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Interest Subvention on Education Loans taken by IIT Students

<http://www.enaindia.in/news/newsdetails/policy/governance/interest-subvention-on-education-loans-taken-by-iit-students>

Interest Subvention on Education Loans taken by IIT Students

Government of India has decided to provide interest subvention on the education loans, for all students admitted for undergraduate and the 5-year integrated degree programmes in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). The information was provided by Minister of State (MoS) of Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) Mahendra Nath Pandey in a written reply to a question that was raised in the Rajya Sabha.

The interest subvention benefit covers not only the period of study at the IITs, but it also covers one year of moratorium under the Vidyalyaxmi Scheme.

MoS HRD Pandey informed the members of Rajya Sabha that, the scheme is subject to certain guidelines which includes the following:

- (i) The facility shall be made available to all the students whose household income does not exceed Rs. 9 lakh per annum.
- (ii) The education loan, for this purpose, shall cover only the tuition fee payable by the student as per his eligibility. The portion of the tuition fee paid by the student from his own sources at the time of securing admission could be reimbursed from the overall loan.
- (iii) The terms of the loan shall be in accordance with the broad contours of the Educational loan Scheme of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for pursuing Technical or Professional Education studies in India.
- (iv) The term of the loans sanctioned under this dispensation shall be 10 years.
- (v) There shall be no collateral for sanction of the loan except the personal guarantee of the student (applicant) and the parent or guardian (co-applicant).

MoS HRD Pandey also informed the members of Rajya Sabha that in addition to this scheme, another central sector scheme is operational that provides full interest subsidy during the period of moratorium (course period + one year) on loans taken by students belonging to economically weaker section (EWS) from Scheduled banks under the Model Educational loan Scheme of the IBA for pursuing any of the approved courses of studies in technical and professional streams, from recognized institutes in India.

Team of IIT experts sent to Mahad bridge collapse spot, rains hamper rescue operations

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/team-of-iit-experts-sent-to-spot-rains-hamper-rescue-operations-2954645/>

At a meeting, Fadnavis urged officials to complete the new bridge in six months using advanced technology and expertise.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Thursday ordered a judicial probe into the bridge collapse at Mahad, plunging two state-run buses and two private vehicles into the overflowing Savitri river. The CM promised a new bridge in six months.

While police put the casualty figure at 33, Fadnavis said in the Assembly at least 42 people were feared drowned after the century-old bridge on the Mumbai-Goa highway collapsed late Tuesday night.

Fadnavis told the Assembly that 26 people were travelling in the two Maharashtra State Transport buses, while the two private vehicles (one Tavera, the other a Honda City) were carrying eight and four people respectively. Besides, four more are also reportedly missing.

The state government has announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the families of the dead. The Maharashtra State Transport Corporation announced financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh to the families of victims travelling in its buses.

Fadnavis, meanwhile, admitted that heavy rains were hampering rescue operations.

According to the Chief Minister's statement in the House, five out of the eight bodies fished out were retrieved from Mahad's Kemburli village. These reportedly belong to those travelling by the state transport buses travelling from Rajapur to Mumbai. The other bodies were recovered from Harihareshwar, Moradi and Anjarle.

Besides the local administration and police, the CM said the National Disaster Response Force, 160 jawans, nine boats, eight divers, seven rafting teams and 35 local divers were involved in the rescue efforts.

The bridge was built in 1928 and connected the towns of Mahad and Poladpur.

A newer bridge built next to it 10 years ago is intact. Fadnavis directed the National Highways Authority of India to review and undertake repairs on the parallel stretch.

A team of IIT experts has been sent to the spot.

The government has also ordered a structural audit of all old bridges across Maharashtra.

At a meeting, Fadnavis urged officials to complete the new bridge in six months using advanced technology and expertise.

At present, there are 2,015 bridges across Maharashtra. Of these, 900 were built during the British era. Thirty-six bridges — the maximum — are located in the Konkan region.

The oldest bridge, dating back to 1877, is located at Kanhan in Nagpur, the hometown of Fadnavis.

In the Assembly, Fadnavis said, "There is no ambiguity that there should be a thorough investigation to ascertain how the bridge was certified to be in good condition in May 2016."

"We will certainly rework the parameters if necessary to make the structural audit process flawless," he said. While asserting there should be no politics over a human tragedy, he said, "Let us not forget that former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan and former Public Works Department minister Chhagan Bhujbal had a report on the dilapidated condition of the bridge in 2011. However, the Congress-NCP too failed to take the necessary steps. So, it is pointless to accuse each other. Instead, my government is determined to act where things have gone wrong and also ensure better mechanism is evolved to avoid such mishaps."

Many students are getting expelled from IITs, and under-performance is not the prime reason

<http://www.businessinsider.in/Many-students-are-getting-expelled-from-IITs-and-under-performance-is-not-the-prime-reason/articleshow/53555063.cms>

Many students studying in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) who don't come from English medium schools are facing a tough time coping up with understanding the instructions in English language.

