

Newspaper Clips
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Hindustan Times ND 06/06/2015 P-10

Has govt signalled an end to the row with IIT-Delhi director?

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NEW DELHI: The Centre asked IIT Delhi's governing body for advice on Friday to appoint an acting head for the premier engineering school, signalling an end to a protracted confrontation between the government and institute director RK Shevgaonkar.

Shevgaonkar resigned in December — two years before the end of his term — amid reports that he was pressurised to quit, while the Opposition blamed the Smriti Irani-headed human resource development (HRD) ministry for interfering in the functioning of higher education institutes.

The ministry's latest move came after Shevgaonkar shot off a letter this week, reminding the



■ **RK Shevgaonkar**

government that June 12 will be his last day in office.

Sources said the HRD ministry asked the IIT board to look for an acting director, but it was yet to relieve Shevgaonkar of his responsibilities with his file lying with Irani.

Critics accused the ministry of shifting its position on Shevgaonkar's resignation which, according to some media reports,

came after a tiff with the department over payment of ₹70 lakh to BJP leader and former IIT-Delhi faculty Subramanian Swamy as salary arrears.

Following his resignation in December, Shevgaonkar wrote three letters, including the latest one, requesting to be relieved of his duties so he could join IIT Bombay as a teacher.

Former higher education secretary SN Mohanty recommended that Shevgaonkar be allowed to leave on June 12 before he was transferred from the ministry this week.

Sources said while the ministry had at first hinted at irregularities on the part of Shevgaonkar in setting up an offshore IIT campus in Mauritius, it softened its stance after no evidence was found but kept sitting on the matter.

Deccan Herald ND 06/06/2015 P-4

HRD to relieve IIT director, asks names for replacement

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI: The Human Resource Development Ministry has asked chairman of the Indian Institute Technology-Delhi Vijay Bhatkar to suggest names for appointing acting director of the institute by Monday, in a clear indication that R K Shevgaonkar would soon be relieved of his duties as the director.

The HRD Ministry wrote to Bhatkar on Friday, asking him to suggest names for an acting director as IIT-Delhi's deputy director has gone abroad for the next couple of months. The senior most dean of the institute is also abroad, IIT sources told *Deccan Herald*.

The ministry has agreed to relieve Shevgaonkar from his duties almost six months after he resigned from the post mid-

way in his term, amid reports that he was humiliated by the HRD Minister Smriti Irani for not clearing the arrears of Subramanian Swamy, a former faculty member and now a BJP leader.

As the ministry did not take any decision on his resignation, Shevgaonkar sent a reminder to the HRD Ministry in April, requesting that he may be relieved from the date of his reminder letter so that he could join IIT-Bombay as a teacher. He had also urged the ministry to treat his reminder letter as three months' notice period.

According to sources, the Ministry will send its recommendation to President Pranab Mukherjee for relieving the IIT director once it receives names from the institute's chairman for handing over Shevgaonkar's charge to an acting director.

Sources said Higher Education Secretary Satyanarayan Mohanty has recommended that he should be relieved of his duties, sources said.

Shevgaonkar's resignation sparked a major controversy in political and academic circles. Opposition leaders made an issue out of the episode during the Budget Session of Parliament and used it to accuse the HRD Minister of interfering with the autonomy of premier technical institutes and central universities.

Speaking on Shevgaonkar's resignation episode, nuclear scientist and former chairperson of IIT-Bombay Anil Kakodkar recently told a news channel that IIT-Delhi director was a respected academic whose self-respect was "severely hurt" and that he should be allowed to exit honourably.

DH News Service

Statesman ND 06/06/2015 P-7

HRD Ministry raps UGC chief for speaking against govt scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, 5 June

The HRD Ministry has pulled up UGC chairman Ved Prakash for speaking against a higher education scheme before a Parliamentary panel recently and asked him to take prior permission to express views that are contrary to the government's policies.

In a strong letter, the ministry cautioned him for not following the set convention in such meetings, sources said. The letter said the officials present should have been seen as a cohesive group, supporting the programmes of the government, and not as a disjointed unit.

Prakash had contended before a Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting on May 26 that the Ministry-piloted Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) programme was performing the same task of funding state institutes for upgrade like UGC and therefore was undermining the latter's role.

He had also argued that since the bulk of funds is now going to RUSA, UGC's endeavour to push for research and innovation could be hampered. His views did not go down well with the Ministry.

The UGC chairman's use of certain words during his presentation was also considered inappropriate by the Ministry while reprimanding him, the sources said.

Pointing to the set of



convention in such meetings, the letter asked him to be careful about these things for future interactions with the Parliamentary bodies.

