

Newspaper Clips

June 13, 2015

**Hindustan Times ND
13/06/2015 P-10**

IIT-D director finally a 'relieved' man

NEW DELHI: IIT-Delhi director RK Shevgoankar has been relieved of his position five months after he submitted his resignation.

President Pranab Mukherjee gave his approval late on Thursday evening, thus putting to an end a protracted confrontation between the human resource development ministry and Shevgaonkar.

Shevgaonkar's resignation two years before the end of his term had sparked controversy with some reports claiming he resigned due to a difference of opinion with the HRD over payment of ₹70 lakh to BJP leader and former IIT-Delhi faculty Subramanian Swamy as salary arrears.

The ministry had delayed taking a decision regarding his resignation, initially suggesting irregularities on his part in setting up an offshore campus in Mauritius. Despite no allegations being proven, the ministry sat on it for a few more months.

Shevgaonkar will join IIT-Mumbai, where he is a faculty member. **BRAJESH KUMAR**

**Deccan Herald ND
13/06/2015 P-8**

President accepts IIT-D director's resignation

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-D) Director Raghunath K Sheogaonkar has been relieved of his duties six months after he resigned from the post.

President Pranab Mukherjee on Thursday approved Sheogaonkar's resignation on the recommendation of the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry, IIT-D sources told *Deccan Herald*.

The ministry had forwarded his resignation along with its recommendation for the consideration of the President on Wednesday.

Senior IIT-D faculty K Gupta has already been appointed by the HRD Ministry as interim director of the institute on the recommendation of its board of governors.

Sheogaonkar resigned as director of the institute halfway through his term in December last year amid reports that he was humiliated by HRD Minister Smriti Irani for not clearing the arrears of former faculty and now BJP leader Subramanian Swamy.

The minister was also reportedly upset with him for not letting cricketer Vijay Dahiya open a centre of excellence for cricket on the IIT-D campus, said institute sources.

IIT faculties had tried to persuade Sheogaonkar to withdraw his resignation, but he remained adamant and expressed his desire to go back to IIT-Bombay as faculty.

As the HRD Ministry did not take any decision on his resignation, Sheogaonkar sent a reminder to it this April, requesting that he be relieved of his duties from the date of his reminder so he could join IIT-B.

**Deccan Herald ND
13/06/2015 P-7**

PM may unveil new IIT-Patna campus soon

PATNA, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi may inaugurate the new campus of IIT-Patna located in Bihta, about 30 kilometres from the city, where it would begin functioning from next month.

Though his itinerary has not been finalised, sources said the PMO has asked the HRD Ministry to work out a programme for Modi to inaugurate the premier institute's new campus by the end of this month.

The IIT began its academic activities in August 6, 2008 at a makeshift campus in Patna's posh Pataliputra Colony.

Indian Express ND 13/06/2015 P-7

Draft IIM bill seeks to put HRD in control

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

IN A move that could impinge on the autonomy of the Indian Institutes of Management, the Human Resource Development Ministry has come up with a draft IIM bill, which seeks to give the ministry authority over the institutes on a range of issues.

Officials said the draft bill is open to changes and has been put up by the ministry on its website for public opinion.

Currently, unlike the Indian Institutes of Technology, IIMs don't function under an Act of Parliament.

The draft bill, which says the Board of Governors of each IIM will be the "principal executive body", grants the Centre powers to override the Board.

It also says the Board can make rules and regulations regarding tenure, remuneration, etc for IIM employees — but only after taking approval from the Centre.

Moreover, as per the draft bill, the ministry's approval will be

required for matters related to admission criteria, scholarships and fellowships as well as how to conduct Board meetings.

Currently, the boards and academic councils of the institutes take such decisions independently. "Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this Act, the Institute (IIMs) shall, for efficient administration of this Act, be bound by such directions on questions of policy, as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time," a provision of the draft bill says.

"The decision of the Central

Government, whether a question is one of policy or not, shall be final," it adds.

When contacted, former IIM-Lucknow director Devi Singh said, "For academic decisions and measures, IIMs have never gone beyond the board. So now if a provision like this has been inserted, I don't know what is the rationale behind it... We were all involved in the process of drafting the bill together and I don't remember any such clause being debated." He added that he had not seen this version of the draft bill.

Statesman ND 13/06/2015 P-7

Centre's nod final over IIMs: HRD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 12 June

The HRD ministry has sought vast powers over IIMs in its draft Bill on their functioning, a move that is unlikely to go down well with academics and others concerned with the autonomy of these prestigious institutes.

"Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this Act, the Institute (IIMs) shall, for efficient administration of this Act, be bound by such directions on questions of policy, as the Central Government

may give in writing to it from time to time," a provision of the draft IIM Bill, 2015 says.

"The decision of the Central Government whether a question is one of policy or not, shall be final," it adds. The draft bill has been put out by the ministry to seek public opinion and can undergo changes.

The Bill, though, says the Board of Governors of each IIM will be the "principal executive body" but goes on to grant the central government powers which it may use to override the board.

The Board may, with the approval

of the central government, make regulations and the rules to carry out the provisions of this Act regarding tenure, remuneration and terms and conditions of employees of institutes, it said.

The draft Bill makes it clear that the Board can take a decision on matters like fees, emoluments and service conditions only with the Centre's approval.

The ministry says the bill will declare certain institutes of management to be institutions of national importance with a view to "empower these institutions to attain stan-

dards of global excellence in management, management research and allied areas of knowledge..."

Reacting strongly, DUTA president Nandita Narain said she was against any provision which further erodes the autonomy of IIMs and these institutes should have complete autonomy in academic matters.

She, however, added that financial matters like fee structure and emoluments should be regulated as these are public-funded bodies. The ministry says the Bill will declare certain institutes of to be institutions of national importance.

A WEEK'S STAY

Stay at Rashtrapati Bhavan an inspiration, say teachers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

A MARINE biologist from Punjab, a sociologist from Shillong and a linguistics professor from Aligarh are among 31 teachers who have spent a week in Rashtrapati Bhavan as part of the first-ever "in-residence programme" for "Inspired Teachers."

The teachers, nominated by their respective universities, spent a week in the President's Estate and met a host of senior government functionaries, including the chairman of NITI Aayog, University Grants Commission and SEBI and HRD Minister Smriti Irani.

Overwhelmed by the experience of attending Presidential functions — the teachers attended the swearing in ceremony of the CVC and CIC — they spoke highly of how at an age when it is often the lesser half of a class that chooses academics as career, programmes such as this would motivate more young people to take up teaching. PA Sinu from Central University of

Kerala talked about how it is only the "bottom cream of the class that chooses to become teachers. This programme will motivate more young people to come to teaching."

In his interaction with the teachers on Thursday ahead of travelling to Shimla for his annual retreat, President Mukherjee said: "An 'Inspired Teacher' links the individual goals of the students to the societal and national goals." He quoted Greek writer and philosopher Nikos Kazantzakis to outline his vision of a teacher's role.

While the teachers had many discussions on higher education and the need to align syllabi with the needs of the society and economy, the sheer scale of things at the residence of the first citizen left many of them in awe.

Felix Bast, a marine biologist from the Central University of Punjab talked about how there was a concierge waiting for him at the railway station and he was driven to the estate in a Toyota Landcruiser. "It was amazing that even before we had arrived, invitations for official functions were being sent to us. I have

stayed in luxury hotels but was never prepared for this kind of austerity in Rashtrapati Bhavan. But as an experience I would give this place 100 stars," he said.

The teachers met Amitabh Bachchan when he came to Rashtrapati Bhavan for a special screening of *Piku* and also singer Parveen Sultana when she came to perform. Imtiaz Hasnain, a professor of linguistics from Aligarh Muslim University said that meetings with bankers and corporates had opened unexplored vistas for him. "I am aware of the government schemes for minorities but I did not know about the schemes from private banks. This was an eye-opener. Also meetings with IBM officials etc has given me an idea about the kind of work being done which I can go back and share with my colleagues in Aligarh."

Professor Aurelius Kyrham Nongkynrih, who teaches sociology in North Eastern Hill University said he wanted to have an interaction with students of Central universities in Delhi like DU, JNU and Jamia Millia Islamia, but couldn't.

Times Of India ND 13/06/2015 P-7

Foreign funds order stumps varsities

After Removal From List, DU And JNU Not Sure If They Are Covered By FCRA

Shreya.Roychowdhury
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The cancelling of FCRA registration of Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University, for alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 2010, has left several university officials scratching their heads.

There are concerns, of course, about how (if at all) this will impact fellowships offered by sundry foreign foundations to students, grants for international seminars and programmes and the MoUs each has signed with foreign universities. But the question trumping them all is whether DU and JNU are covered by FCRA at all.

Officials from both insti-

tutions point to an MHA document that states, "In terms of Gazette Notification S.O. 1492(E) dated 01.07.2011, all statutory bodies constituted or established by or under a central Act or state Act requiring to have their accounts compulsorily audited by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India are exempted from all the provisions of FCRA 2010."