Due to this, many students at different IITs such as Delhi, Kanpur, Guwahati, Varanasi, Kharagpur, Roorkee, etc are getting expelled in their first year and nearly one per cent of them have been expelled due to poor performance every year.

ET reported that this year, around 30 students were expelled for four years at IIT Kanpur, 12 at IIT Delhi, six at IIT Kharagpur, five at IIT Guwahati and in addition to the recent 10 expelled at IIT Roorkee.

"Many students who are non-performers face trouble as most of their school education had been in Hindi medium. From class lectures to books at IITs, all are in English, and hence there's a gap in understanding," IIT Kanpur, dean-academic affairs, Neeraj Misra, told ET.

"We have done everything possible. From giving them remedial classes, peer-assistant learning (PAL), mentoring by senior students, handholding sessions by faculty and even translations of lessons (from English to Hindi)," IIT Roorkee director Pradipta Banerji told ET.

Apart from English, non-performance is also another reason. Every year, IIT Delhi also expels nearly 15 students who are academically weak.

"Only if they fail to turn the tables, we expel these underperformers. Most of them come from Hindi medium schools and face a problem in understanding the lectures," a dean at IIT Delhi told ET.

IIT Guwahati, dean of academic affairs, M Guru Prem Prasad, told ET, "Apart from the language problem, the students fail to solve concept-oriented papers. They can tackle only the objective type of questions. This is also the reason for many failures."

IIT-Bombay not to allow research scholars to overstay on campus

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/iit-bombay-not-to-allow-research-scholars-to-overstay-on-campus/story-BiPKMEEpWdsn5uoiKF5Vjl.html>

The Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) will not allow post-doctoral fellows and research associates to overstay on campus. Last week, HT wrote about space crunch at IIT-B that was driving these students to look for accommodation outside the campus. According to figures revealed by IIT-B officials, there are about 360 post-doctoral fellows on campus at present.

"These are students who have spent enough and more time on campus and we are now encouraging them to move out and find jobs. Henceforth, this will be the rule applicable to all students who are over doing their stay in the institute; no one can stay here indefinitely" said dean of student affairs, Soumyo Mukherji.

PhD students get a research scholarship for five years from the central government and this period is increased by one year by IIT-B. “But many students have pushed their stay for almost seven years on campus and only now are being asked to leave the campus,” said Mukherji.

While there is no official word on the deadline provided to students to vacate their hostel rooms, students have found out that they have time until mid-August to find accommodation outside the campus.

“The annual convocation is on August 13 and we’ve heard that the management will allow us time till then to look for accommodation elsewhere. We have no choice but to vacate our hostel rooms,” said one of the students.

Many who have already started hunting for accommodation around the campus said the rent is too steep and houses with cheaper rents are very far from the campus. Many students are working as RAs on campus and will have to visit the campus daily.

“Many of us have already submitted our thesis as well as completed the process of VIVA, which means we have six more months to publish our research papers in journals and we have the right to stay on campus. Thanks to this sudden decision, we are now forced to move out. The management should have given us a warning earlier,” said an RA, on condition of anonymity.

While IIT-B has made it very clear that research fellows will not be allowed to extend their stay indefinitely, some of the other IITs are making arrangement for their students on campus itself.

At IIT-Delhi, with only 5,200 rooms to accommodate over 7,000 students, the institute gives first preference to students from outside Delhi and request students from the city to avoid hostel accommodation.

“We have converted single rooms into double occupancy ones and double rooms into triple sharing rooms. While this can be difficult in the beginning, slowly students get used to the arrangement,” said Prof S K Gupta, dean student affairs, IIT-D. He added that research scholars, who usually get single rooms, are asked to share rooms with juniors or other students in case they end up staying longer than required to complete their course.

पहल

देश में सबसे कम फीस लेने वाला संस्थान बना रायपुर का आईआईआईटी

सिर्फ 67 हजार में लें यहां प्रवेश

हरिभूमि न्यूज. रायपुर

नया रायपुर स्थिति आईआईआईटी में छात्रों के रुझान को देखते हुए संस्थान ने फीस माफ करने की बड़ी पहल की है। इसके साथ ही यह संस्थान देशभर में सबसे कम शुल्क लेकर शिक्षा देने वाला इंजीनियरिंग संस्थान बन गया है।

देशभर के ट्रिपल आईटी, आईआईटी एवं एनआईटी में कम से कम दो लाख रुपए तक सालाना फीस ली जा रही है लेकिन यहां के ट्रिपल आईटी में मात्र 67 हजार रुपए देकर छात्र प्रवेश ले रहे हैं। ऐसे में यह शुल्क केवल हॉस्टल एवं मेस के लिए है। संस्थान ने ट्यूशन फीस में सौ फीसदी छूट देकर छात्रों को पहले साल में 90 हजार रुपए की राहत दी है। 2018-19 के शैक्षणिक सत्र तक यह व्यवस्था चलेगी। जरूरत के हिसाब से इसे आगे बढ़ाया जाएगा।