Officials said Prakash had visited the Ministry later to clear his stand on the presentations made by him.

HRD Minister Smriti Irani, who was in China during the standing committee meeting, was briefed by the ministry officials soon after her return.

Meanwhile, hitting out at the Ministry, Congress spokesperson R P N Singh said the developments were not in the right direction.

"The developments, whether with regards to IIT director and now the chairman of UGC, are not in the right direction. The education ministry's stand is limited to narrow confines of a political ideology," he said at the AICC briefing. Education should be left to educationists, he added.

Business Line ND 06/06/2015 P-16**SPACE**

NASA's manned mission to Mars possible by 2039

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, June 5

NASA may be able to land astronauts on Mars cost-effectively by 2039 if the US space agency takes a stepwise approach that includes a manned trip to the red planet's moon Phobos, scientists say. Sending astronauts to Mars is the top long-term priority of NASA's human-spaceflight programme. "Mars is possible, and in a time horizon of interest," said Hoppy Price, of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

"It could happen in our lifetime, and it wouldn't take a trillion dollars to do it," Price said. Price said that it is a good idea to get astronauts to Mars orbit - specifically, to Phobos or Deimos, one of Mars' two tiny moons - before trying to land them

on the dusty Martian surface. Breaking up a manned red planet campaign into two discrete parts dilutes the risks and costs, making them more manageable on a year-by-year basis, he said.

Price and two colleagues at JPL have drawn up a proposed mission architecture that gets astronauts to Phobos by 2033, then down to the surface of Mars by 2039, 'Space.com' reported. The design is just a concept, not an official NASA strategy, Price said. He hopes the concept will help people view manned Mars exploration in a more optimistic light.

The plan, which was devised by Price, John Baker and Firouz Naderi, would establish a base on Phobos, a roughly 16 km-wide moon that orbits 6,000 km from the Martian surface.

Business Line ND 06/06/2015 P-18

NASA gets IIT researcher's inputs for asteroid landing

R. Ravikanth Reddy

HYDERABAD: If ever NASA gets astronauts to land on an asteroid, the city will have reasons to feel proud. For, a research scholar from the Indian Institute of Technology here is a member of the team that has provided vital inputs for the U.S. space agency's project.

Shanti Swaroop Kandala, a second-year Ph.D. scholar at the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering of the IIT, was among the 32 selected from 104 universities across 14 countries to design a mission to land astronauts on an asteroid, extract resources from it and demonstrate the usage of the

raw materials.

Mr. Kandala was the lone Indian student at the Caltech Space Challenge, an international student space mission design competition organised at the California Institute of Technology.

The two teams formed from among the 32 participants were to produce a viable mission design for the Asteroid Redirect Mission, the next mission of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of NASA.

Every team member had a specific role, and Mr. Kandala was responsible for presenting the engineering aspect of the mission, which included launching the various modules along with new



Shanti Swaroop Kandala was the only Indian student at the Caltech Space Challenge.

- PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

technologies for a multipurpose docking module, a robotic arm and a life-supporting system. He

had to collate, edit and integrate all the reports into one document. "It was a tedious task given the amount

of work each team member had done," he says.

During the five days and nights spent for the mission, they first understood one another's strengths and agreed on individual contributions to the subsystems of the mission.

After understanding the nuances associated with the mission from two lectures, they were mentored and guided by top scientists and engineers from the JPL, Caltech, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin and Planetary Resources Inc.

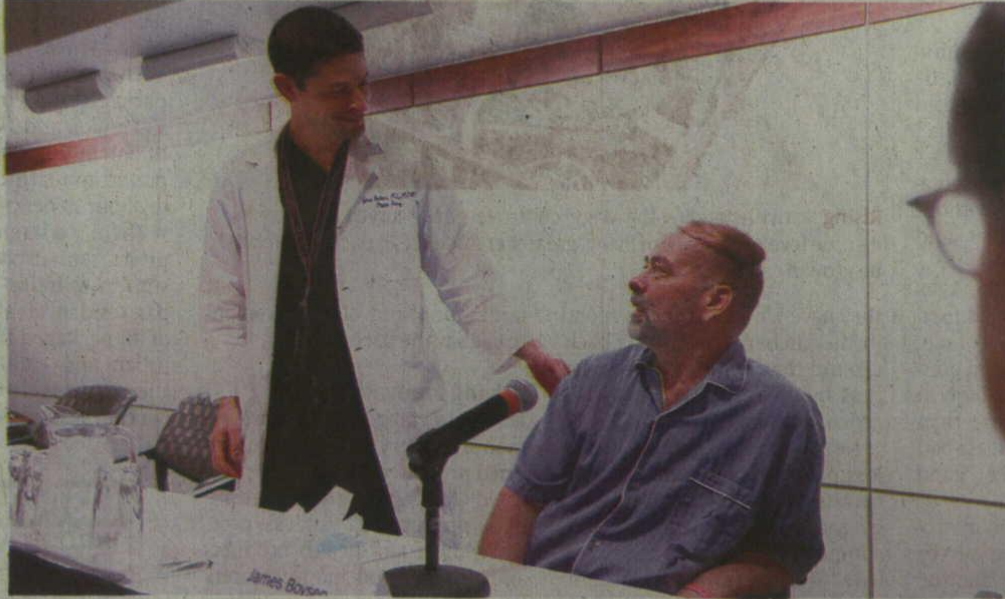
The reports submitted by the winning and the runner-up teams will be considered while designing the mission, Mr. Kandala says.

