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मृतक आईआईटी छात्रों को मिलेगी डिग्री!

शाह टाइम्स संवाददाता
नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी दिल्ली
ने एक बड़ा फैसला सुनाते हुए
जैसलमेर सड़क हादसे में चार
छात्रों की मृत्यु होने के एक दिन
बाद ही कहा कि हादसे में मृत एक
छात्र को आईआईटी की तरफ से
मृत्यु होने के बाद भी डिग्री दी
जाएगी।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक आईआईटी ने
ऐसा कदम मृत छात्रों के परिजनों
की मांग के बाद उठाया है। छात्रों
को यह डिग्री एकेडमिक सीनेट की
तरफ से भावनात्मक जुड़ाव के लिए
दी जा रही है। हादसे में मारे गए
चारों छात्र-छात्राएं बीटेक एमटेक
डुअल डिग्री कोर्स के फाइनल ईयर
के छात्र थे। ज्ञात हो कि रविवार की

सुबह इनोवा कार का टायर फटने से
जैसलमेर की तरफ जा रही
आईआईटी दिल्ली के चार छात्रों की
मौत हो गई थी, जबकि दो अन्य
छात्रों का फिलहाल अस्पताल में
इलाज चल रहा है। आईआईटी के
रजिस्ट्रार राकेश कुमार ने कहा कि
हादसे में कंप्यूटर साइंस डिपार्टमेंट
के पल्लव अग्रवाल, दीक्षा गौतम
और केमिकल डिपार्टमेंट की अर्चना
कुमारी की मौके पर ही मौत हो गई
थी।

जबकि बायो टेक्नोलॉजी
डिपार्टमेंट के मयंक गोयल ने
अस्पताल में ही दम तोड़ दिया था।
सभी छात्र अपने प्लेसमेंट की खुशी
मनाने के लिए राजस्थान में ट्रिप के
लिए गए थे।

हादसे में मारी गई छात्रा को डिग्री देगा IIT!

बुधवार, 2 अप्रैल 2014, अमर उजाला, नई दिल्ली



रविवार सुबह हुआ था हादसा

जैसलमेर में चार छात्रों के हुए सड़क हादसे में जान गवाने के एक दिन बाद ही आईआईटी दिल्ली ने एक बड़ा फैसला लिया है। हादसे में मृत छात्रों में से एक को आईआईटी दिल्ली मरने के बाद भी डिग्री प्रदान करेगा। सूत्रों के मुताबिक आईआईटी ने यह कदम मृत छात्रा के परिजनों की मांग पर लिया है।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक एकेडमिक सीनेट की ओर से ये डिग्री पूरी तरह भावनात्मक जुड़ाव के लिए दी जाएगी। हादसे में मारे गए सभी चार छात्र-छात्राएं बीटेक एमटेक डुअल डिग्री कोर्स के फाइनल ईयर में थे।

बता दें कि रविवार सुबह इनोवा कार का टायर फटने से जैसलमेर की ओर जा रहे आईआईटी दिल्ली के चार छात्रों की मौत हो गई जबकि दो अन्य का अस्पताल में इलाज चल रहा है।

IIT-Madras needs space for expansion

R. Sujatha

: The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, is facing a severe space crunch. On Monday, the National Green Tribunal, Southern Bench, rejected the IIT-M's appeal to allow ongoing construction work.

Six years ago, the institute embarked on expansion of its facilities after the Central government called for admitting students under 'other backward class' reservation category. In 2008, the institute drew up a master plan and wrote to the State government seeking more space. So far, nothing concrete has emerged.

According to its director Bhaskar Ramamurthi, the buildings on the campus currently accommodate around 8,250 students and faculty, almost twice its capacity. "We have to add 2,800 rooms if we have to provide hostel accommodation to all the students we will admit next academic year," he says. Since 2010, the student intake has increased with the government mandating an increase in 54 per cent of its capacity. "Every year the number of students has been going up. Initially we managed with the space we had, but now it is impossible. We created the second master plan in the middle of 2010. Thankfully, the new girls' hostel is completed and 350 girls will move in there. This will create space for boys. Undergraduate students are sharing hostel accommodation, two to a room.

