Newspaper Clips
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Economic Times ND 11/07/2015   P-1

Learning Furiously by Rote, Students Add to the Rot in IITs

Premier institutes say many pupils just can't cope after clearing entrance

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New Delhi: The exit of 73 students from the Indian Institute of Technology at Roorkee because of poor grades has come as a rude shock, contrasting sharply with the typically celebratory narrative around the country's premier engineering schools. But IITs across the country point out that this is merely reflective of a bigger problem that's been building up over the past few years —increasing number of students unable to cope with the curriculum.

The coaching factories are prime suspects for the drop in quality but exhaustion and family pressure also play key roles. IITs take series of steps to help the struggling students.

Expulsions are The Last Resort ▶▶ 6

Why IITians Fail

Coaching factories prepare students only for the entrance exam

Entrance exam itself is perceived as obsolete

Huge gap in the merit of top students compared with the students at the bottom

Stress and burnout due to family, peer pressure

> The entrance exam system followed by the IITs is old and archaic. It is high time that this system should evolve and broaden to include subjective questioning, psychometric tests and case study evaluation.
> **ROHIN KAPOOR** Education Practice Director, Deloitte India

IIT-R Director Stands by Decision

IIT-Roorkee Director Pradipta Banerji tells **Ritika Chopra** that he stands by the decision to expel 73 students. He says the students were aware of the criteria even at the time of admission. ▶▶ 4

Expulsions are the Last Resort

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Despite these efforts, almost all of them are forced to nudge poor performers out of the system.

IITs, both old and new, blame much of this on the cram schools that prepare students for the admission test, such as those in Kota, Rajasthan. "The average standard of students is going down," said Manindra Agrawal, dean of faculty affairs at IIT-Kanpur, one of the older schools. "Primarily, it is due to the spoon-feeding by the coaching institutes to crack the entrance exam."

COACHING PRACTICES

To be sure, IIT-Roorkee's faculty is still trying to understand why the number of expulsions shot up to this extent—an 18-fold jump from four last year. But director Pradipta Banerji feels it would be wrong to put the onus of responsibility on the students.

"The students are not to be blamed as they have been coached by the coaching institutes just to crack the JEE (joint entrance exam) rather than focusing on knowledge," said director Pradipta Banerji.

Akash Keshav Singh, now at IIT-Gandhinagar, went to Kota to prepare for the entrance exam. The Rajasthan town has become famous for being home to dozens of coaching schools dedicated to this. The prevailing environment is intense, he said.

"We were expected to study for about 15 hours a day," Singh said. "There was always a fear of losing the seat at this institute (the coaching school) if we did not fare well in the assessments. There was always constant pressure from the institute and society to perform. But I am glad now that I could crack the exam." Does this drop in quality mean that the selection system needs to be changed? While the process has undergone several changes in the past few years, more needs to be done, said Rohin Kapoor, education practice director at Deloitte India.

"The entrance exam system followed by the IITs is old and archaic," he said. "It is high time that this system should evolve and broaden to include subjective questioning, psychometric tests and case study evaluation."

WHAT IITS ARE DOING

Are the IITs doing enough to make sure weak students don't fall through the cracks? The schools say they are. Expulsions are the last resort after a series of interventions aimed at trying to get poor performers to improve. These include warnings, getting parents involved, peer group counselling and special assistance. "There are enormous efforts made and help provided by IITs before terminating these students," said Rajendra Singh, dean, undergraduate studies, IIT-Kharagpur. "We even tell our students to take a break for a year and then come back to join the course." The school asked four students to leave last year for poor grades. IIT-Kanpur has also been weeding out students who don't make the cut. "Despite bringing the minimum requirement to pass further down, we still land up expelling about 10 students every year," Agrawal said.

IIT-Delhi sees seven-eight students exiting every year. "With the number of IITs going up and the old IITs expanding more seats, there is a huge gap in the merit of the top students compared to the students at the bottom," said Anurag Sharma, dean of academics at IIT-Delhi.

PRESSURE TACTICS

Family and peer pressure also play in role in forcing students with little aptitude to join the IITs.

