

Newspaper Clips **July 12-13, 2015**

July 12

IIT-Delhi to study pollution sources in Ghaziabad

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/noida/IIT-Delhi-to-study-pollution-sources-in-Ghaziabad/articleshow/48037256.cms>

GHAZIABAD: The UP Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) has written to IIT-Delhi, seeking a proposal to conduct a study to determine various sources of air pollution in Ghaziabad.

Officials said on Saturday that the source apportionment study' of various pollutants in Ghaziabad would help determine the ultrafine particulate matters less than 2.5 microns in size (PM2.5) released into the air from various sources, including vehicles, road dust, construction work, diesel-run generator sets and industries.

Besides, the proportionate contribution of these different sources to the total pollution build-up in the air would further be determined in the study, which would be spread over a minimum period of six months, officials said.

"IIT-Delhi has been asked to prepare estimates of costs that would be required to undertake the study as well as other modalities. The request has been made to IIT-Delhi from the office of the member-secretary of the pollution control board in Lucknow," said a senior UPPCB official in Ghaziabad.

He added, "Though Ghaziabad is considered as one of the most polluted cities in the country, till date no study has been undertaken to pinpoint the exact sources of pollution. The board has decided to undertake the study in order to determine the exact sources of pollution so that necessary remedial steps can be taken."

Ghaziabad had been declared a critically polluted area' by the Central Pollution Control Board in a survey conducted among 88 industrial clusters in the country in 2009. The city had recorded a score of 87.37 on a scale of 100 in the comprehensive environmental pollution index (CEPI) in the survey and was tagged as the most polluted city of NCR.

Times Of India ND 12/07/2015 p-8

Expelled IIT-Roorkee students set to move HC

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Nainital: Raj Gupta's (name changed) world turned upside down when he came to know about his expulsion from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee. The 20-year-old BTech student claimed that all 73 expelled students were ready to move the Uttarakhand high court against the IIT administration's decision. The students were asked to leave the elite institution for scoring less than 5 cumulative grade point average (CGPA).

"We will decide the correct course of action after discussing everything with our lawyer," said Gupta, talking to **TOI**.

At least 15 of the expelled students reached Nainital on Saturday evening to file a petition in the HC protesting the institute's decision and demanding that they be taken back.

The father of one of the expelled students said, "this seems to be some kind of military institution instead of



IIT Roorkee's move occurred after the second semester exams in May

Netizens want institute to #takethemback

The expulsion of 73 students from IIT Roorkee has set off a storm of protest online. On Facebook, a page has been opened under the tagline '#Takethemback' that has in just the past 24 hours garnered over 1000 'likes', showing more hits with every refresh. On Twitter and WhatsApp, too, '#Takethemback' has been raging. Talking to **TOI**, one of the administrators of the Facebook page said, "Through social media, we want to reach out to the dignitaries and take up the matter nationally so that even if there is an ounce of chance that the decision may be reversed, we are able to exploit it."

an academic one. Now there is only one door we can knock to save our child's future, that of the high court".

A meeting was called the day after the students were expelled where the author-

ities decided not to take back the students. However, some of the officials were quoted as saying that there are possibilities that the decision could be "reconsidered on humanitarian grounds".

Expelled IIT-Roorkee students could be getting a second chance

Tapan Susheel

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ROORKEE: The Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee is likely to hear on Monday the second mercy appeal of 73 students who were expelled after they flunked their first year.

The expelled students, a chunk of them from the weaker sections of society and studying BTech courses, were registered with the institute in the academic year 2014-15. Their scores didn't measure up in the first two semesters, and the senate, the apex body of the institute, rejected the first mercy plea of the students on July 8 to take them back.

After the issue got played up, institute authorities said they were exploring ways to review the mercy petition of students.

"We feel very sorry for those affected students. So, we have called another meeting of senate as only the latter can review their decision. If decision comes against them (students), we will not do anything further in the matter. We cannot overrule our rules," said dean (students' welfare) Prof DK Nauriyal.

Though such expulsion had happened earlier in IIT Kharagpur (around 20 students in 2006) and IIT Kanpur, the high numbers at Roorkee invited accusations of academic ruthlessness.



■ **At least 73 students were expelled after they flunked their first year – first and second semesters – in IIT Roorkee.**

FILE PHOTO

"Seventy-three students who scored lower than five cumulative grade point average (CGPA) in the second semester were expelled from the institute as per a decision of the Senate consisting of over 100 professors," IIT Roorkee director Pradipta Bannerjee said.

A rule mandating expulsion of students who scored less than five CGPA for two consecutive semesters was framed last year by the premier autonomous institute to ensure "quality education" on the campus. During admission, the parents had signed a declaration that students with poor performance could be expelled.

"These students were non-

performers throughout their first year in the institute. The institute had to take this 'tough decision at the beginning' so that they (affected students) may explore another options in other institutes like the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) to save their time and career," Nauriyal said.

The parents of expelled students are accusing the college of being unsympathetic. "If school students, who get education under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan scheme of government, are non-performers in their classes and fail, government takes action against teachers but promotes the students," said a parent.

IIT : 'रट्टे' से भरी सीटें बिन डिग्री हो जाती हैं खाली

■ प्राची वर्मा (ईटी), नई दिल्ली
अच्छे ग्रेड ना आने की वजह से आईआईटी रुड़की से 73 स्टूडेंट्स को जाना पड़ा। इससे सबको झटका लगा है। हालांकि यह घटना देश के टॉप संस्थानों में पिछले कई



वर्षों से उभर रही एक बड़ी समस्या की झलक मात्र है। आईआईटी में उन स्टूडेंट्स की संख्या

कई गुना बढ़ रही है, जो इंटेस तो क्रेक कर लेते हैं, पर एडमिशन लेने के बाद करिकुलम में फिट नहीं बैठ पाते। ज्यादातर संस्थानों का मानना है कि स्टूडेंट्स की क्वालिटी कम करने के प्रमुख दोषी कोचिंग संस्थान हैं। परिवार का दबाव और थकान भी इसकी वजह है।

कोचिंग जिम्मेदार

“स्टूडेंट्स का एवरेज स्टैंडर्ड नीचे जा रहा है। यह सिर्फ इस वजह से है कि उन्हें एंट्रेस एग्जाम क्वालिफाई करने के लिए स्पून-फीडिंग कराई जाती है।

- मनिंदर अग्रवाल, फैकल्टी अफेयर्स,
डीन, आईआईटी कानपुर

“मैं इस बात के लिए स्टूडेंट्स को दोष नहीं दूंगा। दरअसल उन्हें सिर्फ जेईई क्रेक करने की कोचिंग दी जाती है। नॉलेज पर फोकस करना नहीं सिखाया जाता।