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BangaloreMirror

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IISc in a mess over food subsidy

By Sridhar Vivan, Bangalore Mirror Bureau | Apr 3, 2014, 02:00 AM IST



The management wants to stop the subsidy to the mess, but students are against the move

The issue of subsidy has returned to dog both students and the management at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). Not the kind of subsidies political parties are currently squabbling over, but something far more mundane — subsidy extended to food being served in the institute's mess.

The IISc management wants to stop the subsidy extended to the mess, but students are vehemently against the move.

A message posted by the students' council a few days ago, stated, "We (mess committee and students' council members) were called for a meeting in hostel office to discuss the mess subsidy issue again. (The) Director has received recommendation from (the) institute committee to remove mess subsidy (currently Rs 13,12,429/ per month) gradually from March 2014. After following up the issue for so long, we feel the institute is not paying any attention to our suggestions. We, therefore, seek opinion from students of IISc to decide the way forward."

The student council is now conducting an opinion poll to decide on how to tackle the issue. The issue had come to the fore in July last year when the management announced that it was going to stop financial aid to the mess. It was met with strong protests from students. Students had claimed that their mess bill would increase by Rs 800 to Rs 900 a month from current Rs 2,400 for three meals and evening snacks.

Students protested that if the subsidy is to be removed, then stipend too should be immediately hiked. Students allege that stipends have not been raised since 2010 despite a steady increase in inflation. Currently, a junior research scholar is paid Rs 16,000 per month, while a senior research scholar is paid Rs 18,000 per month. An under-graduate student is given Rs 5,000 per month, while a post-graduate student gets Rs 8,000 per month.

Hiring blues: Campus placements at IITs lose steam in phase-II

Highest salary package offered and number of students placed decline compared to those in phase-I

Vinay Umarji & Kalpana Pathak | Ahmedabad/ Mumbai April 03, 2014 Last Updated at 00:10 IST



IIT Madras

After a strong first phase of final placements, most Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) seem to have lost steam in the second phase.

At the IITs, the final placement process is conducted in two phases — the first in December, while the second is spread through a few months beginning January.

The IITs Business Standard spoke to said there was a decline in the highest compensation packages being offered in the second phase. Also, in terms of the number of students being placed, the momentum in the second phase is slow. A few IITs said the placement season could be

extended beyond May-June 2014.

At IIT-Madras, for instance, the highest compensation package offered in first phase was \$210,000 a year (about Rs 1.25 crore); this fell to Rs 16 lakh in the second phase. For IIT-Guwahati, highest domestic salary in first phase was Rs 32 lakh a year; this fell to Rs 7.18 lakh in the second phase. For IIT-Kharagpur, the highest salary in the first and second phases stood at Rs 37 lakh and Rs 21 lakh, respectively.

At IIT-Madras, compared to 785 students being placed in the first phase, the institute has placed 73 students so far in the second phase. For

IIT-Kharagpur, which placed 1,026 students in first phase, the second phase has seen 300 placements.

“Usually, we are able to place almost all students or a considerable number by this time of the year. However, this year, the hiring environment hasn’t been as good as last year, impacting the second phase. Thankfully, most of the anticipated marquee firms could make it in the first phase recruitment process,” said a placement committee member at IIT-Kanpur.

Sectors that made their presence felt during the second phase of placements included core engineering, information technology, consulting, education, teaching, finance and health care.

At IIT-Guwahati, some new firms that visited the campus in the second phase were Yodlee, HCL, UHG, SAP Lab, Housing.com, Eaton and BSB. The institute said new firms such as Oracle and SAP Labs had joined the likes of Google and Microsoft in rolling out foreign offers in the second phase.

PLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Institute	Phase-I		Phase-II	
	Highest salary	Placed*	Highest salary	Placed*
IIT Madras	₹1.25 cr	785	₹16 lakh	73
IIT Guwahati	₹32 lakh	362	₹7.18 lakh	64
IIT Kharagpur	₹37 lakh	1026	₹21 lakh	300

*Number of students

Source: Institutes

Note: Phase-I of campus placements is held in December, and Phase-II is spread through a few months beginning January

IITs also attributed the dull second phase to the absence of public sector undertakings (PSUs). “The decline in recruitment in second phase is also due to a number of PSUs staying away from direct recruitments from IITs,” an IIT-Guwahati placement committee member said.