"There are many such students who have entered the IITs with zero interest in engineering. This is another category of students that quickly exits," said IIT-Gandhinagar director Sudhir Jain. One such person left after being pressured by his family to enter the school. He's now looking to pursue an acting career.

Stress and mental exhaustion are other reasons why some students can't cope. After two-three years of relentless studying to get into an IIT, many just don't have the energy to handle studies. "The students are almost burnt out when they enter IITs," said IIT-Roorkee's Banerji. "They have been coached and pushed by parents even though they may not have the aptitude for engineering. As a result of rote learning, the analytical skills of these students have drastically fallen."

RL Trikha, director of FIITJEE, said his entrance coaching schools impart a holistic education, but admitted that some coaching institutes aren't following this method.

"There are many coaching institutes that literally lock up students for months," he said. "It is a process of cramming that is followed there. This results in wrong students getting selected. These students are trained only to crack the exam." FIITJEE has 25,000 on its rolls, he said.

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ET Q&A | **PRADIPTA BANERJI**
DIRECTOR, IIT-ROORKEE

> If a higher authority asks us to review the decision, we will do it. But a review does not necessarily mean the decision will change

As Long as I am the Director, I would Like to Continue this Rule

IIT-Roorkee made history of sorts by expelling six per cent of its first year batch this week for poor performance. This may have sparked protests on campus, but institute director **Pradipta Banerji** told ET's **Ritika Chopra** that he stands by the decision. Edited excerpts:

Will IIT-Roorkee reconsider the decision if the HRD ministry intervenes?
The decision to expel the students is final. If a higher authority asks us to review the decision, we will do it. But a review does not necessarily mean the decision will change.

But 73 students is a huge number...
It's not as if I woke up one morning and decided to get rid of 73 students. There is procedure and logic behind this. Students were made aware of the criteria at the time of admission. They were also reminded about it and asked to improve their performance when it was felt they were slipping. The decision hasn't come as a shock to them.

When did IIT-Roorkee decide to expel students with less than 5 CGPA in the first year?
This was introduced last year.

What was the logic behind this change?
It's best to ask students who cannot cope to leave after the first year than have them drop out in the third or fourth year. They should be given the option of pursuing an alternate career early instead of studying something they are not cut out

SOUND MOVE FOR STUDENTS

> It's best to ask students who can't cope to leave after first year than have them drop out in the third or fourth year

TOUGH CALL

> You are talking to a person who is also disturbed by the number (of failures). I am the director, but I'm also a professor. Maybe we'll have a better understanding of this a few months down the line

for. There are US universities which expel students at the end of first year because they don't make the cut, but we don't talk about that.

So will you continue with this criterion?
As long as I am the director, I would like to continue with this criterion.

Why not allow these students to repeat a year instead of expelling them?
First of all, this is not the first time an IIT has expelled students for poor academic performance. In 2013, we asked 12 students to leave, but they were eventually taken back. I have data to show that those students could not complete the course. What's the point of allowing the 73 (students) to continue, only to have them drop out later? As for us, we are constantly monitoring the performance of every student and constantly innovating to ensure that no one leaves the system because of the fault of the system.

These students have cracked one of the toughest entrance exams in the world. Why can't they cope after admission?
You are talking to a person who is also disturbed by the number (of failures). I am the director, but I'm also a professor. Maybe we'll have a better understanding of this a few months down the line. The competition here is intense and it depends on how each student handles the competition.

IIT-Đ Finds Zomato's Offer for Placement Not Good Enough

Tells startup its pay package with ESOPs is too low for students

Pankaj Mishra & Harismran Julka

Bengaluru | New Delhi: A row has broken out between Deepinder Goyal, the founder of one of India's most-valuable startups Zomato, and his alma mater IIT-Delhi, over campus placements, putting the spotlight on the intense competition among companies to hire top-flight talent.

It began when Goyal walked into IIT-Delhi on Friday seeking a day-one slot to recruit students during the college's placements session, usually a privileged extended to technology giants such as Google and Microsoft.

"The placement officer told us our salary package was too low to be given the day-one slot," said Goyal, chief executive of online restaurant guide Zomato. The company had said it would offer students it wanted to hire about ₹16 lakh in annual compensation and employee stock options worth ₹10 lakh.