- प्रदीप्तो बनर्जी, डायरेक्टर,
आईआईटी रुड़की

पेशर बनाने का खेल

“ऐसे कई स्टूडेंट्स जो इंजीनियरिंग में जीरो इंटेस्ट रखते हैं, फिर भी उनपर दबाव बनाकर कोचिंग कराई गई और एडमिशन दिलाया गया। ऐसे स्टूडेंट्स जल्द ही कोर्स छोड़ देते हैं।

- सुधीर जैन, डायरेक्टर, IIT गांधीनगर

एंट्रेस पर सवाल

“IIT एंट्रेस सिस्टम काफी पुराना है। टेस्ट में सबजेक्टिव प्रश्न, साइकोमेट्रिक, और केस स्टडी को जोड़ना होगा। - रोहिन कपूर,
एजुकेशन डायरेक्टर, डिलाइट इंडिया

रुड़की आईआईटी से निकाले गए छात्र अंग्रेजी को ठहरा रहे जिम्मेदार

रुड़की (अंकित कुमार गर्ग)। आईआईटी में इंजीनियरिंग विषयों में अंग्रेजी की हुकूमत हिंदी पर भारी पड़ रही है। संस्थान से निकाले गए 73 में से ज्यादातर छात्रों की शिकायत है कि अंग्रेजी में हुए लेक्चरों को ठीक तरीके से नहीं समझ पाने के कारण बेहतर रिजल्ट नहीं दे पाए। वहीं दूसरी ओर संस्थान में अब दो वर्ष की जगह एक वर्ष का अंग्रेजी का पाठ्यक्रम पढ़ाया जाता है। पहले अंग्रेजी विषय में चार सेमेस्टर में आठ क्रेडिट निर्धारित थे। अब क्रेडिट भी घटकर चार रह गए हैं।

आईआईटी से निकाले गए छात्रों के अभिभावकों की मानें तो ज्यादातर छात्र पहले साल में अंग्रेजी विषय में कमजोर होने के चलते मेहनत के बावजूद अच्छी परफॉर्मेंस देने में सफल नहीं हुए। कुशीनगर उत्तरप्रदेश निवासी अभिभावक दिलीप कुमार का कहना था कि विभिन्न प्रदेशों आने वाले छात्रों में मेधा की कमी नहीं है लेकिन यहां कठिन विषयों के साथ-साथ अंग्रेजी में पढ़ाई को ठीक से नहीं समझ पाने के कारण छात्रों की मुश्किलें बढ़ी हैं। वहीं दूसरी ओर, संस्थान की ओर से अंग्रेजी विषय पर जोर देना कम कर दिया गया है।

Tribun ND 12/07/2015 P-18

CBSE finally prepares JEE (Main) revised ranks

Students can access ranks by logging on to CBSE portal

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 11

Overshooting its deadline to declare the revised JEE Mains rankings 2015 by three days, the CBSE finally prepared fresh results today but didn't declare them officially.

Sources in the CBSE said the new results factor in the revised class XII scores of students who had applied to the board for re-verification and re-evaluation.

For some strange reason though, the board didn't publish these results officially on the website. Students can, however, access their revised rankings and

scores by logging on to the CBSE portal and typing their password.

The CBSE had released the first JEE (Main) All-India Rankings list on July 1. This list did not include the revised scores of students and therefore placed them at a disadvantage because the ranks achieved with old scores were far lower than the ranks students would have achieved with the new scores.

The CBSE said it had already supplied the revised rankings to joint authority conducting the joint counseling for IITs-NITs-IITs and other general technical institutions

which use JEE (Main) rankings for admissions.

The first round of seat allocation and acceptance by the joint admission body ends tomorrow and the second round will start from July 13.

CBSE officials said they had already spoken to the joint body for consideration of revised ranks of students.

Students did however miss out on applying for some top technical colleges like Delhi Technical University due to delay in the revision of final JEE (Main) ranks by the CBSE. The DTU was accepting forms until July 10.

4 poor boys get ₹5L in 2 hrs for IIT admission

Sheezan Nezami

Patna: Monetary constraints threatened to shatter dreams of four students, who cracked IIT-JEE with help from maths wizard Anand Kumar of famed Bihar's Super-30.

Thanks to good Samaritans spread across the country and abroad, the Bihar students are set to enroll at the premier institutes.

Super-30, an initiative under which 333 poor children have been successfully coached to crack the prestigious JEE during the last 13 years, charges Rs 50 from every aspirant who writes its entrance test.

Sailing through this test is a must for becoming one of the 30 students who are coached free.

"But Dhananjay Kumar of Samastipur, Sujeet Kumar of Madhepura, Prempal Kumar of Nalanda and Shrawan Kumar of Rohtas districts did not have even this amount in their pockets when they approached us in Patna last year," Kumar said.

"I doff my hat to our countrymen. They are there to help you if you are trying to make a change for the good of the nation"

ANAND KUMAR
MATHEMATICIAN



They all belong to OBC and like every general category and OBC candidates, they were required to deposit Rs 45,000 each for making it to counseling sessions ahead of their admission to IITs.

Their tragic story made it to social media following which donors from across the country and abroad have sent around Rs 5 lakh to Kumar's bank account.

"At least 500 people approached us and the money started flowing in on Friday. Within two hours, we had to announce we need no more," Kumar said.

A number of these donors are based in the US, Chennai and Bangalore. "The highest donation was of Rs 1.25 lakh and the lowest Rs 500," Kumar said.

He added that the surplus money is being used to buy shoes, clothes and books for the four students. The Super-30 has planned to upload the details of the collection and expenditure to its website soon.

Kumar is overwhelmed. "I doff my hat to our countrymen. They are there to help you if you are trying to make a change for the good of the nation," the mathematician said. Sujeet was in tears when **TOI** reached him over phone. "The day I came to know that I had to arrange Rs 45,000, I thought all my hard work would go futile," he said.

Dhananjay told **TOI**: "Even a thought about returning the money to the donors will trivialize their greatness. I will rather return the favour by helping other poor students after I start earning."

No takers for 591 IIT seats after round 1

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/No-takers-for-591-IIT-seats-after-round-1/articleshow/48046297.cms>

MUMBAI: Close to 600 engineering aspirants have not accepted an IIT seat despite qualifying in JEE (Advanced), among the toughest of competitive exams. Sunday was the last day for accepting seats in the IITs and the NITs in the first round of the joint seat allocation process.