Though the Madras High Court had vacated a stay on direct recruitments by PSUs from

campuses, a final order in this regard is pending.

IIT-Bombay said considering that many of its students wanted PSUs to come to the campus for placements, the institute had asked many of these companies to participate in the placement process. It has, however, informed the students about pending public interest litigation in this regard and cautioned against any consequences thereof.

JEE: parents question 60:40 weightage

K. C. Deepika

They are worried that central board students are at a disadvantage

Less than a week before the Joint Entrance Examination (Main) begins on April 6, parents whose children have studied the central syllabus have raised concerns that their children are at a disadvantage. They have questioned the weightage given to Class 12 marks in the JEE. The JEE is conducted for admissions to Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), centrally funded technical institutions, and other participating institutions.

Under the JEE, the merit/rank list will be prepared based on 40 per cent weightage given to marks scored in Class 12 in State board or equivalent examinations, and 60 per cent weightage will be given to marks scored in the JEE (Main).

However, the JEE notification specifies that weightage to school board/equivalent examination marks will be considered “only after normalisation”, which means arriving at a method to be able to compare marking systems by individual boards.

In a letter addressed to the directors of IITs and officials of the JEE Cell of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), a parent, who did not want to be named, of an IIT seat aspirant questioned how the difficulty level of the State board exam could be compared to that of the central board exam.

‘Discrepancies’

Questioning the 60:40 formula, the parent pointed to discrepancies, including the varying levels of difficulty in State board and CBSE question papers, the overall choice for the State board students vs. the internal choice for the central syllabus students, the ‘blow-up’ (condensed) syllabus and the difference in scoring in practicals.

“Around two years ago, the Ministry of Human Resource Development announced that JEE will be the only entrance exam for engineering courses. That is why we shifted our son to the central syllabus from the State board in Class 11,” the parent said.

The Department of Pre-university Education introduced National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) books for PU students in the science stream two years ago.

However, a maths lecturer, who was in the committee to frame the ‘blow-up’ syllabus, said that it only highlighted which parts should be stressed on, and there was no difference between the PU and central syllabi.

‘Slight advantage’

The lecturer, working in a centrally funded technical institute, said observations made last year after the ‘normalisation of scores’ was introduced did point to a slight advantage that State board students enjoyed as their board exam scores were higher. “But, the normalisation tables used are not in the public domain. So, even we will not be able to give a technically correct answer. But students do not have much control over the 40 per cent marks,” the lecturer said.

Keywords: [Joint Entrance Examination](#), [central syllabus](#), [Class 12 marks](#), [normalisation tables](#)

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What ails Indian science?

Indian science's bureaucratic mentality values administrative power over achievements

R. PRASAD

“Getting funding [for research] is easy in India,” said Dr. Mathai Joseph “because there is no competition here. Money is not scarce [though R&D spending is less than 1 per cent of GDP]. But money comes with the same bureaucratic restrictions that apply to all government expenditure.” Dr. Joseph is a computer scientist and a consultant, and was earlier a senior research scientist at TIFR, Mumbai. For instance, while research students get no funding support to travel abroad to participate in conferences, scientists are constrained by “limited foreign travel.”

These restrictions on foreign travel prevent students and scientists from gaining in terms of networking, exchanging ideas and being exposed to the kind of work being done by their peers in other countries. “Science does not happen like that — by not allowing them to travel abroad,” he said.

The big mistake

But the systematic undermining of scientific enterprise started way back in the mid 1950s. According to an opinion piece published today (April 3) in *Nature*, (Dr. Joseph is the first author), the Department of Atomic Energy, which was created as a different model, had Homi Bhabha, the head of DAE as a “secretary to the government.” The mistake was repeated when the DAE model was replicated in other institutions — space and biotech-



EXCEPTION: Younger people in the space department have been put in charge of important programmes, and they have succeeded. — PHOTO: PTI

nology, to name a few.