"Campus placements in India are broken. Placement cells optimise only for money. Growth, ESOPs, quality of work is secondary," Goyal said in a post on Twitter on Friday, triggering a debate on campus placement preferences at a time when salaries of mid-level staffers at startups, including ESOPs, threaten to eclipse that of senior executives at established technology companies. Flush with venture capital, high growth and global ambitions, companies like Zomato and Flipkart have been recruiting at top-tier campuses heavily. New-age technology startups and Internet companies raised more than $2.46 billion (or ₹15,600 crore) in the first six months of this year, nearly double the amount they raised in all of last year. But startups often end up competing for talent at premier

ON PLACEMENTS

Campus placements in India are broken. Placement cells optimise only for money. Growth, ESOPs, quality of work is secondary

Deepinder Goyal
ZOMATO CEO

campuses with the likes of Google, Amazon, Adobe and Microsoft.

This, despite Zomato matching salaries offered by such companies and including employee stock options to students hired from campuses, said Goyal. "The officer told us they don't value ESOPs," he said.

IIT-Delhi's campus placement officer A Madan defended the college's position. "Any company which has to compete for a slot has to match the cash salary offer. Zomato did not match the salary offer," she said. Zomato CEO tweeted back saying: "Exactly our point. They don't understand ESOPs."

Startups typically offer ESOPs with a lock-in period of 2-4 years, with the more established ones allowing for vesting at 25% each year, said Prateek Srivastava, CEO at Basil Advisors. "The freshers may not understand the value of the option," he said.

Recruitment experts such as Anshuman Das, founder of Careernet, said while Zomato's demand is legitimate, it takes time for institutions like the IITs to change.

Don't stay diesel ban: Doc to NGT

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Days ahead of a crucial hearing by National Green Tribunal, paediatric surgeon Dr Sanjay Kulshrestha filed an affidavit, appealing it to not stay the ban on diesel vehicles that are over ten years old in National Capital Region. The affidavit is in response to a petition against high air pollution levels in Delhi in which NGT ordered diesel vehicles more than ten years old be phased out but later ordered a stay on that ban.

The Union ministry of road transport is opposing the ban in NGT; it has not only claimed that old diesel vehicles are responsible for a miniscule amount of PM2.5 emissions but also submitted scientific papers by IIT Delhi to argue that the transport sector is not the worst offender. Dr Kulshrestha in his affidavit said that vehicular pollution is not only responsible for PM2.5 but also other pollutants—nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone and benzene. Kulshrestha's original petition was against poor air quality that is reportedly causing congenital defects in newborns.

"People are exposed to a mixture of pollutants whose combined effect has a serious health impact. The benefits are greater when pollution sources are regulated for multi-pollutants," the affidavit said. "Diesel is now proved to be a direct cause of lung cancer as for the first time WHO and International Agency for Research on Cancer declared 'direct diesel fumes' as a major carcinogenic factor."

Kulshrestha pleaded that 10% ethanol blending be implemented to counter effects of diesel and petrol. "We have only 2-2.5% ethanol blending in India against a target of 10%... in countries like Brazil 25% blending is mandatory."

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आईआईटी के छात्रों की मदद करेंगे शैडो टीचर

कोलकाता। आईआईटी खड़गपुर के छात्रों की पढ़ाई को और अधिक बेहतर बनाने के लिए अब नियमित शिक्षकों के अलावा कक्षा के बाहर उन्हें शैडो टीचर्स मदद करेंगे। संस्थान ने इसके लिए प्रत्येक कक्षा के बेहतर छात्रों के एक समूह को इस काम के लिए तैयार करने का फैसला किया है।