Delhi University spokesperson Malay Neerav and JNU's joint-registrar (finance) Shankar Dhar both say they haven't received any communication from MHA about the ban. Dhar says, "I'm not sure of the exact ramifications but it will probably affect the fellowships and projects that receive foreign funding." In fact, JNU's annual finance

DU spokesperson Malay Neerav and JNU joint-registrar Shankar Dhar say they haven't received any communication from MHA about the ban

report from 2013-14 says that the university received over Rs 70 lakh from Nippon Foundation in that year.

Delhi University, too, has a large number of collaborations with foreign institutions including MoUs with over 50 universities. But an MoU doesn't mean DU receives funds from them. As per DU's National Assessment and Accreditation

Council self-study report, the department of Germanic and romance studies, for instance, has agreements with at least 10 European universities but teachers say that in no case does a university send funds to India. "Our students go abroad and they receive funds there itself," says Vijaya Venkataraman who teaches Spanish. Minni Sawhney, who heads the department, confirms that none of the streams of GRS receive funds from abroad.

The case for East Asian Studies, however, is different. "I think it will affect holding international conferences," says head of department, Shreemati Chakrabarti. "Korea Foundation and Japan Foundation have been very generous with grants for in-

ternational conferences for years. Then, the Mitsubishi Foundation has been offering scholarships to five students every year. These funds come to us in Indian currency through the university and after reading about the cancellation, we are very concerned," she explains.

The science departments receive plenty of foreign funding, but as M M Charturvedi, dean research (life sciences) points out, they typically come as part of grants from government agencies such as department of science (DST) and technology or department of biotechnology. For instance, the department of electronics science has collaborated with the Japanese, too, but in their case, it's linked to DST.

Tribune ND 13/06/2015 P-4

State govt identifies new site for IIM-Amritsar

GS PAUL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, JUNE 12

Putting an end to all speculation, the state government has zeroed in on a fresh site at Manawala, 10 km from here, to impress upon the team of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development to set up the permanent campus for the proposed Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Amritsar.

Located on the Amritsar-Jalandhar GT Road, this site, owned by a Delhi-based private party, is in proximity to the main township, the factor that was most sought after by the Centre's site-selection committee.

The two earlier sites — at Awan village in Ajnala block and Sheron Bagha village near Baba Bakala — could not find favour with the committee members who had remarked that these sites were far off from the main



The site at Manawala that has been chosen for the upcoming IIM in Amritsar. PHOTO: VISHAL KUMAR

town and devoid of any city like amenities like schools, colleges, clubs, cinema, shopping malls etc.

The committee members comprising Joint Secretary Technical Education Department, Union Ministry of Home Affairs, SP Goyal and Prof Kulbhushan Balooni, Director, IIM Kozhikode, had paid a visit to the holy city in April.

Officiating Deputy Commissioner Pardeep Sabharwal said that the fresh proposal

for the Manawala site has been finalised. Upon the Centre's approval, it would still take at least three years to set up the permanent IIM campus here with the requisite infrastructure and cost around Rs 1,000 crore.

Till then, a stop-gap arrangement has been made on the premises of Punjab Institute of Technology.

Earlier, the Centre was even hesitant to start classes from this temporary campus in the

absence of consensus over the permanent campus site.

With the new development, the maiden academic session (2015-16) with 65 students is likely to start from July 15 from this temporary campus located near GND University.

The stay of the girl students has been arranged at the hostel of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), located nearby. For the boys, the guest house at the old Improvement

Nearer than earlier sites

- Two sites — at Awan village in Ajnala block and Sheron Bagha village near Baba Bakala — did not find favour with the Union HRD Ministry's site-selection committee as these were far from the main town

- The fresh site at Manawala is just 10 km from the main township

Trust building at Sheranwala gate in Ghee Mandi area has been engaged.

In addition, the Golden Tulip resort and another guest house at the Holy City Enclave on the Airport Road too could be used to accommodate the faculty if the need arises. Special transport arrangement will be in place to ferry the students and faculty. For medical aid, various private health institutions will be engaged.