“The fact that scientific departments are modelled on the rest of the bureaucracy has turned out to be a big mistake,” Dr. Joseph said. “That’s because bureaucracy is not designed to encourage innovation. DAE and the department of space are the only institutions that undertake developments in-house. Others like the DBT [Department of Biotechnology] do not.” Contrast this with the system followed in the developed countries. For instance, in the case of the U.S., the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) are outside the government bureaucracy.

By being a part of the bureaucracy, even those scientists in India who do remarkable research cannot be rewarded with promotion or pay hike. “If you reward scientific achievement rather than years of service, scien-

tists would be motivated to take up novel scientific challenges,” he noted. Regrettably, the malaise of promotion based on years of service, and not by achievement has spread to institutions at the national level too.

“Indian science has for too long been hamstrung by bureaucratic mentality that values administrative power over scientific achievements,” the paper notes.

It is, however, pertinent to note that the department of space stands out from the rest. Younger people have been put in charge of important programmes, and they have succeeded. “This system is quite old in the department of space,” Dr. Joseph said.

The golden era

These essentially explain why prior to the 1950s important contributions from people like Jagadish Chandra Bose, Satyendra Nath Bose and Srinivasa Ramanujan

came from within the country. The pioneering work by these people came before “the machinery of government took over and mismanaged research.”

Another problem is the lack of lateral movement from one institution to another. While collaborating with scientists from other institutions would go a long way in putting to test the usefulness of one’s expertise without actually moving to another institution, one ends up gaining more by moving out. “Vitality grows from being challenged in scientific terms [when one moves from one institution to another],” Dr. Joseph said.

Collaboration

Incidentally, even collaborating with scientists from other institutions is rarely seen in India. Worse, even the funding agencies do not insist on this. Funding is rather provided for collaboration within

the institution than across institutions. This is true even in the case of the Nano mission launched in 2007.

According to the authors, the Nano mission has funded 150 individual projects, 11 centres of excellence and six industry-linked projects. “But [the mission] has required no collaboration between institutions,” the paper notes.

“There are very few national frameworks for collaboration,” he said, “working towards a common goal is missing.” Collaboration becomes all the more important as the size of the groups in any area is small in India.

It is true that there is an inherent resistance to collaboration across institutions in other countries as well. “But programmes like ESPRIT [European Strategic Programme on Research in Information Technology] insist on collaboration across institutions and countries for funding,” he said.

According to the paper, one of the four changes that need to be urgently initiated to de-couple funding and government control. “Indian science needs public funding, but not government control,” the paper notes. There are numerous examples in other countries and in Europe where such a system has been operating successfully.

The tenure of heads of institutions should also be limited and they should be encouraged to return to active research. “The rotation should be every five years. It’s very hard to do research when you head an institution,” he said, “you can’t do research full time.”

UK sees first fall in global student numbers in 30 yrs

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: The number of overseas students enrolling in English universities has recorded a sharp dip, the first fall in nearly three decades.

Data revealed on Wednesday by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce) shows the number of international students who enrolled in 2012-13 decreased by 4,595 in one year — the biggest fall in recent history.

The number of Indian students fell from 18,535 in 2010-11 to 13,250 in 2011-12 and further to 10,235 in 2012-13.

There was also a notable decline in the number of entrants from Pakistan, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels — from 4,580 (2010-

11) to 2,825 (2012-13).

These shifts in student numbers from some major countries have affected the gender balance in student numbers at the postgraduate level. The numbers of male entrants to master's courses started to decline in 2010-11.

FEWER INDIANS

Declines in entrants from India and Pakistan had a major impact on this, with numbers of male entrants from these two countries dropping by 54% in the period 2010-11 to 2012-13. This equates to 5,400 fewer male entrants from India and 1,300 fewer from Pakistan. The declines in student numbers from India and Pakistan mainly affected

STEM courses (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) — entrants from India were down 64% and from Pakistan, 65%.

The Hefce report said international and EU student numbers fell from 311,800 in 2011-12 to 307,205 in 2012-13.

“International students enrich our universities and our society — academically, culturally, and through their contribution to the economy,” said Hefce chief executive professor Madeleine Atkins.

Income from international (non-EU) students generated through their tuition fees in 2012-13 came to £3 billion, which represented around 30% of all tuition fee.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Tough visa rules see 51% drop in Indian students enrolled in UK

Prasun Sonwalkar

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

LONDON: For the first time in three decades, the number of international students attending England's universities has dropped significantly, a study said Wednesday, with students from India and Pakistan hit by tighter visa rules.

New official figures provided further evidence that Indian students are staying away from British universities, adding fresh impetus to demands that international students be excluded from the David Cameron government's measures to cut immigration.

The new figures released by Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE) said that since 2010-11, there had been a drop of 51% in the number of Indian students enrolling on English universities. The drop has mainly been for courses in Science, Technology, Engineering and

I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED BUT, REGRETTABLY, NOT AT ALL SURPRISED; WORDS OF A HOME SECRETARY CAN REACH INDIAN NEWSPAPERS IN SECONDS AND HAVE POTENTIAL TO DO UNTOLD DAMAGE

EDWARD ACTON, vice-chancellor of the University of East Anglia

Mathematics.

Edward Acton, vice-chancellor of the University of East Anglia and a leading figure in the discourse on international students and the government's student visa policy, told HT: "I am deeply concerned by the latest figures but, regrettably, not at all surprised; the words of a Home Secretary spoken in the House of Commons take only seconds to reach the newspapers of India and have the potential to do untold damage to long-established and cherished relationships".

The HEFCE report titled 'Global Demand for English Higher Education' said: "While English higher education

remains popular worldwide, there has been a decline in the growth of international recruitment since 2010. This is the first significant slowdown in the past 29 years".

Responding to the report, Sally Hunt, general secretary of the University and College Union (UCU), said: "As we face continued uncertainty about the future of funding for our universities, the government should be doing more to encourage foreign students". HEFCE said the drop in Indian students had been accompanied by a significant rise in the number of Indians going to universities in the United States and Australia.



17-yr-old is accepted by all 8 Ivy League univs

Tim Walker

He has an academic test score that puts him in the top one per cent of students, competes as a shot putter for his school athletics team and even plays the viola in the orchestra, so it likely came as little surprise to his teachers and family that Kwasi Enin would be accepted by an Ivy League college.

What might have shocked them, however, is that he got into all eight.

In a rare feat, the 17-year-

Kwasi Enin's parents are both nurses who emigrated from Ghana to NY in the 1980s. Their son also has his sights set on a career in medicine, saying he aspires to be a cardiologist or a neurologist

old student from William Floyd High School, a state-run school on Long Island, in New

York state, applied to and was accepted by Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton, Yale and the University of Pennsylvania. "By applying to all eight, I figured it would better the chances of getting into one," he told the New York Daily News.

Enin's parents are both nurses who emigrated from Ghana to New York in the 1980s. Their son also has his sights set on a career in medicine, saying he aspires to be a cardiologist or a neurologist. He already volunteers in the

radiology department at a local hospital — when he isn't scoring top marks in exams or singing in the school's 'a capella' group, that is.

Enin, who is ranked at number 11 in his year of 647 students in William Floyd's schools district, comes from an academic family: some of his uncles and cousins were also accepted to more than one Ivy League college. "I've always thought they were far better than me academically," he said in an interview with Long Island's Newsday. **THE INDEPENDENT**

IndiaToday.in New Delhi, April 2, 2014 | UPDATED 16:20 IST

JEE Mains 2014: 5 lakh candidates to go for the computer based exam

Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) Mains scheduled to be conducted online on April 9, 11, 12 and 19 will witness a total of more than 5 lakh candidates appearing for it. The online exam is being held in over 235 cities this year. It is expected to come up as the one of the biggest online exam of the nation. Its applicants are far more in number than CAT.

[JEE \(Mains\)](#) is set to see a total of 13.57 lakh aspirants this year. Out of this total figure, 50 per cent candidates are quota based including 4.7 lakh candidates from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category, 1.36 lakh from the Scheduled Caste (SC) category and the Scheduled Tribe consisting of 57, 000 candidates.

The online test is scheduled for four days, whereas the paper based test is scheduled to be held on April 6 in two slots though. JEE Mains score is used for admissions to undergraduate engineering programmes in NITs, IITs and other centrally funded technical institutions in India.