आईआईटी खड़गपुर के निदेशक पार्थ प्रतिम चक्रवर्ती ने शुक्रवार को बताया कि इस अकादमिक सत्र से हम वरिष्ठ और पढ़ाई में बेहतर रहे 10-12 छात्रों का समूह बनाना शुरू करेंगे, जिन्हें पढ़ाने के लिए भत्ता भी दिया जाएगा। यह कक्षा से बाहर पढ़ाई की एक समानांतर व्यवस्था होगी। नई व्यवस्था में यह सुनिश्चित किया जाएगा कि कोई भी छात्र पढ़ाई की प्रकिया से नहीं छूटे। चक्रवर्ती ने कहा कि इससे हम पढ़ाई के दौरान छात्रों को आने वाली मुश्किलों से भी निपटने में सक्षम होंगे। (भाषा)

Times of India ND 11/07/2015   P-8

JEE ranks soar after Class XII re-evaluation

Rise By Hundreds & Even Thousands For Some

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Mumbai: Several students whose Class XII board scores increased after re-evaluation, have found their JEE (Main) ranks rise by a few hundreds and, in some cases, even by thousands.

Although CBSE did not make any official announcement for the revised rank list on their official website, several students could see their new ranks after they logged on to the site on Friday. The Joint Seat Allocation Authority said meritorious students will get seats of their choice according to their revised ranks, provided they have filled their choices in a decreasing order of their preferences.

Many students, though, said a revision now does not mean a lot to them. A student said it is unfair as they have filled their choices online according to their original ranks and the first round of seat allotment is already over. And students will not get a second chance to fill their choices.

A student even said CBSE should have taken into account revised scores before coming up with JEE (Main) rank lists.

An official said, "There is a provision of supernumerary seats in NITs for students whose ranks would go up after re-evaluation. The revised ranks will be considered and students will get a seat according to new ranks in the institutes they desire to get, provided they have filled their choices in a decreasing order of their preferences. They should have considered the fact that their ranks may undergo revision."

M Goel, who had secured 1,833 rank in JEE (Main) saw it rise to 536 after the revision. His Class XII aggregate score rose to 97% from 95.6% after he sought re-evaluation. Another student, A Gangwal, saw her rank jump from 17,441 to 9,750 after her board's aggregate score went up from 93.8% to 95.4% after re-evaluation. Gangwal is hoping to get a better seat after the revision.

JEE might undergo change in pattern

Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

MUMBAI: Students vying for seats in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in 2017 may have to answer a question paper that will be a mix of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) and written answers.

EARLIER CHANGES

Since JEE Advanced was introduced in 2012, the committee has made several changes including negative marking and eligibility criteria.

The exam held on May 24, 2015 had negative marking for the second and the third section of both papers for incorrect answers. In 2013, there was none.

Moreover, in September 2014, the IIT Council revise the eligibility criteria for JEE Advanced. Last year, only those who featured in the top 20 percentile scores of their respective boards in class 12 were eligible for the test. However, it was later revised to those scoring above 75% in aggregate.

According to sources in the Joint Admission Board (JAB) for JEE Advanced, the committee may propose a new pattern that will be a substantial shift from the current paper that only consists of MCQs. The JAB, which is expected to discuss this change at its next meeting in August, wants to reduce 'guesswork' in the exam where student had to just tick an answer from a list of options.

Sources at some IITs have said that these plans are under consideration but may come into effect only in 2017. "A written section will reduce 'lucky guesses' that usually make a lot of difference in marks and ranks. Students' abilities to analyse questions and their understanding of concepts need to tested instead of just choosing a correct answer. The change if implemented will make the test more comprehensive", said a senior official from JAB, requesting anonymity.

However, experts said that the change will lead to disputes over evaluation which will be difficult. "With MCQ's there is only one right answer so computerised evaluation is possible. But, by introducing a subjective section, the exam will have to be manually evaluated making it impossible to declare results on time", a senior professor at IIT-Madras said.

Moreover, the marking pattern, after much deliberation is finally on track which will again be disturbed, he added.

Officials at IIT-Bombay, which is conducting admissions this year, declined to comment on the changes. "The next meeting of the JAB is scheduled in August which is when any decision, if being planned, will be taken. I don't know about any such recommendations," a JEE Advanced official at IIT Bombay said.

Devang Khakhar, director, IIT-Bombay said that no such decision was under consideration this year, but refused to comment on the likeliness of it being implemented in 2017.