Of 10,006 seats in the IITs, 591 remained vacant after the first round. In the NITs and other government-funded technical institutes (GFTIs), the vacancy was 6,744. These seats will be available for students in the second round, which will start on Monday. Students who did not accept seats in the first round are out of the admission process. In all, 34,000 seats in 85 engineering institutes are on offer in the first-ever IIT-NIT-GFTI joint-seat allocation process.

Officials say no clear pattern has emerged on the courses and institutes where seats have been rejected. Vacancies have been reported from the older IITs as well. IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi, for instance, have 24 and 18 vacant seats after the first round. IIT-Kharagpur, which received a large number of applicants, has 91 vacant seats. In ISM-Dhanbad, which is part of the IIT admission process, several seats are unclaimed. Last year, 650 seats were vacant in the IITs after the first round (9,711 seats were available).

The IITs extended the round one deadline by a few hours till midnight on Sunday, but the numbers did not change much. An official from IIT-Bombay, which is the organizing IIT for JEE (Advanced) 2015, said, "There is a possibility that a few students have not turned up, believing that they have a chance in the second round. But our rules clearly state that students who fail to accept seats will be out of the admission process and will not get seats in any of the participating institutes."

In the second round, several students may get a betterment option since seats are vacant. An official from IIT-Bombay said a student with an NIT seat, if allotted an IIT seat in the second round, will have to go to the IIT reporting centre to secure it and vice-versa. If this is not done, he or she will lose both seats.

IIT-Kanpur director Indranil Manna said one will have to wait for all three rounds to get over to get a clear picture on the vacancies. "Usually very few seats are vacant in the older IITs. There are comparatively more vacancies in the newer ones."

IIT-Kgp duo wins Paris green contest

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/the-good-earth/IIT-Kgp-duo-wins-Paris-green-contest/articleshow/48047368.cms>

KOLKATA: A two-member team from IIT-Kharagpur has bagged the top slot at an international green competition in Paris with an innovative technology to conserve electricity by auctioning units. Over 12500 innovators from 168 countries had participated in the 'Go Green In The City', an annual competition, this year.

The app, 'Elec-Tra', according to the innovators, architecture student Mohamad Meraj Shaikh and biotech-biochemical engineer Spoorthy Kotla, "helps you buy and sell electricity". Imagine an online auction portal where you can buy and sell used goods. Here, it is electricity units.

"Suppose I'm a conscious user and you're an over-user. I've managed to save 10 units from my minimum usage. You on the other hand have overshot the minimum limit by 10 units. I put up my units on auction perhaps at a lower price. With this, I get a discount on the next billing cycle and you save as well," Meraj told TOI.

"It's a push-pull strategy. You can't physically sell electricity. So this is the way forward in an ecological way. India, however, doesn't have good enough smart metering distribution. It's unlikely that the country will be ready for this model before 2020. We are pinning our hopes on the smart cities planned by the government. We are eyeing the first implementation in Europe as the infrastructure is already established there," Meraj added.

Spoorthy said: "Initially it was Meraj's idea. Four years ago, an IIT-Kgp team made it to the finals. In December last year, Meraj suggested that we take our chances. We did the planning for almost five months. Since it was my final year, I thought this was the last chance to take part in the competition and Meraj too was motivated. The preparation started only in January and the final was held end-June in Paris."

Meraj was out of town on an internship, so most of the planning had to be done over phone. "People are usually negligent about switching off fan or lights. The affluent don't even mind paying the extra bill — but that is not the point. Precious energy is being wasted and we must conserve for the future generation. Once it develops from its prototype to final model, it would be like a buying-selling website, only in this case it would be electrical units. For that we will need tie-ups with electricity boards across the country," added Spoorthy.

And the prize? All-expenses paid trips to any two countries in the world. "Spoorthy is keen on Australia while I, as an architect, am interested in Japan. But we've have decided to keep the trip on hold till next year as I have to complete my academic life first," said Meraj.

July 13

Times of India ND 13/07/2015 P-10

Are older IITs losing their sheen? Toppers opting for newer ones

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New Delhi: The older IITs seem to be losing their sheen. After the first round of counseling for IITs/NITs, the surprising bit is that the closing rank for IIT-Kharagpur, the oldest IIT in the country, and IIT-Roorkee, the oldest engineering college, is above 8,000 whereas for new IITs like those in Jodhpur, Hyderabad, Patna, Palakkad and Tirupati, it hovers between 4,957 and 6,581.

IIT-Kharagpur, with the maximum 1,341 seats, did not attract a single student from the top 212 ranks and Roorkee from the top 232 ranks but students far lower in the common rank list have preferred the two institutes.

A senior IIT professor said, "What is surprising is that students have preferred newer IITs like the ones in Tirupati, Kerala, Patna and others despite knowing that a student

Lawyer shows hope to expelled IIT-Roorkee students



As 73 expelled students of second semester from IIT Roorkee discussed the prospects of moving the Uttarakhand high court, the lawyer set to represent them told their parents that there are bright chances of HC taking up the case. "We have enough strong grounds to move the high court in this case. I can't talk more about the details given the sensitivity of the matter," the lawyer said. According to him, there is no such guideline in any other IIT that students will be expelled if they fail to score minimum required CGPA without being given a chance of back-paper or improvement. TNN

admitted in an IIT in a lower preferred course, say mining or agriculture engineering, can be upgraded to the most sought after courses like computer science, electronics, mechanical after one year based on his performance."

Among the older IITs, Bombay is the most attractive, getting 65 out of 100 top rankers and the first round closing with rank 4,206. IIT-Bombay

has 903 seats. IIT-Kanpur with 853 seats got two of the top 100 rankers and admission closed after the first round at rank 5,314. IIT-Delhi also did well with 30 of the top 100 rankers choosing it and the first round of counseling stopping at 4,494 rank. It has 851 seats. In comparison, IIT-Madras, with 838 seats, is losing its pull with only three of the top 100 preferring it and counseling

closing at rank 7,026.

Newer IITs with seats ranging between 120 and 220 are slowly coming into their own despite the fact that many do not even have a permanent campus. Among the relatively newer ones, IIT-Guwahati with 660 seats and Hyderabad with 220 are slowly breaking into the big league. Guwahati got 43 of the top 1,000 rankers while Hyderabad got 20.

