

There's only one Bapu: Tharoor

● OUR STAFF REPORTER
Indore

Minister of State for Human Resource and Development Shashi Tharoor has said he does not know Asaram Bapu.

"I know only one Bapu and that's Mahatma Gandhi. I don't know any other Bapu," the minister told reporters here on Friday when asked to comment on Asaram Bapu's allegations on Sonia and Rahul. Tharoor was in the city to inaugurate the newly-built radio telescope of Indian Institute of Technology, Indore.

Counting achievements of the Congress-led UPA government, Tharoor said that the UPA would seek votes on the work done by it in next Assembly elections.

He said that the UPA did nothing for which it had to be embarrassed for.

On India-China border issue, he stated that China had its own precaution and India's its own precaution on the border issue. "More than 15 times, the national security advisors of the two nations had met to sort out the issue but it would take more time to get resolved."

To a query, the Minister of State for HRD said that the government is in talks with the directors of IIMs over pan-IIM council matter.

"The directors are concerned about their autonomy. We don't want their academic freedom to be diluted." Tharoor expressed his displeasure over delay in construction of IIT Indore's campus and held non-cooperation of the State Government accountable for the delay. "The institute

THE UNION MINISTER SAYS

- UPA-II has nothing to be embarrassed for
- To seek votes on govt's work
- China-India border dispute is a complex issue
- Pan-IIM Council not to be forced
- IIMs' academic freedom not to be diluted
- India needs world class institutes
- Non-cooperation of State Govt delayed construction of IIT Indore campus

did not get the expected support from the State Government. There should be no politics in education related matters."

"IIT-I's telescope best in the country"

Tharoor said that the radio telescope built by IIT, Indore and its students is 10 times better than the existing ones in the country. He said that the institute is doing unparalleled work in research field and added that the Indoreans should feel proud such an institute is here. When informed that IIT-I Director Pradeep Mathur did not associate the locals in the activities of the institute and he did not call even reporters to cover events of the institute, Tharoor said that he would talk to the director over the issue.

"Media should be called to the events," said Tharoor. He also stated that the institute could be built only through local support.

Radio telescope inaugurated

Indian Institute of Technology, Indore's first radio telescope was inaugurated by Minister of State for Human Resource and Development Shashi Tharoor in a function organised at the institute campus, on Friday.

The radio telescope, which is unique in its own ways, is built jointly by the faculty of astrophysics department and students of the IIT, Indore. It would be used for detecting diffuse emission from the largest structures in the universe.

This radio telescope is having a novel feature of embedded systems at 5, 10, 14 GHz. In next five years, the institute will have an array of 30 dishes. Congratulating the institute and research students involved in the project, Tharoor hoped that the radio telescope would help in new discoveries happening in the space.

He emphasised the centrality of research and innovation in elite institutes of the country and hoped that IIT Indore continues to push the boundaries of research. IIT Indore Director Prof Pradeep Mathur also spoke on the occasion. He said that radio telescope was just one of the many ambitious projects of departments and he's confident that the institute was on its way to fulfill its ambition of being a world class research institute. Dr Siddarth Malu, faculty member of the Astrophysics, presented a report of the radio telescope project.