IIT-K team develops system to make bldgs quake-resistant

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

KANPUR: Scientists at the civil engineering department of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) have developed a unique technique to make multistory buildings earthquake resistant. The cost effective technique 'base isolation system' could easily be adopted in new buildings, claimed the team headed by head of the department of civil engineering Dr Durgesh C Rai.

IIT Jodhpur looks to become a solar thermal research hub

http://social.yourstory.com/2015/07/iit-jodhpur-solar/

An experimental facility to test different solar thermal technologies and benchmark them against each other will come up at IIT Jodhpur in the next two years at an estimated cost of Rs 120 crore. The premier institute had signed a memorandum of collaboration (MoC) in this regard with IOC and BHEL in 2011. yourstory-iit-jodhpur-solar "Lots of work have been done since then, but absence of a facility to test different technologies had been strongly felt," said Director of IIT Jodhpur, CVR Murti. Emphasising on the need for such a unit, he said technologies to harness light from the sun are well developed and commercialised worldwide. "But technologies to harness heat from the sun (solar thermal technologies) are at a nascent stage," he said. According to PTI, he said a detailed project report (DPR) has been prepared by an Israeli consulting company for the development of the proposed prototype testing facility. "The draft of the DPR has been submitted and has been tabled at a two-day workshop of solar thermal technology for expert suggestions and review," said Murti. Now, the consortium will approach the national funding agencies like Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and other national and global funding agencies for the grant of funds. S Srinivasa Murthy from Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore), who is also the Advisor to IIT Jodhpur, said the objective is to bring all available solar thermal technologies on one platform, test and develop?them according to Indian conditions to ensure lower cost and greater efficiency. "Development of this prototype testing facility would pave the way for the development and indigenisation of concentrated solar thermal power technology. With this, we would be able to not

only benchmark and develop the technology, but also connect it with the industry and bring it to the product level through training and education," Murti said. … read more on social.yourstory.com

IIT-Bombay tops the list with 65 of top 100 rankers select to study, Delhi stands second

http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/iit-bombay-get-highest-number-of-top-ranker/1/450302.html

IIT- Bombay retains its position as the most sought-after campus as 65 of the top 100 rankers in JEE (Advanced) secured seats in it. IIT- Bombay knocked out figures from last year's number of 58 among the top 100 opting for the Powai institute.

IIT Bombay zone has maximum 6,838 candidates among successful followed by Chennai zone (4,921) and Delhi zone (4,511).

IIT- Delhi was the next best choice with 30 students choosing it, a drop from last year's 36 followed by IIT-Madras and IIT-Kanpur, who were at a distant third and fourth position with three and two students. IIT Kharagpur and the newer ones, IIT Roorkee and Guwahati, have not managed to get even a single student from the top ranks. IIT officials attributed this to the low representation of students from the North-East.

Of the close to 25,000 students who registered for IIT seats, around 10,000 got allotments on Tuesday. Around 17,250 students got allotments in the 22 NITs. Not a single seat in the IITs was vacant after the first round. Only 112 seats are vacant in NITs (National Institute of Technology) in states such as Sikkim, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

1, 17,238 students appeared for the exam and 26,456 qualified. Across all IIT's, 10,006 seats are available this year.

According to the statement from the director of IIT-Bombay, Devang Khakhar, "A majority of students perceive it as the top institute. At 18 years, most students make their choices based on what their friends and family would recommend. Computer science and engineering (CSE) and electrical engineering (EE) were the popular choices for students in the top ranks."

Super 30 students short of money for IIT counselling

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/Super-30-students-short-of-money-for-IIT-counselling/articleshow/48019984.cms

PATNA: The students of Bihar's Super 30, a free coaching centre for underprivileged students, who have cracked the IIT-JEE this year are a worried lot as they don't have the money for counselling.

The families of Sujeet Kumar, Dhananjay Kumar, Prempal Kumar and Sharwan Kumar are grappling with a financial crisis as they don't have the funds required for submission of a challan worth Rs 45,000.

Super 30 founder-director Anand Kumar said: "The banks are ready to pay the fee, including the admission fee. And they are also ready to pay the counselling fee this time, but they cannot give cash for challan."