Business Line ND 06/06/2015 P-16

BREAKTHROUGH

US docs perform a miracle, transplant skull-scalp

15 hours of surgery done with aid of 50-odd medical professionals



Jesse C Selber of Anderson Cancer Center with transplant patient Jim Boysen at Houston Methodist Hospital on Thursday. Doctors say they have done the world's first partial skull and scalp transplant to help Boysen with a large head wound from cancer treatment AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, June 5

US doctors hailed a complex operation as a world first after performing a skull and scalp transplant on a cancer patient who also received a new kidney and pancreas during the procedure.

James Boysen, a 55-year-old software developer, underwent 15 hours of surgery performed with the help of more than 50 medical professionals, the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston said Thursday.

It said that the historic surgery made Boysen the "first patient to receive the simultaneous craniofacial tissue transplant together with solid organ transplants."

The operation, performed at Houston Methodist Hospital, was conceptualized almost four years ago, but wasn't carried out until May 22, some 20 hours after doctors were told appropriate organs had become available.

"This was a very complex surgery because we had to transplant the tissues utilizing microsurgery," said Michael Klebuc, lead surgeon from the Houston Methodist Hospital plastic surgery team that helped perform the skull-scalp transplant.

Herculean task

"Imagine connecting blood vessels 1/16 of an inch under a microscope with tiny stitches about half the diameter of a human hair being done with tools that one would use to make a fine Swiss watch," he said.

Boysen, a resident of Austin, was diagnosed with leiomyosarcoma, a rare cancer that attacks smooth muscle, on his scalp in 2006.

The cancer was treated successfully but left a large wound on his scalp and skull.

The Texas man, who was also diagnosed with diabetes at age five, had undergone a previous

double-organ kidney and pancreas transplant in 1992, but those organs were needing transplanting again.

Because of his skull and scalp wounds, however, that procedure was not possible. Meanwhile his kidney and pancreas issues and the immuno-suppression medications he was on because of them, made scalp reconstruction difficult.

Doctors solved the dilemma by carrying out all procedures at once.

"When I first met Jim, I made the connection between him needing a new kidney and pancreas and the ongoing anti-rejection medication to support them, and receiving a full scalp and skull transplant at the same time that would be protected by those same medications," said MD Anderson's Jesse Selber, one of the lead surgeons.

"This was a truly unique clinical situation," he said.

Derecognised Students' Body to Meet IIT-Madras Director Today

<http://www.ndtv.com/tamil-nadu-news/derecognised-students-body-to-meet-iit-madras-director-today-768988>

In a first sign of resolving the ongoing crisis at the IIT-Madras, student members of the derecognised Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle (APSC) would meet the institute's Director Professor Baskar Ramamoorthy who has returned from his overseas trip.

Akil, one of the student members of APSC said "We have been invited and around five of us would meet the Director". However the standoff continues on the conduct of the board of students convened by the management to sort this issue. APSC has refused to participate in it to present its views. "We first want an unconditional re-recognition of APSC. Only then we would participate in talks and present our views and discuss other demands," added Akil.

The board of students comprises of all elected student leaders and Deans. The institute says APSC had violated guidelines by using the name of IIT-Madras in its publicity. However students claim they've been targeted for criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government's policies.

Following derecognition the APSC is not allowed to use the auditorium, official email and even the notice board.

The crisis has struck a chord with student communities and political parties across the country. Over the last week police detained several hundred protesters from the DMK, VCK and other outfits that demand reinstatement of APSC.

Among other demands APSC wants equal space and access for all student associations in IIT-Madras. "There's a strong right wing patronage by the management. There are a few pro-Hindutva associations like the Vivekananda Circle which do not face any trouble at all," said S Abhinav, a member of APSC.