहुंचाया गया जहां उसकी हालत अब ठीक बताई जा रही है।

आईआईटी के इंजिनियरिंग एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन प्रो एन एन खिशीर ने बताया कि अरुण कुमार शर्मा (25 वर्ष) मैकेनिकल इंजिनियरिंग ने पीएचडी कर रहा है। वह वर्ष 2013 बैच का छात्र है तथा कोटा रजस्थान की रहने वाला है। तथा संस्थान के हास्तलाभ आठ में रहता है। कल शाम उसने अपने कमरे में हाथ की नस काट ली। जब उसके साथियों को वह पता चला तो वह अरुण की तुरंत आईआईटी की डिस्पेंसरी में ले गए। हालत बिगड़ने पर दर्शन उसे बड़े निजी अस्पताल में भर्ता कराया गया। अब उसकी हालत खतरे से बाहर है।

गैरस्तान है कि आईआईटी प्रशासन ने इस घटना की जानकारी संभवतः पुलिस स्टेशन कल्याणपुर को नहीं दी। इस मामले में जब आईआईटी के डायरेक्टर प्रो इन्द्रनील मन्ना ने बात करने की कोशिश की गई तो मालूम हुआ कि वह डिल्ली में हैं। उनके फोन पर भी संपर्क नहीं ही पाया। रेजिस्टर आर के संचालन से बात की गई तो उन्होंने कहा कि वह छुट्टी पर शाहर से बाहर हैं इस लिए उन्हें कोई जानकारी नहीं है। इंजिनियरिंग एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन प्रो किशोर ने काफी पूछते पर घटना की जानकारी दी और बताया कि छात्र अरुण को आईआईटी से कोई परेशानी नहीं है। वह पारिवारिक समस्या की बजह से मानसिक दबाव में था इस लिए उसने नस काटी पर के अब वह खतरे से बाहर है।
NASA spacecraft finds Mars behaving like a rock star

PTI WASHINGTON

If planets had personalities, Mars would be a rock star, according to preliminary results from NASA’s MAVEN spacecraft.

Mars sports a “Mohawk” of escaping atmospheric particles at its poles, “wears” a layer of metal particles high in its atmosphere, and lights up with aurora after being smacked by solar storms, researchers said.

The Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) spacecraft was launched on November 18, 2013, to discover how the Red Planet lost much of its atmosphere, transforming its climate from one that could have supported life billions of years ago into its present cold and barren state.

Atoms in the Martian upper atmosphere become electrically charged ions after being energised by solar and space radiation, researchers said. Because they are electrically charged, these ions feel the magnetic and electric forces of the solar wind, a thin stream of electrically conducting gas blown from the surface of the Sun into space at about a million miles per hour.

The solar wind and more violent solar activity, such as solar flares and Coronal Mass Ejections, have the ability to strip away ions from Mars’ upper atmosphere through electric and magnetic forces generated by a variety of mechanisms, causing the atmosphere to become thinner over time.
NASA to use nuclear weapons to defend Earth from asteroids?

PTI ■ NEW YORK

NASA is looking into the possibility of destroying hazardous asteroids using nuclear weapons to defend our planet.

The US space agency has sealed a deal with the National Nuclear Security Administration in order to learn how to better deflect comets and asteroids that might endanger cities and the planet as a whole.

The agencies have surveyed the cosmic debris, designed rocket interceptors and run supercomputer simulations to see if a nuclear blast could nudge a large asteroid off course, the New York Times reported.

According to officials and experts, the new inter-agency agreement would deepen the levels of expert cooperation and governmental planning, ultimately increasing the chances of a successful deflection.

However, scientists who favour non-nuclear means of asteroid interception believe the atomic method would become suitable only if a large threat materialised too quickly for counter-measures that were less powerful.

Officials have declined to say whether any specific arms in the US nuclear arsenal have been set aside for countering extraterrestrial strikes, the report said.

Scientists estimate that millions of smaller rocks whirl on paths close to the planet, most of them untracked, and warrant much closer scrutiny lest they batter cities and cripple regions.
Over 800 ‘ultra dark’ galaxies discovered

Surpasses last year’s findings of 47 mysterious galaxy clusters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, June 23

Astronomers have discovered 854 previously hidden ‘ultra dark’ galaxies, that may be filled with mysterious dark matter, in a region known as the Coma Cluster.

The discovery surpasses the last year’s discovery of 47 mysterious dark galaxies by more than 800 and suggests that galaxy clusters are the key environment for the evolution of such galaxies.

“The finding suggests that these galaxies appear very diffuse and are very likely enveloped by something very massive,” said Jin Koda, principal investigator of the study and Associate Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Stony Brook University in New York, US.

The ultra-dark galaxies are similar in size to the Milky Way, but have only 1/1,000 of stars that our galaxy does.

The stellar population within such fluffy extended galaxies is subject to rapid disruption due to a strong tidal force detected within the cluster.

Dark matter

“We believe that something invisible must be protecting the fragile star systems of these galaxies, something with a high mass,” said Koda.

“That something is very likely an excessive amount of dark matter,” Koda said.

The component of visible matter, such as stars, is calculated to contribute only one per cent or less to the total mass of each galaxy. The rest - dark matter - accounts for more than 99 per cent. The Subaru Telescope, located at the Mauna Kea Observatory on Hawaii, showed that these dark galaxies contain old stellar populations and shows a spatial distribution similar to those of other brighter galaxies in the Coma Cluster.

New observations

It suggests that there has been a long-lived population of galaxies within the cluster and the amount of visible matter they contain, less than one per cent, is extremely low compared to the average fraction within the universe.

These galaxies are dark because they have lost gas needed to create new stars during, or after, their largely unknown formation process billions of years ago.

From their preferential presence within the cluster, it’s likely that the cluster environment played a key role in the loss of gas, which affects star formation within the galaxy.

Explanations

Several loss mechanisms are possible, including ram-pressure stripping by intra-cluster gas, gravitational interactions with other galaxies within the cluster, and gas outflows due to simultaneous supernova explosions triggered by the ram pressure or gravitational encounters.

The Coma Cluster is a large cluster of galaxies that contains over 1,000 identified galaxies. Along with the Leo Cluster, it is one of the two major clusters comprising the Coma Supercluster.

Dark matter is a hypothetical kind of matter that cannot be seen with telescopes but would account for most of the matter in the universe. The finding was published in the Astrophysical Journal Letters.
शिक्षा की तकनीकी बदलाव का समय

वह बदलाव की उम्मीद पर सवाल है। तकनीकी शिक्षा में विद्यार्थियों की समस्याओं के सामने एक बड़ी भूमिका निभाती है। एक रणनीति तकनीकी शिक्षा संस्थानों के विकास के क्षेत्र में काम करता है। इसे समझने के लिए यह संदेश बांटा गया है।

### शिक्षा की तकनीकी बदलाव का समय

इस धर्म में एक समूह बदला व नयी संस्था के अलग प्रधानाध्यापक, समस्या हास्यास्थ कश्मीरी शिक्षा के लिए एक नवीन प्रचार का क्रम कर रहा है।

### हिंदुस्तान न्यूज़ 24/06/2015

*P-10*
Infosys Co-founder Sets Up 3 Chairs at IISc With Rs 10 Crore Corpus

http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/Infosys-Co-founder-Sets-Up-3-Chairs-at-IISc-With-Rs-10-Crore-Corpus/2015/06/23/article2882108.ece

BENGALURU: Three distinguished chairs have been set up at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, with a corpus of Rs 10 crore each, by Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan and his wife Sudha Gopalakrishnan. Kris and Sudha will give the money under the banner of Pratiksha Trust, their charitable organisation.

The trust funds education, research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Kris Gopalakrishnan The purpose of these chair professorships is to bring distinguished researchers in the areas of computational neuroscience, machine learning, data science and neuromorphic engineering to the IISc campus for collaborative research interactions.

The first of these three chairs, ‘K Vaidyanathan Distinguished Chair’ named after Sudha’s father, was launched on Monday.

The first occupant of the chair is Prof Shihab Shamma, Institute of Systems Research, University of Maryland, College Park, USA.

The professor is an electrical engineer with expertise in the areas of neuromorphic computing, neural signal processing, representation of speech signals in the brain and neuromorphic engineering.

He has recently developed systems for speech and voice recognition and diagnostics in industrial manufacturing through signal processing algorithms inspired by neurophysiological and psycho-acoustical experiments.

Kris said, “I hope the launch of these distinguished chair positions will help push frontiers in these areas. It would be excellent if the collaborations lead to highly creative new computing architectures and algorithms inspired by the functioning of the brain. These three chairs along with three more at IIT Madras will create critical mass in the area of neuromorphic computing and machine learning in India.”

“I must profusely thank Kris Gopalakrishnan and Sudha Gopalakrishnan for their wonderful donation,” said Prof Anurag Kumar, director, IISc.
“I am sure these distinguished chair positions will add a new dimension to research collaboration in key strategic areas between IISc researchers and star contributors to these areas anywhere in the world,” he said.

IISER Pune researchers develop a novel battery to draw power from light

http://www.iiserpune.ac.in/news/iiser-pune-researchers-develop-a

As a new means to harness light energy, Dr. Musthafa’s research group at IISER Pune has developed a battery that can produce power from a light source. This development could potentially allow solar energy to be stored directly in a battery along with paving way to generate a sustainable photo battery.

Present day batteries are made out of metal ions and typically use lithium or sodium as the anode material. These batteries have numerous applications and are widely used; nevertheless, concerns remain on their safety and their long charging times often attributed to the nature of the anode material used. To address these issues, Musthafa and colleagues have employed a radical new approach and used titanium nitride as the photoanode (anode responsive to light).
Talking about the significance of this new design, Dr. Musthafa said “In the state-of-the-art solar cells, a battery is always required to store solar power and that makes the system heavy and bulky. The present system can harvest and store solar energy in the same device thus integrating solar cell and battery functionalities. This way it is more economical and practical.”

Importantly, the battery can charge on its own in less than a minute in the presence of sunlight or a common artificial light source and is safer than modern batteries.

This work, accepted for publication in the *Journal of Physical Chemistry C*, has been highlighted in numerous international websites and magazines. Authors on this publication include Ravikumar Thimmappa, Bhuneshwar Paswan, Pramod Gaikwad, Mruthyunjayachari C. Devendrachari, Harish M.N. Kotresh, Ramsundar R. Mohan, Joy P. Alias, and Musthafa O. Thotiyl.

This research has received financial support from the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Department of Science and Technology, India.
Why Harvard and Others Must be Allowed Into India


The Times Higher Education World University Rankings for 2014-15 are just out, and once again, not a single Indian University features in the top 200 Universities of the world. You can be sure that the gnashing of teeth and beating of breasts will be heard in opinion columns and Presidential speeches for months to come.

Our first instinct is, inevitably, to be defensive: the dice are stacked against us. In a recent presentation by the Times Higher Education Survey team about the weightage given to various aspects in their rankings, they mentioned that 30% weightage each was given to research and citations (which are of course, of published research). Since India's universities are largely teaching institutions where little research is done, and research is done in small institutions where there is very little teaching, India starts off with 60% of the weighting against us -- an obvious disadvantage in the global university rankings.

Some argue that we must also be wary of such rankings. In an editorial opinion in The Hindu last year, two Professors, one of whom taught at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), argued against these rankings, commenting on their lack of insight into intangible features of an institution. They described JNU's unique system of deviation points devised to bring to the campus students from deprived communities and backward regions. The University makes an effort to bring these students at par with others while integrating them with the larger university culture, and making them prominent contributors to making the university a vibrant celebration of intellectual prowess. The article pointedly argued: under what scale or ranking can this unique system be evaluated?

While these rankings remain a matter of debate, we clearly need to create, across India, an ecosystem of research and teaching around related disciplines. If we can bring several such institutions to life, we could also be in position to attract the best minds from abroad to work in our laboratories and research think tanks and produce solutions which could answer the foremost questions of the world. The UPA's ambitious education bills were unfortunately a victim of the dysfunctionality of our Parliament: those in the Opposition who prefer disruption to debate have ensured that they have not even been discussed, let alone passed. One can only hope that now they are in power, the former Opposition will here too, as in so many areas, adopt the policies they had obstructed when we tried to pursue them. They could start with our "Universities for Research and Innovation Bill" if they wish!

Ironically, India has one of the largest higher education systems in the world and ranks second in terms of student enrolment, exhibiting a healthy growth in the number of institutions and enrolment over the six and a half decades since Independence. India now has 621 universities and 33,500 colleges, but only a few world-class institutions, including notably the globally-renowned Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) whose graduates have flourished in America's Silicon Valley. But these are still islands in a sea of mediocrity.

The need for education reform has never been clearer. India's spending on higher education is only 1.22% of GDP, which is quite low compared to US spending at 3.1% or, closer to home, South Korea's at 2.4% of GDP. The figure should be higher. So too should India's share in global research output, which is far too low at 3.5% for a country with 17% of the world's brains.

It doesn't need to be this way. Our higher education is over-regulated and under-governed, with the University Grants Commission (UGC), Medical Council of India (MCI) and All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) issuing one-size-fits-all directives to prospective universities about the size of their buildings, the number of classrooms and teachers,
and what they are allowed to teach. Our regulatory institutions are stifling academic advancement rather than promoting it. And the MCI is a national scandal, stifling the creation of necessary capacity in medical education so that many talented young people are driven away while the nation clamours for medical attention.

But let's look beyond the rankings. They're a symptom of something far more important to diagnose: what ails our higher education. There are many maladies we could talk about, but the one we always gloss over is the basic one of capacity. How do we create enough quality institutions to meet the demand?

The challenge of educating and training our vast population under the age of 25 is too great for the Government to meet with its own resources. It is for this reason that the last two decades have also seen the increasing participation of the private sector at all levels of our education system. To their credit, private sector institutions have responded with enthusiasm, and (especially in the field of technical and medical education) have made a significant contribution. But even they aren't enough to educate and prepare our youth for the 21st century.

Given the size and potential of our population, foreign universities are now showing a keen interest in creating institutions in India. But whereas countries in the Middle East, and China, are going out of their way to woo foreign universities to set up campuses in their countries, India's regulatory framework turns away the many academic suitors who have come calling in recent years. Harvard and Yale would have both been willing to open branches in India to offer quality education to Indian students, but have been obliged to stay away.

Those Indians who choose to study abroad easily get opportunities to do so - currently nearly 100,000 of them in the United States alone. We made a huge fuss about Indian students getting beaten up in Australia. They would not need to go abroad - nor their parents to spend an estimated $3 billion a year in sending them afar -- if we opened up the higher educational space in our country to institutions of international repute, and authorized the setting up of double the number of universities as we currently have.

There is no question that the need exists, the demand is huge, and that our growing and youthful population could easily fill several hundred new campuses. Nor is there a shortage of able and willing institutions ready to come into India. But many of these would not brook the interference of our unimaginative and over-directive UGC, made worse by the political diktats of the BJP government, which has taken a hatchet to what little autonomy our universities enjoyed.

And there's another problem: foreign universities would offer stiff competition to the vested interests, well-represented in our Parliament, who have made the higher education sector their chasse gardee, a closed source of largely illicit revenue flowing from a supposedly non-profit vocation. This is one of the reasons we have university places available to barely 15 percent of those who clamour for them. Meanwhile, ordinary Indians would scrape and save to buy their children the best possible education, but it's simply not available.

Over the next 20 years, India faces the challenge and opportunity of growing at a rate of 8% and more, with a youthful, productive working-age population that vastly outnumbers those available in the rest of an ageing world. A well-educated, highly-skilled workforce will be an essential prerequisite for driving this momentum. We know that the price of failure is too high: the Naxalite movement shows what might become of frustrated, under-educated and unemployed young men. We have to get it right; India's future depends on it. But that means taking far-seeing and courageous decisions. Is that too much to expect from our system?

(Shashi Tharoor is a two-time MP from Thiruvananthapuram, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, the former Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Human Resource Development and the)}
former UN Under-Secretary-General. He has written 15 books, including, most recently, *India Shastra: Reflections On the Nation in Our Time.)*

8 months and 4 resignations

ICHR Member Secy Gopinath Ravindran last week became the fourth official of a major academic/research institution to resign; two others have blamed the HRD Ministry. Report

http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/8-months-and-4-resignations/
Written by Ruhi Tewari | New Delhi | Updated: June 24, 2015 6:11 am

Gopinath Ravindran, Member Secy, Indian Council of Historical Research, last week became the fourth official of a major academic/research institution to resign. Ravindran has blamed the ICHR chief and the ‘saffron’ agenda of Council members; two others have blamed the HRD Ministry.