Cash is paid through a challan in order to submit a bank draft for the admission fee.

"The problem is that though the IIT has reduced the counselling fee from Rs.60,000 to Rs 45,000, it now asks for submission of fee through challan, which would require cash," he said.

Like previous years, as many as 25 of the 30 students of Bihar's Super 30 have cracked IIT-JEE. Children of a taxi driver, mason, farmer, daily wager/farm labourer, helper in photo lab and migrant workers are among the successful candidates.

"If the IIT relaxes its norms, it will not only help Super 30 students but also hundreds of others who come from a poor background," said Kumar.

Super 30 was started by Anand along with former Bihar DGP Abhyanand over a decade ago. Later, Abhyanand dissociated himself from the institute.

Super 30, which helps economically backward students crack the IIT-JEE, was selected by Time magazine for the list of 'The Best of Asia 2010'.

Students from poor families have to pass a competitive test to get into Super 30 and then commit themselves to a year of 16-hour daily study routine. Coaching, food and accommodation are free for the students.

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Isro launches 5 UK satellites into orbit

Heaviest Commercial Mission Yet

Manish Raj | TNN

PTI

NEW HEIGHTS: Isro's PSLV C 28 carrying five satellites from the UK, was launched from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on Friday

Sriharikota: Indian Space Research Organisation's commercial launch capability reached a new high on Friday night when it successfully launched five satellites for the UK. Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C28) lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 9.58pm. Less than 20 minutes later, the rocket placed in the designated orbits three identical DMC3 optical earth observation satellites, an auxiliary earth observation micro satellite (CBNT-1) and one technology demonstrator nano satellite (De-OrbitSail), built by SSTL.

It was PSLV's 30th flight and 29th consecutive successful one. For the ninth time, Isro used an XL version of the rocket with an additional strap-on. The heaviest commercial mission undertaken by the space agency underlines Isro not only as a major player for space industries globally but also as a leading foreign exchange earner for the country.

"It was a wonderful launch," said Isro chairman A S Kiran Kumar soon after the launch. "We've put all the five satellites of our customers in orbit." The overall liftoff mass of the five satellites added up to 1,440kg — more than twice the mass of its last commercial launch of SPOT 7 - a French satellite weighing 712kg which was put in orbit by PSLV on June 30, 2014.

These international customer satellites were launched as part of the arrangement between DMC International Imaging (DMCii), a wholly owned subsidiary of SSTL, UK and Antrix Corporation Limited (Antrix), the commercial arm of Isro.

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

Business Standard ND 11/07/2015   P-3

Isro successfully launches heaviest commercial mission

T E NARASIMHAN & GIREESH BABU
Sriharikota, 10 July

Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro)'s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket PSLV-C28 carrying five British satellites was launched successfully from the space station here on Friday at 9:58 pm. It took only 19 minutes from the time the rocket was blasted off to place the satellites into the orbit.

Isro chairman A S Kiran Kumar termed it "an extremely successful mission". This was the maiden mission under the new team headed by him. "All the five satellites were placed successfully," he said.

Isro had only a 15-minute window — which means it could have postponed the launch only by 15 minutes on any technical or other difficulties from the actual schedule time — to launch the rocket. But the launch was done on time. Climatic conditions were also favourable.

This is the 29th launch successfully carried out by the PSLV, which is now one of the most reliable rockets in the world. It has been in the

PTI PHOTO

ISRO's PSLV C 28 carrying five satellites from the UK, lifts off from Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota on Friday

service for the past 20 years and has launched 40 satellites for 19 countries. PSLV was also used for some of the important Indian missions including Chandrayaan, Mars Orbiter Mission etc.

The rocket, which is 44.4-metre high and weighs around 320 tonnes, carried five British satellites, cumulatively weighing around 1,440 kg.

This is the heaviest commercial mission for the PSLV rocket till date, though its total carrying capacity for such a

mission is around 1,750 kg. This is also the first commercial mission for Isro in 2015.

France's SPOT 7 satellite weighing 714 kg was the heaviest single foreign satellite carried by a PSLV rocket till now. It was launched on June 30, 2014.