Hindustan ND 13/06/2015 P-9

आईआईटी टॉपर ने शोध के लिए टुकड़ा नौकरी

तज्जब

कोलकाता | एजेसियां

आईआईटी खड़गपुर के टॉपर ने बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनी की ओर से मिली मोटी तनख्वाह के साथ नौकरी के प्रस्ताव को टुकड़ा अकादमिक क्षेत्र से जुड़ने का फैसला किया है।

कंप्यूटर साइंस एवं इंजीनियरिंग के छात्र शिखर पत्रनबीस ने इस साल 9.87 प्वाइंट्स हासिल किए हैं। वह संस्था के टॉपर हैं। उनकी प्रतिभा को देखते हुए माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने मोटी तनख्वाह के साथ नौकर देने का प्रस्ताव किया था। लेकिन शिखर अपने इरादे पर अड़िग रहते हुए किसी बड़े सिस्टम में लगे कंप्यूटर (एंबेडेड सिस्टम) के हार्डवेयर की सुरक्षा पर पीएचडी करने का फैसला किया। शिखर ने कहा कि उनका पहले से ही इरादा शोध करने का था। वह किसी कंपनी में मोटी तनख्वाह पर नौकरी करने के इच्छुक नहीं है। उन्होंने बताया कि उनके

जज्बा

- आईआईटी खड़गपुर के टॉपर शिखर हार्डवेयर की सुरक्षा पर करना चाहते हैं पीएचडी
- बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनी माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने मोटी तनख्वाह पर नौकरी का किया था ऑफर



इस फैसले में शिक्षकों और परिवार ने भी पूरा साथ दिया। आईआईटी खड़गपुर के निदेशक पार्थ चक्रवर्ती ने कहा, यह चलन रहा है कि ऊंची रैंक वाले एक-दो छात्र ही पीएचडी के लिए आईआईटी में रुकते हैं। लेकिन टॉपर का रुकना दुर्लभ है। उन्होंने कहा कि संस्थान छात्रों को शोध के लिए प्रोत्साहित करता है, लेकिन अधिकतर छात्र नौकरी को ही प्राथमिकता देते हैं।

चक्रवर्ती के मुताबिक शिखर के अलावा अनिरबान संतारा दूसरे छात्र हैं जिन्होंने शीर्ष अंक हासिल करने के बावजूद शोध को चुना है।

In IITs, qualifying score goes down so that ST student count can go up

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/entrance-exams/In-IITs-qualifying-score-goes-down-so-that-ST-student-count-can-go-up/articleshow/47651315.cms>

MUMBAI: A shortfall in the count of scheduled tribe students has forced the Indian Institutes of Technology to re-engineer the qualifying score to join the tech colleges.

The aggregate marks are down from 177 (35%) to 124 or 24.5% of 504. Similarly, the cut-offs for each subject have been revised from 10% to 7%.

Downsizing of qualifying marks has taken place across the board. The minimum percentage of marks in each subject is 6.30 for OBC students and 3.5 for SC/ST candidates.

For the first time, ever since the Joint Entrance Exam has been redesigned as a two-tier qualifying test, the minimum cut-off score has been reduced by 30 per cent. Only those students who score the minimum required marks for both aggregate cut-off list and subject wise cut-off will make it to the rank list.

With this revision, the IITs have now managed to push in a few more ST candidates than the total seats reserved for them, thus working to ensure that not many slots go unfilled.

" There weren't enough ST students who had qualified. Although we now have more ST students than the seats, not everyone may take admission. They may not be happy with the IIT or the stream allotted. But we surely now have enough ST candidates who have qualified this year," said a JEE chairman.

On June 3, the tech schools had declared a higher cut-off. But on Friday evening, they had a change of heart and the downgrade took place after compiling the performance of all candidates. Authorities realized that there weren't as many students who made the cut. There are 10,006 seats across the IITs this year; there are 750 seats for ST candidates.

"We have revised the marks based on the performance of all those who took the JEE (advanced)," said the organizing chairman of JEE 2015. Last week, the IITs had uploaded the scanned copies of the ORS answer booklet and 150 candidates had challenged their scores. On Saturday, the IITs will upload the fresh scores, before declaring the result on June 25.

IIT temporary campus to open on August 3

Land being acquired for permanent campus

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/iit-temporary-campus-to-open-on-august-3/article7311825.ece>

The proposed Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) here will start functioning from its temporary campus at Kozhipara, near Walayar, from August 3.

Talking to *The Hindu*, M.B. Rajesh, MP, said IIT authorities informed him that classes would begin on August 3.

The date of formal inauguration of the temporary campus would be fixed on the convenience of Union Minister Smriti Irani.

Officials of IIT Madras, which has administrative control over the new IIT, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Walayar-based Ahalya Group of Educational Institutions for providing its buildings for the temporary campus.