Economic Times Hindi ND 13.07.2015 P-8

स्टूडेंट्स की खराब क्वालिटी के लिए कोचिंग इंस्टीट्यूट्स जिम्मेदार: IIT

बड़ा सवाल: खराब ग्रेड्स की वजह से IIT रुड़की से 73 स्टूडेंट्स को बाहर किए जाने से छात्रों की क्वालिटी को लेकर चिंताएं बढ़ गई हैं

[प्राची वर्मा | नई दिल्ली]

इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी), रुड़की से खराब ग्रेड्स की वजह से 73 स्टूडेंट्स को बाहर करने से देश के इन प्रीमियर इंस्टीट्यूट्स में एडमिशन लेने वाले स्टूडेंट्स की क्वालिटी को लेकर बड़ा सवाल खड़ा हो गया है, लेकिन देश भर की आईआईटी का कहना है कि यह पिछले कुछ वर्षों से सामने आ रही एक बड़ी समस्या की एक झलक है। आईआईटी के मुताबिक, करिकुलम के साथ चलने में नाकाम रहने वाले स्टूडेंट्स की संख्या लगातार बढ़ रही है।

स्टूडेंट्स की क्वालिटी में गिरावट के लिए फैक्ट्रियों जैसे काम करने वाले आईआईटी कोचिंग इंस्टीट्यूट्स पर शक जाता है। इसके साथ ही परिवार की ओर से दबाव की भी इसमें अहम भूमिका होती है। पढ़ाई में पीछे रहने वाले स्टूडेंट्स की मदद के लिए आईआईटी की ओर से कई कोशिशें की जाती हैं। इसके बावजूद अच्छे नतीजे न मिलने पर उन्हें इस तरह के स्टूडेंट्स को सिस्टम से बाहर करने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ता है। नए और पुराने दोनों आईआईटी इस समस्या के लिए रूट के साथ आईआईटी की तैयारी कराने वाले राजस्थान के कोटा जैसे इंस्टीट्यूट्स को जिम्मेदार बताते हैं। आईआईटी-कानपुर के डीन (फैकल्टी अफेयर्स) मनीन्द्र अग्रवाल ने बताया, 'स्टूडेंट्स का एवरेज स्टैंडर्ड नीचे जा रहा है। इसकी एक बड़ी वजह कोचिंग इंस्टीट्यूट्स की ओर से प्रवेश परीक्षा के लिए कराई जाने वाली तैयारी है।'

आईआईटी-रुड़की की फैकल्टी अभी भी यह समझने की कोशिश कर रही है कि इस वर्ष इंस्टीट्यूट से निकाले गए स्टूडेंट्स की संख्या में इतनी बढ़ोतरी क्यों हुई है। आईआईटी-रुड़की ने खराब ग्रेड्स की वजह से इस साल 2014 के मुकाबले 18 गुना ज्यादा स्टूडेंट्स को बाहर किया है। हालांकि, इंस्टीट्यूट के डायरेक्टर प्रदीप्तो बनर्जी मानते हैं कि स्टूडेंट्स को इसके लिए कसूरवार ठहराना गलत होगा। उन्होंने कहा, 'स्टूडेंट्स को दोष नहीं दिया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि उन्हें कोचिंग इंस्टीट्यूट्स केवल जेईई (ज्वाइंट एंट्रेंस एग्जाम) में सफल होने के लिए कोचिंग देते हैं और वे नॉलेज पर फोकस नहीं करते।' आईआईटी-गांधीनगर में पढ़ रहे अक्षय केशव सिंह प्रवेश परीक्षा की तैयारी के लिए कोटा गए थे। राजस्थान का यह शहर आईआईटी की कोचिंग कराने वाले इंस्टीट्यूट्स का हब माना जाता है। अक्षय ने कहा कि वहां स्टूडेंट्स पर काफी दबाव रहता है। उन्होंने बताया, 'हमसे दिन में लगभग 15 घंटे पढ़ने की उम्मीद की जाती है। अगर हम असेसमेंट्स में अच्छा प्रदर्शन नहीं करते तो कोचिंग इंस्टीट्यूट से बाहर किए जाने का डर होता है। लेकिन मैं खुश हूँ क्योंकि मैंने एग्जाम पास किया है।'



Dainik Bhaskar ND 13/07/2015 P-7

आईआईटी खड़गपुर और मद्रास बने छात्रों की पहली पसंद

आईआईटी खड़गपुर
में हर सीट के लिए
186 और मद्रास में
हर सीट के लिए 183
आवेदन

अरविन्द शर्मा | सीकर

इस बार ज्यादातर जेईई क्वालिफायर्स ने आईआईटी खड़गपुर और आईआईटी मद्रास को चुना है। इन आईआईटी के पास इस साल सबसे ज्यादा स्टूडेंट्स के आवेदन आए हैं। हालांकि जेईई टॉपर्स में आईआईटी बॉम्बे और आईआईटी दिल्ली पहली पसंद बनकर उभर रही है।

दैनिक भास्कर ने आईआईटी के आवेदनों की स्टडी की तो पता चला कि आईआईटी खड़गपुर में हर सीट के लिए औसतन 186 आवेदन और आईआईटी मद्रास में हर सीट के लिए औसतन 183

आवेदन आए हैं। आईआईटी दिल्ली की स्थिति देखें तो इनके पास एक सीट के लिए करीब 164 आवेदन है। आईआईटी बॉम्बे को हर सीट के लिए करीब 161 आवेदन मिले हैं। जबकि शेखावाटी से सलेक्ट युवाओं पर नजर डालें तो पहली पसंद आईआईटी बॉम्बे व दिल्ली उभर रही है। यहां के करीब 80 फीसदी युवाओं ने इन दोनों आईआईटी के लिए आवेदन किया है। कोचिंग संचालक श्रवण चौधरी व डॉ. पीयूष सुंडा कहते हैं- कम्प्यूटर साइंस व सिविल इंजीनियरिंग पर शेखावाटी के युवा ज्यादा फोकस करते हैं। दिल्ली व बॉम्बे आईआईटी में यही कोर्स सबसे ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण हैं। इसी वजह से शेखावाटी के युवा इन दोनों आईआईटी पर ज्यादा फोकस करते हैं।

गौरतलब है कि जेईई (एडवांस्ड) में क्वालिफाई करने वाला हर स्टूडेंट एक से ज्यादा

प्रिफरेंस चुनकर उनके लिए अप्लाई कर सकता है। आईआईटी मद्रास व खड़गपुर में आवेदनों की बड़ी वजह यह है कि इनमें कई कोर्स उपलब्ध हैं। सभी 18 आईआईटी की 10,006 सीट के लिए इस साल कुल 28.8 लाख आवेदन मिले थे। यानि हर सीट के लिए 280 आवेदन।

**टॉप रैंकर्स की पहली पसंद
आईआईटी बॉम्बे**

इस बार भी आईआईटी-मुंबई टॉप रैंकर्स की पहली पसंद रहा। हर चार में से एक टॉप रैंकर ने इस संस्थान को चुना है। टॉप 1000 रैंकर्स में से 273 ने आईआईटी बॉम्बे, 194 ने आईआईटी दिल्ली को चुना। हालांकि कुल मिलाकर देखा जाए तो इस साल सभी आईआईटी संस्थानों में से खड़गपुर आईआईटी को सबसे ज्यादा करीब 2.5 लाख आवेदन मिले हैं। यहां पर 38 कोर्सेज और 1,341 सीट हैं।

PM Modi to inaugurate IIT-P campus on July 25

Hindustan Times (Patna)

Shifting from old to new campus being done in a phase-wise manner, classrooms and laboratory being set up at the new Bihta campus

We will send the detailed schedule to the ministry hopefully on Monday and wait for final concurrence, along with a minute-to-minute programme of the PM SUBHASH PANDEY, registrar, IIT-P SECURITY IS LOOKED AFTER BY SPECIAL PROTECTION GROUP, BIHAR GOVERNMENT HAS DIRECTED ITS SENIOR OFFICERS TO MAKE SPECIAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENT FOR HIS RALLY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the IITPatna campus at Bihta, 35 km west from the heart of Patna, on July 25. The same day he is scheduled to address a public rally in Muzaffarpur, around 70 km north of the capital city.

IIT- Patna director Prof Pushpak Bhattacharya received a communication to this effect from the ministry of human resources and development (MHRD).

The registrar of IIT-Patna, Subhash Pandey, told HT that MHRD joint secretary Rakesh Ranjan, while conveying the intimation about the PM's proposed programme, had sought its detailed schedule and dais planning (seating arrangement).

“We will send the detailed schedule to the ministry hopefully on Monday and wait for the final concurrence, along with a minute-to-minute programme of the Prime Minister. As of now, we have been communicated that the whole programme should be of 60-90 minutes. The ministry will communicate to us the time slot after consultation with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO),” added Pandey.

The IIT is already in the process of shifting from its temporary campus in Patliputra to its permanent ground at Bihta, a distance of approx 35 kms. “We are doing it in a phase-wise manner, and setting up classrooms and laboratory at the new campus,” added Pandey.

The new academic session is to commence from July 22. Registration and induction of new students will be done at the new campus on July 22 and classes are scheduled to begin from July 25. However, with the inauguration by the Prime Minister slated for July 25, classes will now commence from July 26.

As on date, the IIT-P, formed in 2008, has 970 students and 75-80 faculty members. It has an annual intake of 200 students for undergraduate programme (B.Tech course) in five disciplines.

As per an earlier intimation by the MHRD, the inauguration was supposed to be done on June 29. However, it was deferred as the new campus was not fully ready. “The classrooms, mess, hostel, faculty residence are now ready and we are all set to begin our new academic session from the new campus,” Pandey signed off.

The Bihar government will not take any chances and go in for unprecedented security cover during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public rally in Muzaffarpur,” a state home department official said.

Although Modi's security is looked after by the Special Protection Group (SPG) - an elite commando force - the Bihar government has directed some of its senior officers to prepare special security arrangement plan for his rally, the official said.

The state government has asked the officials concerned to ensure foolproof security at Muzaffarpur. “Bihar will be on full alert during the Prime Minister’s rally,” said a police officer. Modi is slated to address a public rally in Bihar on July 25.



“We are gearing up for the Bihar assembly elections and aim to register a victory with twothird majority,” a BJP leader said.

Business Standard ND 13/07/2015 P-14

IIM Bill — Towards better governance?

When the government assumes control, it will endeavour to bring uniformity in the functioning of all IIMs



ACCOUNTANCY

ASISH K BHATTACHARYYA

Only a few Indian institutions of higher learning have earned global recognition. Three old Indian Institute of Management (IIMA, IIMB and IIMC) are among those few institutions. The government had established those three IIMs and funded their operation during the first three decades of their existence. Subsequently 10 more IIMs were established. Some of those have come into existence only recently. New IIMs receive government grant.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), government of India, had placed The Indian Institute of Management Bill 2015 (hereafter IIM Bill) for public opinion. Once the Bill is passed in both Houses of Parliament, the governance structure of IIMs will change.

IIMs are worried that with the enactment of the new law, they will lose their ‘autonomy’, which will adversely impact their performance. Chairpersons of IIMA and some other IIMs have publicly opposed the proposal. There are reasons for that.

Institutions and enterprises that are established and supported by public money are instruments for achieving some socio-economic goals. Therefore, it is logical that the government should have control over those institutions. In case of institutions of higher learning like IIMs, the issue is balancing between control, and freedom and autonomy of operation.

It is widely accepted that the ‘collegial system of governance’ or self-governance is the most appropriate model for the governance of institutions of higher learning. The sponsor should articulate the purpose of creating the institution and provide a broad governance framework. It should distance itself to allow the institution the freedom and autonomy to pursue what it understands best. It can enforce accountability through such mechanisms as periodical review, accreditation and annual audit by an independent auditor. The governance model provided in the IIM Bill is not appropriate for the governance of IIMs.

The IIM Bill proposes that the board of governors (hereafter board) will be at the ‘principal executive

body’, which will function under the oversight of the President of India, who will be the visitor. Out of the fifteen members, the government will nominate seven, directly or indirectly. The chairperson, who is the most powerful member of any board, will be appointed by the Centre. The director will be appointed by the Centre. The chairperson will nominate two faculty members. There will be two nominees of the Centre and one nominee of the state government. It will be difficult for these seven board members (almost 50 per cent of the board size) to act independently of the government. A board with so many government nominees cannot act independently.

Why should the government appoint the director? It should be the responsibility of the board, to hire the right person as the director. The board should establish a robust search and selection process. One should not be appointed as director because of his/her ‘luck and networking’. Appointment by the government does not improve the appointment process. It might lead to politicisation of the same. Therefore, the government should distance itself from the search and selection of the director. Similarly, the faculty through an appropriate democratic process, for example, through election, should elect its representatives to the board.

Internal regulations formulated by the board shall require government approval before implementation. Regulations will cover, among other things, admission of candidates to various courses of study; the number of posts, emoluments and the duties and conditions of service of the academic and non-academic staff; the qualifications, classification, terms of office and method of appointment of the academic and non-academic staff; the manner of formation of departments of teaching; the fees to be

charged for course of study and examinations; the establishment and maintenance of buildings; and the conditions of residence of students of the institute and levying of fees for residence in the halls and hostels and of other charges and delegation of power to the director. This shows that the government wants to micro-manage IIMs and to have ‘substantive control’ over those institutions. There are other provisions in the Bill that will strengthen the government control over IIMs.

It is natural that when the government assumes substantive control, it will endeavour to bring uniformity in the functioning of all IIMs. This is undesirable. Diversity leads to innovation and innovation can only lead to excellence. Each IIM should be allowed to decide its own governance

mechanism, strategy, the process of executing strategy and performance parameters in its pursuit for excellence. Healthy competition among different IIMs is good.

The IIM Bill provides for the constitution of the academic council, which shall be the principal academic body. The council shall be constituted of the director, heads of departments, deans and faculty members. The functions of the academic council will be academic administration only. One may argue that even with the implementation of the new governance system, IIMs will continue to enjoy academic autonomy. This argument is not tenable.

The academic autonomy is intertwined with administrative autonomy. Strategy, including financial strategy, performance parameters, etc. all have a bearing on the choice of portfolio of activities by faculty, and thus has a bearing on academic freedom. Academic freedom is not the same as freedom for academic administration.

The IIM Bill, in its present form, will harm IIMs.

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The curious case of India's fragile higher education system

VIEW FROM IIMA

SEBASTIAN MORRIS

Respond to this column at feedback@livemint.com



Indian institutions of higher education function at a sub-optimal scale compared with some of the best in the world. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, my alma mater, is one of the larger IITs in India. It nevertheless has only about 8,000 students, while the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has over 11,000 students and is part of the larger Boston educational area with more than a quarter of a million students. Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard all have around 20,000 students each. Some of the publicly-funded universities in the US such as Michigan and Pittsburgh have over 35,000 students. The University of California system has 250,000 students, with each of its campuses having 20,000 students. In comparison, IIT Bombay has not grown much over the years; in 1978, when I had joined, it had about 3,500 students.

Indian universities could have been larger; the total students on their campuses across all disciplines would not add up to more than a few thousand, typically much less, scattered over several campuses. We have denied scale to our publicly-funded higher education and, as a result, we have ended up with a high fee structure for students.

The cost of a year of student education in most of the leading IITs and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), for instance, is about half of that of the leading schools in the US at rates of compensation to faculty and staff that are less than a sixth. If IIM Ahmedabad itself were to double its strength to match that of Harvard Business School, its unit cost would fall by 30%. Thus money is wasted due to limited scale. Starting new IITs and IIMs would increase the real social cost of a seat by more than three times the long-run marginal cost of expanding existing IITs and IIMs. And expand they can since they have ample land and only need a paradigm shift in their conceptualization of a good campus. The great campuses of Harvard, MIT, Pennsylvania and other city universities have activity and residence densities between five and 15 times that of IIMs and IITs.

IIMA, which in this regard is more efficient than other IIMs, could easily accommodate another three schools with a more compact campus through efficient architecture. But then, our regulations define higher education as requiring a campus that has a minimum of 100 acres. Efficient use of land further reduces the currently high interaction cost today in many of these campuses, and can add to the social value of activities, including that of living. The approach of locating a new institute far away from urban places imposes upon it the avoidable administrative burdens and the need to provide all services, however below scale, within the campus. Thus they have to create their own shopping, residences, children's



Improving scale: A file photo of the IIM Ahmedabad campus. IIMA could easily accommodate another three schools with a more compact campus through efficient architecture.

schools, canteens—all of which, being below scale, would have poor quality and service levels.

Perhaps more than cost, or the inefficient use of land, or even the indifferent provision of support services, through such an approach, the core functions of knowledge creation and education are weakened; and however hard the institute tries to overcome these defects, it is not able to catch up. Without scale, there cannot be scope, and without scope, there cannot be quality education.

If there are only 500 students in a business school, then we cannot have a law or public policy faculty, or a real estate group, that is large enough (at least 15 strong) to be viable, given its own scale. So, we have to make do with academics who are implicitly sacrificing their own professional advancement by being

part of sub-optimal faculties. Thus, some of our top institutes of technology find it difficult to have a world-class humanities faculty. There is the double debility therefore: lack of scale and of scope.

The consequence of being sub-scale is that many professors have to go beyond their competence to give a worthwhile portfolio of subjects to their students. Professional interaction within a faculty declines, and an academic with high potential would think many times before risking his or her career to being part of a group which is too small for impact or collective reputation building.

In contrast, the schools and university systems of nearly all the rest of the world (China included) are able to have scope—many schools and departments in close proximity so that students are not

denied a wholesome portfolio and faculty members can have colleagues to professionally interact with. Even tiny Singapore, in the design of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University and National University of Singapore, ensures scale and scope. Coping with such design errors means that many administrative functions have to be missed, faculty members have to get involved in administration as in many of the leading IIMs; and stretch out over many more disciplines and topics. The latter tendency, even if it does not hurt graduate (MBA) education, would badly hurt research and doctoral programmes.

The All India Council for Technical Education grants approval for 60 students the first time for management. Imagine a private or charitable trust trying to set up a school. Few would be able to afford a library of more than a few thousand books, when the minimum number that one can imagine for a business school is 100,000; while many global universities have over 3 million books. Technical schools with large lab requirements would have to cheat the students of their practical work. Quality becomes the sacrificial lamb.

Since the public sector institutes suffer from scalability, the question arises if some of the private institutions in higher education will be able to fill this void in quality. Some of the well-meaning private universities, which have picked up scale, might be able to get on to the path of higher quality, but this is unlikely and would take decades, if not more.

Nowhere has the private sector done well in actually providing high-quality higher education, not even in the US, without a large role for the state sector. This is because education, especially higher education, is a so-called experience good not easily amenable to objective ex-ante measures of quality—without a state sector, price itself can become a measure of quality, resulting in vast exclusion.

The failure in India is well evidenced by the fact that around 90,000 students from India go abroad every year to seek higher education. They know well that beyond the IITs, IIMs, National Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, a few colleges of metro universities and some older private schools which have kept their heads above water against the odds, the quality falls precipitously.

Obviously the government would be better off by pressuring well-performing IITs and IIMs and other schools within its direct control to expand and diversify by giving them autonomy but demanding performance in quality and quantity terms. Indeed, around them can then emerge the new world-class universities covering the sciences and social sciences. For that to happen, Indian officials and politicians would have to go against the belief that giving grants to schools gives them the right to intervene and micro-manage.

Sebastian Morris is a professor at IIMA and has interests in public policy, economic development, infrastructure and international trade and investments.

This article presents the author's personal views and should not be construed to represent the institute's position on the subject.

COLUMN

RETIRED PROFS CANNOT BE PhD GUIDES, SAYS UGC

Hindustan Times (Bhopal)

BHOPAL: Superannuated professors at universities cannot act as guides or supervisors in awarding M Phil or PhD degrees, according to a University Grants Commission (UGC) circular. The circular says that ‘‘Universities shall allocate supervisors from amongst the regular faculty members in a department or its affiliated PG colleges/institutions depending on the number of students per faculty member.’ Any degree awarded otherwise would be in violation of the UGC Regulations, 2009.

This UGC notification can prove to be a problem for the Barkatullah University as about 500 out of 1800 registered guides are retired professors.

Retired English professor, Zamiruddin said, ‘‘I have already resigned due to the non-academic environment in the university. It looks like that they are living in a fool’s paradise. Retired professors don’t ask for students. It’s the university that asks us to guide the students because of experience and knowledge. They are mistaken. There is a shortage of guides and retired professors for a few subjects and this decision will affect the students adversely.’’

Urdu poet and retired professor Anees Sultana said, ‘‘This is not a good decision keeping in mind research. The decision makers are ignoring the talent and competence of retired professors. It will definitely affect the working of the university.’’

Meanwhile, some retired professors have welcomed the decision.

Tribune ND 13/07/2015 P-18

Low-cost 'Aakash' project logs out

NEW DELHI, JULY 12

After rolling out one lakh tablets thereby completing its target, the low-cost Aakash project launched by Centre in 2011 to provide viable education for students around the country was closed in March this year, according to an RTI reply.

"The Aakash project at IIT Bombay was closed on 31st March, 2015, after successfully completing all targets.

Specifications for future upgraded version have been submitted to the government. IIT Bombay is not in the knowledge of future plans," as stated by IIT Bombay official in the RTI.

Initially, IIT Rajasthan was entrusted with the project, but it was returned to Ministry of Human Resource Development by IIT Rajasthan. Later, the project was entrusted to IIT Bombay and since then the institute had been overseeing the Aakash project.

Other than procuring one lakh devices, the other targets including — its sample testing in labs and establishment of over 300 Aakash centres which were engineering colleges across the country —



One lakh tabs sold

- The low-cost project, launched by the Centre in 2011, was closed in March, says an RTI reply
- The project was shut after achieved its intended target of rolling out one lakh tablets
- It aimed at providing viable education for students around the country

were also achieved, it said.

A total of Rs 47.72 crores was approved for the project and this amount has been spent to achieve the targets, according to the reply.

However, several complaints and troubleshoots were reported in the past with regard to the functioning of the device, brought from Canada-based Datawind company. The issue was also raised in 2014 Lok sabha election. — PTI

PSLV has launched over 40 sats for 19 countries

What are the various satellite orbits?

There are three key satellite orbits — high, medium and low. The high-earth or geosynchronous orbit is at a height of about 35,780 km from the surface of the earth. The mid-earth and low-earth orbits are 2,000-35,780 km and 180-2,000 km above the surface, respectively.

A geosynchronous satellite orbits the earth at the same speed as the planet's rotation on its axis and hence remains in the same position with respect to the earth. Because of their apparent stationary position, these satellites are useful for communication (phones, TV, radio) and weather monitoring. Most scientific and remote sensing satellites are in low-earth orbit. The most commonly used low-earth orbit is the polar orbit. Satel-

lites placed in this orbit move around the earth from pole to pole. The polar orbit is sun-synchronous—which means that it passes a spot on the earth at the same time each day. For instance, a sun-synchronised satellite can measure Delhi's air quality every day at, say, 12 noon.

How are satellites placed in orbits?

Launch vehicles (LVs) are the instruments used to put satellites in their respective orbits. India took its first step in outer space on November 21, 1963 when Indian scientists launched the first sounding rocket from Indian soil. Although India started developing launch vehicles in the early 1970s, it took about two decades to reach operational ability.

What were SLV and ASLV?

Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV) was India's first experimental launch vehicle capable of placing 40 kg payloads in low-earth orbits.

After the initial failure in a 1979 launch, on July 18, 1980 SLV-3 successfully launched Rohini (RS-1) making India the sixth country to have the capability of launching satellites.

After the success of the SLV programme, ISRO launched the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) programme. This launch vehicle augmented the payload capacity to 150 kg, thrice that of SLV, and was used to validate critical technologies for future launch vehicles.

What is PSLV and when did

it become operational?

Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle is the system used to launch low orbit satellites to sun synchronous polar orbits. It was the next stage of the SLV and ASLV programmes and was developed to launch Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites.

The first developmental launch of PSLV was done in 1993 and the vehicle failed to put remote sensing satellite IRS-1E into orbit. The vehicle became operational after the launch of the IRS-1D satellite on September 29, 1996. Since 1999, the vehicle has also launched foreign satellites.

PSLV has launched over 40 satellites for 19 countries. It was also used for launching Chandrayaan-1 and the Mars Orbiter Mission.

Is India capable of launching geosynchronous

satellites?

Despite the success of the PSLV programme, India was not capable of launching INSAT type heavy communication satellites in geosynchronous orbits. Such capability was only possible after the development of cryogenic engines based on liquefied gas.

India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) programme started in the 1990s and according to a 1991 agreement, a Russian company was supposed to provide the engine for the cryogenic stage of the launch. In 1992, the US imposed sanctions and the Russian company backed out of the deal. Later, Russia agreed to sell seven cryogenic engines to India. These were used to fuel the early GSLV launches. In 2014, India succeeded in a GSLV launch using indigenous cryogenic technology.



LEARNING
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Candidates can be sued for degrees from unrecognised institutes

A course from an unaccredited institute is a waste of your time and money. Do the due diligence before enrolling

PRIYA NAIR

You have secured admission to an educational institute that is 'affiliated' to a foreign university, promises scholarship for one year of study abroad, placement in top-rated companies and gifts such as laptops. But before you pay the fees, do check if the name of the institute figures in the list of unapproved universities or colleges on the websites of the University Grants Commission (UGC) or All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

Currently, there is a list of 26 fake universities on the UGC website. Similarly, AICTE has a list of 340 unapproved institutions offering courses such as include engineering, computer studies, management, tourism, architecture, fashion designing. Many of them continue to offer courses, although they are unrecognised.

"As long as there is a mismatch between demand and supply and a premium is charged for good quality education, such institutes will continue to exist," says S S Mantha, former chairman, AICTE.