Of the five British satellites on board, three are identical DMC3 optical earth observation satellites weighing 447 kg each. The other two satellites are CBNT-1 weighing 91 kg, which is an optical earth observation technology demonstration microsatellite, and De-OrbitSail weighing 7 kg. After a 17-minute flight, the rocket ejected the DMC3 satellites one after another and they were followed by De-OrbitSail and CNBT-1 satellites. They were built by Surrey Satellite Technology. The De-OrbitSail is built by Surrey Space Centre.

According to Isro, the DMC3 constellation, comprising three advanced mini-satellites — DMC3-1, DMC3-2 and DMC3-3 — are designed to address the need for simultaneous high spatial resolution and high temporal resolution optical earth observation.

Stanford University commends Mukesh Ambani

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/Stanford-University-commends-Mukesh-Ambani/articleshow/48016402.cms

PTI | Jul 10, 2015, 01.26 PM IST

NEW DELHI: Stanford University of US has commended Mukesh Ambani for his decade long support to students keen on pursuing higher studies through scholarships.

Ambani, who had enrolled at the Stanford University for a management degree in the 80s but returned midway due to his father's failing heath, had instituted the Reliance-Dhirubhai Ambani Undergraduate Scholarship Fund for International Students to provide scholarships to bright students.

Martin W Shell, vice president for Development at Stanford University last month sent a commemorative certificate to Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries, to mark the 10th anniversary of the Scholarship programme.

Stanford Reliance Dhirubhai Fellows receive financial support for the cost of tuition and associated fees for each year of the two-year Stanford MBA Programme (about USD 140,000 (Rs 86.8 lakh).

Listing out students who had have received the scholarship till now, he said, "the assistance made possible by your fund has benefited not only students individually, but indeed, Stanford as a whole".

Since its inception, the scholarship has been awarded 29 times to a total of 12 undergraduate students.

"Admitting the brightest and most deserving students regardless of their ability to pay is one of our fundamental values - and it is a goal we simply could not achieve without the generosity of donors like you. We are very grateful to you," he wrote.

In the commemoration certificate, the University said it recognises "The Reliance-Dhirubhai Ambani Undergraduate Scholarship Fund for International Students which for 10 years has provided scholarships to undergraduate students at Stanford with a preference for students from India.

"Through their words and deeds, these students have demonstrated independence of mind, a capacity for leadership, and a personal commitment to activities intended to improve conditions in the broader community in which they live".

IIT Kanpur graduate arrested for stalking junior in Bengaluru

SANTOSH KUMAR R B
BENGALURU, JULY 10

AN IIT Kanpur graduate has been in Bengaluru for allegedly stalking a young woman who was his junior at the premier engineering institute.

Avnish Kumar, 24, a native of Agra, who was working with the Maharashtra state electricity board in Mumbai, was arrested on Thursday for online harassment of the woman who is employed with a top Indian e-commerce company.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central division) Sandeep Patil said the youth had been arrested on the basis of a complaint filed by the young woman, who is a resident of Bengaluru. She had been a year junior to Avnish while pursuing M Tech at IIT Kanpur three years ago.

Police said that the arrested youth began harassing the woman on social media after she rejected his overtures.

"He was harassing the victim on social media and through emails since 2012. They came in contact with each other at IIT-Kanpur, while they were studying there. He harassed her with vulgar posts on her Facebook and Twitter accounts," DCP Sandeep Patil said.

A month ago, the victim had approached Vivekanagar police station in central Bengaluru and filed a complaint stating that Avnish had threatened to come to Bengaluru to kill her.

Police said the accused initially did not have the phone number of the girl and his harassment was restricted to the social media. Recently, however, he managed to track down the woman's phone number. He called and allegedly threatened to kill her if she refused to marry him when he visited Bengaluru.

"We registered a case for threatening and for outraging the modesty of a woman under the Indian Penal Code and under clauses of the Information Technology Act against Avnish. We nabbed him in Bengaluru on Thursday," a police officer said.

Following the woman's complaint, police had laid a trap for Avnish and asked the victim to invite the stalker to a meeting. A police team picked up the engineer soon after he arrived.

He was produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody.