

Newspaper Clips

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Student convinces high court to lower fee for answer sheets

VICTORY Paras Jain singlehandedly argued case before high court without a lawyer

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NEW DELHI: At the first glance, Paras Jain, 22, seems like a regular student. But there's a difference: Jain has singlehandedly managed to convince the Delhi High Court to order an institute to provide answer sheets under the Right to Information Act for a minimal amount instead of paying an exorbitant fee.

Jain had filed a case in the high court against the Institute of Company Secretaries for charging ₹500 to show students their answer sheets.

The Supreme Court had earlier held that every student had the fundamental right to inspect

her/his answer sheet.

Following this order, a number of universities had included the provision of showing the answer sheets to students in its rules, albeit at a hefty fee that is usually between ₹ 500 and ₹1000.

Jain decided to challenge the institute's rule.



» THERE WAS A PROBLEM WITH MY MARKS AND SO I DECIDED TO SEE MY ANSWER SHEETS. I REALIZED THEN THAT THE FEE WAS TOO HEFTY FOR STUDENTS

PARAS JAIN, student

“There was a problem in the marks I was awarded and I decided to see my answer sheets. I realized that the fee was too hefty for students, even though I paid mine. That is where the idea took form. I was nervous initially but wanted to argue the case myself. I have previously argued cases in the Central Information Commission

but this was certainly different,” said Jain.

The court has given hope to students in other universities as well as it can be used as a precedent in other cases and the information commission.

Jain himself is planning to file a public interest litigation to make sure that answer sheets are made available in all universities under RTI and not for hefty fees.

Hindustan Times had, last year, reported how the exorbitant fee was keeping students from applying to see their answer sheets even if they believed they had cause to. According to university officials, a nominal fee will open the floodgates and result in ‘unnecessary’ burden.

Students can get answer sheets for ₹2 per page: HC

Smriti Singh | TNN

New Delhi: In an order that would help students across the capital, the Delhi high court held that a student can obtain copies of answer sheets by paying Rs 2 per page, in line with the RTI Act, instead of the amount asked by the educational institution.

A division bench of Chief Justice G Rohini and Justice Pradeep Nandrajog has said that under the Right to Information (Regulation of Fee and Cost) Rules, 2005, Rs 2 will be charged for each page (A4 or A3 size paper) copied and no fee will be charged in the first hour of inspection.

The court's order came on the plea filed by a student of The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, who had challenged the institute's demand of Rs 500 for obtaining a copy of the answer book under the Act. Petitioner Paras Jain had applied for the inspection of his answer sheets under the RTI Act. On August 12, 2013, inspection was allowed by the ICSI but the institute refused to provide the copies at the rate of Rs 2 per page as prescribed under RTI Rules, 2012, he claimed.

The petitioner claimed that after two days, the examination committee of ICSI decided to charge Rs 450 for the inspection of answer sheets. "Fee of Rs 500 per subject/answer books paya-

ble for supply of certified copies of answer books and Rs 450 per answer book for providing inspection thereof respectively. The fee shall be paid through demand draft drawn in favour of The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, payable at New Delhi," the guidelines of the institute stated.

"This was a move to discourage students to inspect their answer sheets under the RTI Act, 2005," Jain said. Holding that the demand of the institute asking for a fee

The order came after a student challenged his institute's demand of ₹500 for obtaining a copy of the answer book under the RTI Act

of Rs 500 per subject/answer book copy is "not sustainable", the HC said, "We dispose of appeal quashing guideline number 3 notified by the respondent (institute) and declare that for the answer sheets copy is sought by the appellant (Jain) he shall be charged fee as per Rule 4 of the Right to Information (Regulation of Fee and Cost) Rules, 2005".

The court added, "It is trite that an executive instruction if in violation of a statutory rule or a regulation must yield to the statutory rule or regulation".

HT.Com ND 26.04.2014 P-1

HIGH FEES AND BIG SACRIFICES

TOUGH With top institutes hiking fees, parents and students are struggling to cope

Himani Chandna Gurtoo, Mahua Venkatesh

NEW DELHI: Manoj Gupta, 30, a finance manager at a leading multinational bank took up his first job four years ago after completing his post graduation from Indian Institute of Management, (IIM) Indore. "I wanted to be an entrepreneur but decided against it since I had to repay my education loan," said Gupta. "Before I got the job, my father, a bank official, had used all his salary towards paying my fees, which was very stressful for our family," said Gupta, who now earns about ₹2 lakh per month.

Similarly, Kavita Iyer, 51, a senior official at a multinational IT firm, who wanted to quit her job because of health issues, could not do so due to an education loan payment for her son who studied management at the Indian School of Business Hyderabad (ISB).

Gupta and Iyer are not alone.

Many students and parents are struggling to pay the steep education fees of management institutes and hence have to resort to loans. "I decided to call off my admission at IIM, which was my dream, due to the fees burden of over ₹16 lakh. However, I decided to do my management studies from IIT-Delhi, which was much cheaper, ₹4 lakh,"

BREAKING THE BANK



- Since 2010, fees at IIMs have gone up by over **30%**
- At IIM Bangalore, for example, the fees for the 2010-12 batch was ₹13 lakh, which has now gone up to **₹17 lakh**
- At the Gurgaon-based Management Development Institute, the average percentage increase in fees in the last 3 years has been over **7%**
- Others including XLRI, International Management Institute (IMI), SP Jain Institute of Management & Research, have also approved fee hikes this year

said Nitin Bajaj, a management student.

Institutes said that fee hikes are essential to factor in fiscal inflation. "For a programme that draws its faculty from the best globally, we strive hard to keep our fees affordable" says ISB, which charges ₹24 lakh for a post-graduate programme in management.

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INDIA'S MANAGEMENT STUDENTS STRUGGLING WITH FINANCIAL DEBT

CONTINUED FROM P01

Management colleges are designing policies and scholarship programmes for students instead of lowering the basic fees structure. "IIM, Banaglore, extends financial aid in the form of part or full tuition waivers to students in need of financial assistance," said Devanath Tirupati, director in-charge, IIMB.

ISB boasts of the availability of easier educational loans. "For the last five years, numbers of educational loans have been close to 70% of the total class size. The ISB has inked loan agreements with leading banks that provide collateral free loans of about ₹23 lakhs that covers up to 95% of the programme cost."

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Chief of Google+ quits after 8 yrs

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Vivek Gundotra, chief of Google's social networking venture 'Google+', is leaving the Internet company after nearly eight years.

Gundotra, who was serving as the Senior Vice President (Social) at Google, announced his departure in a post on Google Plus, a social network that was created about three years ago.

"Today I'm announcing my departure from Google after almost 8 years. I have been incredibly fortunate to work with the amazing people of Google," he said.

He, however, did not offer any reasons for his departure nor did he reveal what he plans to do next.

"I am excited about what's next. But this isn't the day to talk about that. This is a day to celebrate the past eight years. To cry. And smile. And to look forward to the journey yet to come," he added.

Google CEO Larry Page also praised Gundotra in his own Plus post.

"Vic -- thank you for a tremendous almost eight years at Google. You cut your teeth



on our mobile apps and developer relations, turning our disparate efforts into something great ... You built Google+ from nothing. There are few people with the courage and ability to start something like that and I am very grateful for all your hard work and passion," Page said.

Google describes Google+ as a "social layer" for enhancing many of its online properties and is not simply a social networking website.

Although it boasts of over 500 million users, Google is still struggling to catch up with Facebook, its biggest rival, which has close to 1.3

billion users.

Before the Plus project, Gundotra has helped Google build some of the early apps for its Android operating system and has also led the drive to persuade outside programmers to create services suited for Android.

An Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, graduate, Gundotra has also worked with Microsoft for 15 years. His duties there included promoting Microsoft's APIs and platforms to independent developers and helping to develop a strategy for Windows Live online services.

IndiaToday.in New Delhi, April 25, 2014 | UPDATED 12:58 IST

JEE (Main) 2014: OMR sheets released at www.jeemain.nic.in

The Central Board of Secondary Education ([CBSE](http://www.cbse.nic.in)) Joint Entrance Examination (Main) Unit has published the OMR answer sheets on its official website along with scanned images and recorded responses of the candidates, who have appeared in the pen and paper based [JEE](http://www.jeemain.nic.in) (Main) 2014 exam conducted on April 06.

Candidates can check their answer sheets for recorded answer and other details at www.cbse.nic.in and www.jeemain.nic.in

The OMR sheets are available on the above mentioned websites from today i.e April 25 to April 28 till 2.00 PM.

Candidates have to provide their Application no and roll no that appeared on the admit card, date of birth as registered and security pin generated during application process to the server to see their OMR answer sheets.

Candidates can also challenge the board if the recorded responses differ from the ones they had marked on the OMR sheet through a different gateway. Candidates should login with application number and password. The complaints regarding the discrepancies in scanned images of OMR sheets will be accepted online only through the link available on the website of JEE (Main) latest by 2 PM on April 28. The challenges submitted by post will not be accepted. Candidates have to pay Rs 1,000 per recorded response challenged and have to pay through Credit/Debit Card or e-challan only by the same date and time as mentioned above.

If the challenge is accepted by the board, the correction in the required area will be done and fee will be refunded. The question paper and recorded responses in respect of the examinees who have appeared for computer based examination of JEE (Mains) 2014 have already been sent on their registered mail IDs. So no challenge will be accepted. Before viewing the OMR sheets, the candidates who have still not submitted their roll numbers of class 12 or equivalent qualifying examination are required to submit the same on the JEE (Main) website. Any discrepancy found can be brought to notice through e-mail only on jeemain@nic.in

The pen and paper based exam was held on April 6. The answer keys will be released by the board on April 28 after 2 PM.

The results are expected to be announced on May 3 and the All India ranks will be declared tentatively on July 7.

JEE (Mains) is conducted to test the eligibility of candidates seeking admission to undergraduate engineering programmes in NITs, IITs and other centrally funded technical institutions in India, kicked off on April 6 and came to an end on April 19.

A total of 13.56 lakh students, including 3.16 lakh girls, registered for the exam this year. Of which, 11.84 lakh took the paper and pen exam at 2,173 centres and nearly 1.72 lakh students appeared for the online version

Put anti-ragging measures in place, UGC reminds varsities

[Express News Service](#) | Pune | April 26, 2014 12:23 am

In yet another reminder, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed varsities and affiliated colleges to put in place stipulated measures to prohibit, prevent and eliminate the scourge of ragging.

“Students and parents ought to know whom to approach when in difficulty. All regulatory bodies and educational institutes, including the UGC-funded universities and the private universities, should ensure they have strict anti-ragging measures in place,” said a notice issued by the UGC.

In 2009, the UGC had framed regulations to curb the menace of ragging in higher educational institutes. As per the regulations, all the institutes are required to take necessary steps to implement anti-ragging measures in toto, including the monitoring mechanism.

“Any violation of the regulations or if any institute fails to take adequate steps to prevent ragging or act in accordance with these regulations or fails to punish perpetrators of incidents of ragging suitably, UGC shall call for punitive action against erring institutes,” the commission had warned.

Erecting suitable hoardings/bill boards/banners in prominent places within the campus to exhort students to prevent or not indulge in ragging, displaying names of officials and their telephone numbers to be contacted in case of ragging, formation of anti-ragging committees and squads, and dedicated cadre of wardens and professional counselors are some of the important guidelines laid down by the UGC.