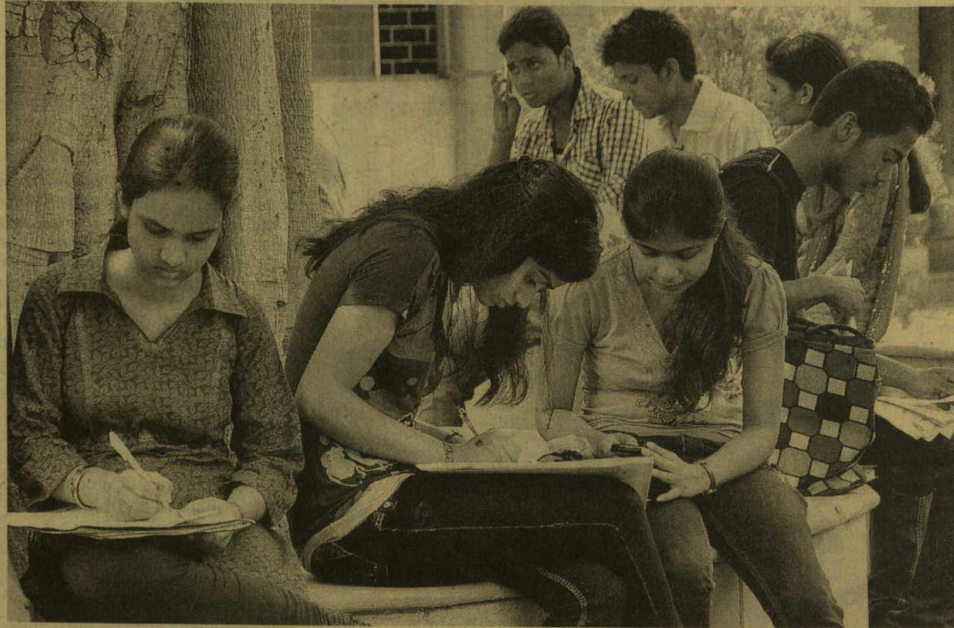
Many students join such unrecognised colleges when they fail to secure admission in top-rated colleges owing to poor scores. However, only after completing the course do they realise the degree is not valid. The only advantage, if any, is that such colleges might have tie-ups with companies and offer internships. But often, these are entry-level jobs and the qualification required is only graduation with English speaking skills. The professional degree does not offer any additional benefit.

"Many people today want to enter the field of education because they get land at concessional rates. They spend a lot of money on advertising but not on the required infrastructure, due to which the institute fails to get recognition from regulatory bodies. Students should be wary of such institutes," says Pritam Singh, a senior academician who has served on the boards of Indian Institutes of Management and Delhi-based International Institute Management, among others.

Let us look at some of the things to look out for before joining a college:

Check UGC, AICTE websites

UGC and AICTE websites have lists of both recognised and unrecog-



CHECK THE FOLLOWING

- The lists of approved and unapproved universities/ colleges on the websites of UGC or AICTE
- The number of faculty members; how many are permanent
- Websites of international universities/ colleges that the institute claims to be affiliated to
- Whether a bank or NBFC offers education loans
- What is the accreditation and it is still valid

nised universities and technical colleges. Hence, the first thing to do is to check if the university or college figures on either of these lists.

In some cases, the institute might not feature either on the approved list or unapproved list. "Regulatory bodies locate such institutions based on advertisements in newspapers or television. So, it is possible that some get left out. They also act on the basis of complaints received from parents or students. If you come across a college that is violating norms, you can bring it to the notice of the authorities," says Mantha.

It may happen that the list is not updated. In that case, call the helpline numbers provided on the websites to check the validity of the university or college in question, says Narayanan Ramaswamy, partner and head of education and skilling vertical at KPMG.

Unaccredited institute

Sometimes, the institute would have the required infrastructure, but it might not be affiliated to an Indian regulatory body. This could be more tricky than a fake institute. In this case, while the degree may not be a fake one, it will be an unrecognised

one. So, finding jobs in government organisations, public sector undertakings, or private companies that attach importance to degrees would be difficult. Employers could take

legal action against the candidate if it has been misrepresented.

However, many private companies don't attach too much importance to degrees and give you a job based on your skills, in which case it may not affect much, says Ramaswamy.

It may also happen that the institute loses its affiliation or recognition, for failing to meet the norms, mid-way through the educational programme. In such cases, regulators will allow students to shift to another college and ensure that their studies are not disrupted, says Mantha.

Affiliation with foreign universities

Many institutes claim they have affiliation with foreign universities, but these may not be well-known universities or recognised in India. In such a case, check the websites of those universities to verify if the Indian institutes' names figure in their list of affiliated colleges.

"One should not get carried away by tall claims and celebrity endorse-

ments," says Ramaswamy.

Many colleges claim to have global accreditation which may be misleading. "There are only three well known accreditations globally, from Europe, the UK and the US. These are known as the triple crown. In India, the UGC offers accreditation. Anything other than this is again misleading," says Singh.

Faculty members

Another thing to check is the number of faculty members and board members in the institute. "One must check if the faculty members are permanent or not and their qualifications are. These can be verified on the websites of these institutes. Today, many colleges function with four or five faculty members," points out Singh.

Education loan not available

Another reason students opt for such institutes is because many a times fees might be on par with recognised institutes or even lower. But if you apply for an education loan to a bank or non-banking finance company, then it will get approved only if the institute is a recognised one, says Neeraj Saxena, CEO, Avanse Education Finance Services. "We have a cell that checks into the institute before approving the loan. We look at con-

ditions like how old the institute is, placement record, past performance, if there are legal cases pending against the institute, or if it has been blacklisted by any regulatory body, etc," he says.

Many banks also carry a list of approved colleges on their websites for sanctioning loans. Check this list to find out if the institute you are applying to is recognised or not. In some cases, banks have tie-ups with recognised institutes and students applying to these institutes get loans easily. Hence, you can check if the institute has such a tie-up.

Laws need strengthening

One reason why unrecognised institutes thrive is because the punishment is negligible. According to the UGC Act (1956), Section 24, the penalty is ₹1,000. "This may have been a huge amount in 1956 when the law was formed. But today, those running such institutions would rather pay ₹1,000 and continue to run the institutions," says Mantha.

Complaints regarding unrecognised institutes or institutes flouting AICTE or UGC norms should be lodged with the grievance cell of the UGC or AICTE. Depending on the severity of the complaint, the authorities will take action against the institute or withdraw the approval.