

# I am here on a mission, won't leave now, says vice-chancellor

Vishwas Kothari | TNN

**Pune:** University of Pune (UoP) vice-chancellor (V-C) Narendra Jadhav is non-committal about the prospect of his joining active politics ahead of the Lok Sabha polls scheduled later this year.

"I am here (UoP) with a specific mission. I won't leave unless my mission is on a roll," Jadhav said while speaking to TOI on Tuesday on the backdrop of the latest speculation over his perceived political ambitions.

The V-C's name has long been in circulation as a potential candidate from one of the Lok Sabha constituencies in the neighbouring Ahmednagar district.

"Don't blame me if I am still there (chairing the Senate) in October," Jadhav had said during the UoP Senate meeting on Sunday. He was responding to the observation by a section of the Senate members that the university's Rs-137 crore deficit budget for

2008-09 was "over ambitious". Jadhav was trying to convince the members on the need for new building construction and development works that were long overdue. "There is a cost of inaction if the university fails to implement these projects," he said.



Narendra Jadhav was non-committal about joining politics

However, the V-C's loaded remark set tongues wagging in the Senate house as to what was special about October. The reference was to the Lok Sabha polls anticipated in that month.

"I won't say right now whether I will or will not join politics," Jadhav told this correspondent. "More than me, others are anxious to see me in politics."

Jadhav elaborated his mission as a three-pronged strategy of transforming the UoP into a global brand name; ensuring a quantum leap in education and research; and a quantum leap in terms of the university's social connection.

A highly accomplished Dalit of his generation and an economist of repute, Jadhav had been an advisor to

the executive director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) before heading the economic research wing at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

He was based in Kabul — assisting the economic rebuilding of the war-ravaged Afghanistan — when he was 'handpicked' for the task of heading the UoP on deputation in August 2006.

Jadhav is regarded close to both the Congress and the NCP leadership. He is known for his ties with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as well as Union minister Sharad Pawar.

The Congress-NCP led Democratic Front in Maharashtra appointed him as the one-man commission to examine causes behind the grave agrarian crisis of farmers' suicides in the state.

In the past, Jadhav has minced no words about joining politics. The idea was inspired by his father's advice to help the common man considering the impoverished background and the struggle his family had to wage against caste system. "I could have easily landed a high-paying job in the corporate sector but consciously opted for a government job," he said. Politics will come next to my present mission, he added.

# Colleges may get more exam responsibilities

Vishwas Kothari | TNN

**Pune:** The four-member Sarjaro Nimse panel — set up on Thursday by the University of Pune's (UoP) board of examination — has its task cut out in terms of reviewing and recommending an extensive overhaul of the university's exam system. Flying squads are just one of several aspects that the panel will examine.

Vice-chancellor Narendra Jadhav said the panel would consider transfer of the first- and second-year undergraduate exam work from the university to individual colleges; reducing the number of exam centres; revising norms for appointment of internal as well as external supervisors; subject-wise cluster of exams for rural and urban centres; police protection for colleges; internal security systems; infrastructure and provision of financial punishment against colleges indulging in unfair exam activities. Introduction of bar coding system and strengthening of the exam department workforce are other issues, Jadhav said.

According to UoP controller of exams (CoE) M.S. Phirange, the exam depart-

ment has 125 officials and personnel to take care of exam-related work. This includes one deputy registrar, six assistant registrars and seven section officers. The numbers simply do not match the volume of work the department is saddled with.

One of Phirange's predecessors told TOI that things have changed a lot in the last few years, considering the pace at which the university has added new courses, number of students, affiliated colleges and institutions. "In the last five years, the number of colleges have gone up from a little under 300 to the present 450-plus," the former CoE said.

Against this, the department has quite an inexperienced and young team of supervisors and other staffers. Several of them are less devoted to work, he added.

"There has been no corresponding strengthening of the exam department to tackle the rise in the number of colleges. The exam department is a key revenue generating unit of the university," he added. "Outsourcing of work, which has gained currency in recent years, is not a solution to this problem," he said.

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## विधानसभेत विरोधकांचा बहिष्कार अखेर मार्गे

मुंबई (प्रतिनिधी): अनुदानाच्या मागण्यांवर मंत्र्यांनी विधानसभेचे अध्यक्ष बाबासाहेब उपकर यांच्याशी त्यांच्या कुपेकर यांच्याशी त्यांच्या दालनात झालेल्या चर्चेनंतर समाधान झालेल्या विरोधकांनी आज विधानसभेतील काम काजावर टाकलेला बहिष्कार मार्गे घेतला. मात्र विधानसभा उपाध्यक्षांविरुद्ध अविश्वास ठराव मांडण्यावर विरोधक ठाम आहेत. विधानसभेत गुरुवारी अर्थसंकल्पीय

उत्तर दिल्यानंतर विरोधकांनी प्रत्यक्ष मतदानाची मागणी केली होती. मात्र उपाध्यक्ष प्रमोद शेंडे यांनी ती फेटाळून लावली. तेव्हा उपाध्यक्षांच्या या कृतीवर आक्षेप घेत विरोधकांनी विधानसभेच्या कामकाजावर बहिष्कार टाकला होता. तसेच विधानभवनाच्या आवारात धरणे आंदोलन केले होते.

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