Meanwhile, land acquisition for the permanent campus of the IIT at Pudussery West is almost complete.

Mr. Rajesh said it was the enthusiasm and cooperation of the local community that led to the early launch of the IIT. The IITs allotted to Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Chhattisgarh are yet to start functioning, he said.

He said IIT officials were satisfied with the facilities arranged for the temporary campus in Palakkad.

Officials of the Ahalya group confirmed that the work on the temporary campus was over. All facilities sought by the IIT authorities had been arranged.

In the beginning, classrooms and accommodation for 120 students would be arranged on the temporary campus. A men's hostel with 53 rooms and a women's hostel with 73 rooms had already been completed. The Ahalya group would supervise the mess, housekeeping, and security aspects of the hostels.

Thirteen quarters for the teaching staff had also been arranged at Kozhipara.

The classrooms had been arranged in a 55,000 sq ft building. Lift facilities had also been arranged. There would be 120 seats in the mechanical, civil, electrical, and computer streams.

Hindu ND 13.06.2015 P-2

Academics cry foul, say CBCS will curtail freedom

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Academicians and professors from across universities have criticised the implementation of the Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) at Delhi University, calling it the Ministry of Human Resource Development's attempt to "take control of academics".

In a press conference organised by the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) and Federation of Central Universities' Teachers' Association (FEDCUTA), members of both associations said the CBCS had done away with the right of the universities and academicians to frame syllabus, making the universities lose their individual value.

"Only 20 per cent participation will be left to the universities if CBCS is implemented. This move of the MHRD is designed to benefit private uni-



The implementation of CBCS is being seen as the MHRD's attempt to "take control of academics".

versities and give them the freedom to design and adopt attractive courses. It is obvious that such a common framework for universities is unheard of anywhere. The CBCS is opposed to the very idea of a university," said Aditya Narayana Mishra, former president of the FEDCUTA.

"We demand immediate withdrawal of CBCS and a

point system for recruitment and promotion because it has reduced teachers to mere point hunters," Mr. Mishra added.

The CBCS has faced opposition from all quarters, including students' unions and teachers associations. DU, however, has decided to go ahead with the system from the coming academic session.

How job givers slammed the doors on Irani

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Union HRD minister Smriti Irani said that it is possible for anybody to overcome the disadvantage of an underprivileged background through firm resolve and the blessing of elders.

"Even if you are born in a humble family, or worked in a restaurant, you could be a Union cabinet minister. I am a living proof of that. Remember, our Prime Minister also went to a government school and sold tea. This is a country

of possibilities," she said.

Irani was addressing a gathering of about 2,000 learners celebrating five years of Teach India at New Delhi's Siri Fort main auditorium on Wednesday.

Irani remembered the days when she worked at the McDonalds, of the times when her family lived in a single room in Munirka. She also recalled how she had been rejected for jobs by three companies, including NDTV and Jet Airways. And in this context, she had a special word of praise for the compa-



Irani with Mamta, a learner who also co-hosted the show

nies who have been recruiting learners and played the role of enablers.

“ Even if you are born in a humble family, or worked in a restaurant, you could be a Union cabinet minister. I am a living proof of that. Remember, our PM also went to a govt school and sold tea

SMRITI IRANI | Union HRD Minister

"You have given wings to the dreams of the young. I know the disappointment of doors

shutting on you," she said.

While underlining the importance of English, the HRD minister also stressed on the importance of *matri bhasha* or mother tongue.

She said that learning English is important not because it helps overcome something lacking in our personality but because it is a vital means to facilitate careers.

Irani also said that the government will shortly dedicate the online portal, Swayam, to the nation. The portal, she said, will offer courses taught in top

institutes for free. The subjects will range from science to humanities. The courses will also be available for downloads on free apps, she said. "After finishing the course, you can go for certification in specially-designated government centres," she said.

She also spoke about the government's online digital library project termed as National e-Library. "Books in libraries will be digitised and made available free online. From next month NCERT books from Class I to Class XII will be made available free," she said.

UGC asked to Notify Rules on PhD in Open Universities by HRD Ministry

<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/ugc-asked-to-notify-rules-on-phd-in-open-universities-by-hrd-ministry-1434101047-1>

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has amended its regulations to allow open universities to conduct MPhil/PhD programmes four years back but due to having no notification of the same, the amendment has not been put into effect.