One official has given no reason for his decision. Report:

Gopinath Ravindran

Gopinath Ravindran
Member Secretary, ICHR
Quit June 2015
He was appointed during the term of the UPA in 2013, and resigned amid a growing perception that he had differences with ICHR Chairperson Y Sudershan Rao, and concerns over the “direction” the Council was taking. Soon after being appointed to the top post at ICHR, Rao had blogged in praise of the ancient Indian caste system, triggering a controversy.
At the ICHR Foundation Day lecture in March, Ravindran was heckled by some members of the audience after he disagreed with views expressed by Indologist and Veda specialist David Frawley. Subsequently, Ravindran opposed the Council’s decision to disband the editorial board and advisory committee of its prestigious journal, Indian Historical Review, of which historians of the eminence of Romila Thapar, Irfan Habib, Satish Chandra, Richard Eaton and B R Tomlinson were members.

**STATUS:** Ravindran has blamed differences with Rao, and the alleged saffron leanings of the majority at ICHR. There is no word yet on his successor.

**MINISTRY’S VERSION:** The HRD Ministry has not reacted to the resignation yet.

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**Parvin Sinclair, Director, NCERT**

**Quit October 2014**

This was the first high-profile resignation on HRD Minister Smriti Irani’s watch. Sinclair, who had been appointed in 2012 for a five-year term, resigned after the government accused her of procedural lapses in the purchase of paper and pulp for textbooks and said an inquiry would be instituted. In December 2014, Sinclair told The Indian Express that “there was undue pressure on NCERT to not do what it is supposed to do”, that the Ministry “wanted to call the shots”, and that she was “not allowed to do what was important and due”.

**STATUS:** A search-cum-selection committee to pick a new director of NCERT has been set up. The post is yet to be filled.

**MINISTRY’S VERSION:** It has officially maintained that there was no pressure on Sinclair whatsoever.
Raghunath K Shevgaonkar

Raghunath K Shevgaonkar, Director, IIT-Delhi
Quit December 2014
Resigned with two years to go in his term, and stirred a controversy that lasted months. Some reports suggested he quit after being pressured to release salary dues of nearly Rs 70 lakh to former IIT-D faculty member and BJP leader Subramanian Swamy for the period 1972-91, but the HRD Ministry denied forwarding any such request. IIT-D has maintained Swamy has not provided information on his earnings during that period — a requirement for dues to be cleared.

According to officials, Shevgaonkar quit after being told to explain an MoU IIT-D signed with Mauritius Research Council to set up an International Institute of Technology Research Academy in Mauritius, allegedly in violation of the IIT Act. IIT-D has maintained it has done no wrong.

STATUS: Shevgaonkar was finally relieved on June 11. He has not given any reason for resigning. His successor is yet to be appointed.

MINISTRY’S VERSION: “MHRD has neither forwarded Mr Swamy’s request to IIT-Delhi nor given any direction to make payment of arrears… Views of DoPT and Finance Ministry have been sought.”
Anil Kakodkar

Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT-Bombay
Quit March 2015
Resigned after a “disagreement” with the Ministry over choosing an IIT director. He was a member of the selection panel and chairman of the Standing Committee of the IIT Council. Irani requested him to withdraw the resignation. His term ended in May.

The selection committee could not reach a consensus on the director for IIT-Ropar, and the process was cancelled. All 37 candidates in the original shortlist were then called for fresh interviews on March 22. Kakodkar later told Shekhar Gupta on NDTV’s Walk the Talk that the Ministry had adopted “too casual a process for such an important activity”, and that trying to pick three IIT directors from so many candidates in six or seven hours was like “running a lottery”.

STATUS: Kakodkar’s successor has not been appointed.

MINISTRY’S VERSION: At Express Adda in April, Irani said: “I had videographic evidence that Kakodkar had done group conversations with all the IIT nominees who were to be selected for the next round. Can you imagine that a Cabinet Minister… had to carry videographic evidence to prove that there was a wrong report printed?”

- See more at: http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/8-months-and-4-resignations/#sthash.919vGPtM.dpuf