फीस में छूट देने का यह क्रम पहले से चौथे वर्ष तक चलता रहेगा, जब छात्र अंतिम सेमेस्टर में भी पढ़ते रहेंगे। संस्थान प्रशासन का कहना है कि मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. रमन सिंह की घोषणा के बाद यह व्यवस्था लागू की गई है। आर्थिक तौर से कमजोर और प्रतिभावान छात्रों को बेहतर शिक्षा देने की मंशा से यह नियम बनाया है।

120 सीटों पर प्रवेश

संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा जेईई में प्राप्त रैंकिंग के अनुसार ट्रिपल आईटी में प्रवेश दिया जाता है। जानकारी के

मुताबिक 120 सीटों पर प्रवेश का अंतिम दौर चल रहा है। 85 सीटों पर एडमिशन हो चुका है और बाकी बची 33 सीटें भी 1-2 दिन में भर जाएंगी। यहां एडमिशन लेने के लिए प्रदेश के साथ ही देशभर के छात्रों का जबरदस्त रुझान है। अच्छा इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर एवं आधुनिक पाठ्यक्रमों की वजह से देश के अन्य संस्थानों को छोड़कर छात्र यहां एडमिशन ले रहे हैं। इस शैक्षणिक सत्र से नए कोर्स की शुरुआत होगी। इसके बाद छह नहीं पांच ही साल में बीटेक एवं एमटेक दोनों ही डिग्री छात्रों को मिल जाएगी। प्रदेश में इस तरह का पहला कोर्स ट्रिपल आईटी में शुरू हो रहा है।

सबसे कम फीस

देशभर में करीब 25 ट्रिपल आईटी हैं, जो तीन स्तर पर संचालित हो रहे हैं। भारत सरकार के फंड से चलने

के साथ ही, राज्य सरकार और पीपीपी मोड के तहत भी ट्रिपल आईटी का संचालन हो रहा है। राज्य शासन की फंडिंग से चलने वाले नया रायपुर स्थित इस आईटी की फीस देशभर के संस्थानों की तुलना में सबसे कम है। ट्रिपल आईटी हैदराबाद, भोपाल, इलाहाबाद, ग्वालियर, कोटा, लखनऊ, जयपुर, नागपुर, रांची आदि में सालाना दो लाख रुपए तक शुल्क छात्रों को देना होता है, लेकिन यहां की फीस पूरे चार साल के पाठ्यक्रम में भी सबसे कम है।

कमजोर छात्रों को लाभ

रजिस्ट्रार कुमार संभव पाण्डेय ने इस बारे में कहा कि हमारा ट्रिपल आईटी देश में सबसे कम फीस लेकर शिक्षा देने वाला संस्थान बन गया है। इससे कमजोर छात्रों को बेहतर शिक्षा हासिल करने में मदद मिलेगी।

Using light for cancer treatment

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/using-light-for-cancer-treatment/article8945491.ece>

Conventional cancer treatment methods of surgery, chemotherapy and radiation — known as cut, slash and burn for the brutal side-effects they cause on patients — are largely unsuccessful in differentiating between healthy non-cancerous cells and tumour-causing cells.

A team of scientists from the Indian Institute of Science have developed a new bio-molecule that can help treat cancer using light as a source for burning away malignant cells, a method which is more successful at targeting only cancerous cells.

This bio-molecule can be used in a relatively new form of cancer treatment known as photodynamic therapy, where a chemical (called a photosensitiser) is used to kill small groups of cells. Put simply, the new molecule acts as a photosensitiser, which when exposed to a specific wavelength of light, gets triggered and kills nearby cancerous cells, leaving healthy cells intact, according to an IISc release.

Akhil R. Chakravarty, professor at the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry, IISc, and his team are behind the development. The major benefit is that medical professionals have more control over which cells are targeted in the patient's body. "Photodynamic therapy kills off cancer cells selectively, meaning toxicity to healthy cells can be reduced," Dr. Chakravarty told *The Hindu*.

Multiple methods

The bio-molecule, a vanadium (chemical element) containing complex molecule, targets cancerous cells through multiple methods: it carries a separable chloride ion due to which it caused cross-linking in DNA, leading to cell death. Cross-linking occurs when chemical agents react at two different positions in the DNA.

The molecule, when exposed to visible light, also generates a form of oxygen which can kill nearby cells. The team found that this bio-molecule was non-toxic in normal cells. This has major implications in the field of cancer treatment as existing treatments cause indiscriminate harm to healthy living cells, along with cancerous cells.

“Photodynamic therapy is an emerging field of cancer treatment. It may take some time for doctors in India to start using it,” said Dr. Chakravarthy. Their research was published in the July edition of peer-reviewed journal MedChemComm, produced by the Royal Society of Chemistry, United Kingdom.

IISc scientists develop new bio-molecule to treat cancer using light as a source for burning away malignant cells