

Newspaper Clips

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Economic Times ND 03/04/2015 P-2

ENDING CONFUSION Ministry will soon kickstart search for a new IIT Delhi director; "Not accepting his resignation isn't an option. We can only ask him to stay on till we find someone to replace him. He can then go back to IIT Bombay," says a ministry official

HRD Ministry to Accept Shevgaonkar's Resignation, Finally

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New Delhi: The Ministry of Human Resource Development is finally veering towards accepting IIT Delhi director RK Shevgaonkar's resignation more than three months after he quit the post, reportedly, over some differences with the minister.

ET has learnt that higher education secretary SN Mohanty moved a file to HRD Minister Smriti Irani last week recommending that the government accept Shevgaonkar's resignation, requesting him to stay on till a new director is appointed. The ministry would soon constitute a



Claims & Counterclaims

SHEVGAONKAR'S RESIGNATION had put IIT Delhi and HRD ministry on a collision course

MEDIA REPORTS suggested he was under pressure from govt to release salary dues to ex-faculty member & now BJP leader Swamy

OFFICIALS HAD claimed director resigned since he was feeling 'cornered' as govt was probing irregularities purportedly by him in setting up of an IIT-Delhi facility in Mauritius

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search-cum-selection committee for this purpose, said sources.

"Not accepting his resignation isn't an option. We can only ask him to stay on till we find someone to replace him. He can then go back to IIT Bombay," said an officer, who did not wish to be identified. Irani did not wish to comment on the issue when ET reached her for a comment.

Shevgaonkar quit the post on December 22 last year citing personal reasons. The government hasn't either accepted or rejected his resignation till date. The delay prompted the institute's Board of Governors to write to the ministry on March 13, requesting them to treat the last three

months as the director's "notice period" and relieve him by March 21. The government hasn't responded to this either.

Shevgaonkar's resignation had put IIT Delhi and HRD Ministry on a collision course, with media reports suggesting that he was under pressure from the government to release salary dues to former faculty member and now BJP leader Subramanian Swamy. Senior government officials, on the other hand, had claimed that the director resigned because he was feeling "cornered" as the new government was investigating irregularities purportedly by him in the setting up of an IIT-Delhi facility in Mauritius.

Times Of India ND 03/04/2015 P-15

'Internal inefficiency hampers UGC, HRD crippling its role'

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New Delhi: Senior UGC member MM Ansari has said the regulator suffers from "internal inefficiency" while also blaming the HRD ministry for "dwarfing the body and crippling its role in regulation of higher educational institutions".

Speaking to **TOI**, Ansari though said he is not in favour of scrapping UGC and added that the "Hari Gautam Committee exceeded its brief". The panel has suggested scrapping of the body. Pointing out 'systemic ills' that has led to UGC's decline, Ansari said there are legal flaws in the composition of the Commission, which have not been rectified by the HRD ministry. "Of all the national commissions in the country, UGC is the

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only one which is functioning without the support of full-time executive members," he said.

He pointed out that the service conditions and the roles of executive members have not been prescribed. He also said a few Commission members are serving officials of universities or colleges that are funded and regulated by UGC. The government does not see any 'conflict of interest' between UGC and the heads of such institutions, including senior officials of the

government sitting as UGC members, he said. "The full Commission, in effect, is not effectively operationalized, as envisioned in the UGC Act," he said.

Ansari alleged collusion between the HRD ministry and UGC in setting up of deemed universities. "Sensing the political preference of the successive governments at the Centre, UGC has from time to time rendered the desirable advice, whenever sought by the HRD ministry for creating such institutions," he said, asking why there is no policy on establishment and funding of deemed universities.

Ansari said under section 20 (1) of the UGC Act, the Commission is obliged to follow the dictates of the government, mainly for providing policy guidance.

Unrest brewing at IIT–Jodhpur over Director’s diktat

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/unrest-brewing-at-iitjodhpur-over-directors-diktat/article7062969.ece>

Discontent is brewing at the Indian Institute of Technology - Jodhpur against the Director with the students resorting to agitation demanding his removal for his “dictatorial attitude”. Disquiet was simmering ever since the Institute came up with a code of conduct which prohibits the students and the staff from reaching out to media or airing their views on social media, and disallows students from associating with any political party.

“We feel that our Institute is in a very bad condition and we are facing various serious issues all due to one person – the Director. Over the past one-and-half years, there have been many instances of dictatorship, autocracy, favouritism due to which many faculty and staff have been terminated senselessly and many have left the Institute bearing pressure due to non-conducive environment,” according to a petition sent to the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Board of Governors.

The petition has been signed by 770-odd students of the Institute demanding the resignation of the Director Prof. C.V.R. Murty, roll back of the recent termination of a faculty member Ganesh Bagler, and transparent and fair investigation of all the past terminations of faculty/staff of the Institute.

In the letter sent to the Ministry, the students have said that the administration recently passed a Code of Conduct for the students, which prevents them from speaking to media, not just about the institute, but also on their opinions on ‘controversial topics’.

Also, students cannot be affiliated to any political party, and are not allowed to participate in activities/summits of any political party. “This takes away the very democratic right to choose and to make electoral choices. The students are not allowed to post anything about the Institute on social media, a curb on their freedom of speech. They are also not allowed to protest against the Institute or voice their opinion against the administration,” the letter said.

Although IIT-J had been facing a faculty crunch for a long time, faculty attrition has increased like never before under the present Director. Most faculty complain of internal politics, lack of freedom to work, and harassment as the reasons for leaving. Over the past year, more than 10 faculty members have left the Institute, six faculty have been terminated and 8 have resigned since, the students have said.

Closing down of Innovation and Incubation Centre - inaugurated by the President in 2011, disbanding new undergraduate programme and centralisation of power are some other issues that have been raised by the students.

UGC mandates one tree per student on campuses

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/UGC-mandates-one-tree-per-student-on-campuses/articleshow/46789897.cms>

LUCKNOW: Students enrolling in state universities will now have to plant a sapling and nurture it during their stay on the campus.

After making six months' core module syllabus on environmental studies compulsory in undergraduate courses, University Grants Commission (UGC) has made it compulsory for all universities to implement the 'One Student One Tree' (OSOT) concept, wherein students will be engaged in nurturing a tree for preservation of environment.

In a circular sent to all vice-chancellors, UGC has asked them to take necessary measures to begin the OSOT campaign, from the coming academic year as the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked the UGC to monitor its implementation following a Supreme Court order.

Terming the OSOT campaign an extension of the green initiative, the UGC has instructed NCC and allied departments to ensure that one tree is planted by every student during his/her stay in the university. Universities have also been directed to provide free saplings to the students for plantation. They also hold a special plantation drive to make the campus green, reads the circular.

Lucknow University vice-chancellor SB Nimse said the campaign will help in creating awareness among students on preserving environment. It is possible that the university will distribute a sapling to students at the time of admission.

HRD notice assumes I am guilty, need to be punished: DU V-C

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/hrd-notice-assumes-i-am-guilty-need-to-be-punished-du-v-c/>

Delhi University vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh has told the human resource development (HRD) ministry that its show-cause notice to him is based “on the assumption I am guilty and I need to be punished straightaway”.

In a 26-page response to the notice — it was served on March 17 and sought a reply by March 31 on why he should not be dismissed — Singh has rejected the charges against him, including one that alleges that the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP) was introduced in DU without clearance from the academic council, executive council, university court and the visitor who, in this case, is President Pranab Mukherjee.

In his defence, Singh said “right from December 2012, when the initial FYUP ordinance amendment was approved by the executive council until June 2014, never once had either the University Grants Commission or the MHRD raised any question regarding non-compliance with statutory procedures with regard to the amendment of the relevant ordinance by the university”.

“Allegation that amendment to the ordinance was never submitted to the visitor: This is clearly contrary to the record of communications. This allegation is clearly false as established vide MHRD’s letter of 30.07.2013 which demonstrates that approval of the FYUP was submitted to the visitor by way of letter of 19.7.2013 itself.”

Singh even challenged the jurisdiction of the show-cause notice. “The visitor exercises powers conferred to him under the DU Act and does not exercise the executive power of the Union of India while dealing with affairs of

the university. The present notice, which has been issued by the Government of India and signed by the Joint Secretary, Government of India, is without jurisdiction and has not been issued by the competent authority.”

“The show-cause notice proceeds on the basis on the assumption I am guilty and I need to be punished straightaway... The decisions alluded to have been taken accordingly with the concerned statutory bodies discharging their role and functions, and no decision can be or has been taken by me individually as the vice-chancellor. Even if there may be some disagreement on the merits of the decision, such differences of opinion can never be the basis for alleging misconduct or dereliction of duty, particularly, in matters relating to academic affairs,” he said.

The HRD ministry sought Singh’s response on these allegations:

- * FYUP was introduced without following statutory DU provisions.
- * Sathyam committee pointed out that Singh was a member of the oversight committee which provided head-wise outlays under Other Backward Classes expansion grants and diverted salary grant to buy 55,000 laptops.
- * DU did not follow the instruction of UGC on reservation policy.
- * DU did not obtain prior approval of the All India Council for Technical Education for B.Tech courses.

Unless and until an ordinance is cancelled by the court of the university or cancelled by the visitor, an ordinance made by the executive council continues to be in force. All ordinances of FYUP were made following the law declared by Delhi HC and reported to university court and submitted to MHRD for transmission to the visitor. Till date, no disapproval has been received from the visitor.

- * I am quite appalled at the number of false statements made in the allegation; I categorically deny that I have ever been a member of any oversight committee. The fact-finding committee appointed by the UGC into the manner in which OBC grants have been utilised concluded that there was no ‘misappropriation’ and ‘no financial motives can be attributed to DU’.
- * The UGC has acknowledged in the high court that the DU roster is in accordance with UGC guidelines.
- * DU is not required to obtain AICTE approval for BTech courses according to Supreme Court judgments.

DUTA SHOCKED AT Singh’s REPLY

Delhi University Teachers’ Association (DUTA) expressed its shock over the reply given by vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh to the Human Resource Development Ministry and called him “corrupt and brazen”.

Speaking to Newsline, DUTA president Nandita Narain, said, “His nonchalant refusal to accept guilt in matters related to the unauthorised restructuring of undergraduate courses through FYUP (four-year undergraduate programme) is shocking.”

Singh had received a show-cause notice from HRD ministry on March 17 asking him to explain his position on the controversial FYUP plan and other allegations. In his 26 page reply, Singh defended the decisions he had taken.

DUTA also accused Singh of diverting the funds from various accounts of the university — including OBC funds, university corpus funds and teachers welfare funds — into “dummy” schemes like purchase of laptops for FYUP scheme.