The Ministry has seemed to take sudden action in the light that India Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has already amended its ordinance regarding the same. IGNOU has already got the Visitors approval for the amendment, but there is an issue with HRD ministry to forward it, as UGC has till date not notified the changes in the regulation. According to a senior IGNOU official, "The IGNOU ordinance fulfills all the stipulations made in the UGC regulations." Due to the delay in notification the admissions has been delayed and there could not be any MPhil/PhD admission done during the January and July sessions.

If UGC notifies its regulation soon, there would be other open universities that would profit from it. The IGNOU official further added, "There is a need to bolster research in the country." According to Professor Satyakam, who is the PhD coordinator for Hindi at IGNOU said that the PhD of IGNOU is one of the best degrees in India which can be compared with the best universities of India and abroad.

UGC had amended its UGC Regulations, 2009 way back in July 2011 in their 479th meeting. In the meeting it was decided to allow open universities to conduct MPhil/PhD programmes as per the provisions of the regulations. Along with this it was also decided that an 11-point criteria would be projected by the standing committee on MPhil/PhD regulations, 2009 which would be circulated to all the institutions of higher education through the official UGC website.

As AIIMS goes to Jammu too, Kashmir raises pitch for IIM, IIT

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/as-aiims-goes-to-jammu-too-kashmir-raises-pitch-for-iim-iit/189130.html>

PDP MP urges separatists, trade bodies, mainstream leaders to seek management, engineering institutes for the Valley

The Government of India's reported nod to establishment of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Jammu as well has spurred demand for setting up of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Kashmir.

On Thursday, a senior BJP minister said Government of India has agreed to sanction AIIMS for Jammu also and a decision in this regard would be announced soon.

While AIIMS was earlier announced by New Delhi for Kashmir during the Union Budget, the top management and engineering institutes were sanctioned for Jammu. However, sporadic protests in Jammu over the demand for AIIMS to be established there first ultimately saw New Delhi agreeing to sanction the premier tertiary health care institute for the region too.

Criticizing the state and Government of India, Kashmir civil society said handling of the AIIMS row by New Delhi showed "there are forces bent upon furthering division between the two regions."

"We consider J&K as one entity. But under tacit support from forces in New Delhi, there is a move to divide the state," said civil society member, Shakeel Qalander, speaking in the backdrop of sanctioning of AIIMS for Jammu too.

He said now that Jammu has got the AIIMS, IIT and IIM, the "real issue" is where these institutions will come up in the region.

"The Chenab Valley and Pirpanjal Range in Jammu have been facing decades of deprivation on economic and development front. We will see whether they will get benefitted this time or everything that has been announced for Jammu will go to two and a half districts there," said Qalander.

In its 'Agenda of Alliance'—the guiding framework for governance for the PDP-BJP coalition—it is stressed that the government would work for reconciliation between different regions of the state and create environment for all-round development of J&K and prosperity of its people.

However, Kashmir's top trade body—Kashmir Economic Alliance (KEA)—believes Kashmir "continues to face discrimination at the hands of State and Government of India."

"The discrimination is evident. People in flood-hit Kashmir have been demanding compensation for the past eight months but nobody is bothered about it. In Jammu, sporadic protests over AIIMS force the Government of India to agree to the demand," said Chairman KEA, Muhammad Yasin Khan.

He said people in Kashmir would be dealt with iron fist in case they raise the demand for IIT and IIM. "We will be labeled and crushed," he said.

Senior Peoples Democratic Party leader and MP Tariq Hamid Karra said New Delhi "should not discriminate with Kashmir".

“If Jammu deserves AIIMS, give them. But Kashmir also deserves IIM and IIT. Why deny Kashmir its rights. Why discrimination and injustice with Kashmir?” he asked.

However, Karra said he was disappointed over “insensitivity” in Kashmir towards the matter.

“It is unfortunate that we in Kashmir are insensitive and don’t come forward on such occasions,” said Karra, asking mainstream and separatist parties, trade bodies and civil society to unite and seek IIT and IIM for Kashmir.

BJP spokesman Khalid Jahangir too supported the demand for IIT and IIM for Kashmir.

“Kashmir too should be given IIT and IIM so that people in the Valley get better opportunities to pursue their careers,” he said. “This shouldn’t be seen as a move to ensure equitable development for all regions. Our aim is prosperity and development of all the three regions of the state.”

Opposition National Conference said the Government was “creating regional animosity” by its contradictory stands on different issues.

“We welcome AIIMS for both Kashmir and Jammu. But why should there be a different yardstick when it comes to setting up of IIT and IIM. If you apply one yardstick for AIIMS, same yardstick should be applied for IIT and IIM,” said National Conference spokesperson Juniad Azim Mattu.