

Newspaper Clips

June 1, 2012

P&B Daily , ND 1/06/2012 P-6

IITs not to implement minority quota for now

PBD BUREAU/PTI

NEW DELHI, MAY 31

IN the wake of the Andhra Pradesh High Court order striking down the 4.5 per cent sub-quota to minorities within OBC reservation, IITs have decided to abide by the ruling, "ignoring" the quota provision till further legal developments.

With this, candidates who benefited under the sub-quota and shortlisted for counselling have been advised to register the choice of courses accordingly under the ongoing counselling process, IIT-JEE 2012 organising chairman GB Reddy said.

He said these candidates will now be allocated seats as per their ranks not under the sub-quota.

An IIT statement also pointed that "all the shortlisted candidates are advised to note that availability of 4.5 per cent reservation for OBC (non creamy layer-minority) shall depend on the legal developments till June 13 and hence they may register

the choice of courses accordingly."

Law Minister Salman Khurshid has already said they would move the Supreme Court against the high court ruling.

The statement said "the judgement of the Andhra Pradesh High Court will be implemented by ignoring the provision for reservation of 4.5 per cent seats and by converting seats meant for OBC (NCL)-Minority community to OBC(NCL) category".

As many as 325 aspirants belonging to economically and socially backward sections of minority communities have been shortlisted for admission to the 15 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) under the sub-quota.

Counselling for admission to 15 IITs and IT-BHU and ISM-Dhanbad is currently underway and the process will go on till 5 pm on June 10.

The web release of the first seat allotment will be made on June 14. The IITs are the first to implement the government's decision.

IIT sub-quota to be merged with OBC

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The 4.5% sub-quota reserved for minorities in IITs will be merged with the OBC category, in view of the recent judgment of the Andhra Pradesh high court quashing the provision.

An official press release issued by IIT said: "In the absence of any further legal development before June 13, 2012, the judgment of the

Those selected under this category should widen their choice for courses

DR GB REDDY

Organising chairperson, IIT-JEE 2012

Andhra Pradesh high court will be implemented by ignoring the provision for reservation of 4.5% seats, and by converting seats meant for OBC (NCL)-minority community to OBC(NCL) category. All

the shortlisted candidates are advised that availability of 4.5% reservation for OBC(NCL)-minority shall depend on legal developments till June 13. They may register the choice of their courses accordingly."

"Those selected under this category should widen their choice for courses, so that a seat in IIT is ensured," Dr G B Reddy, organising chairperson of IIT-JEE 2012, said.

A total of 325 candidates were shortlisted under the sub-quota.

RESERVATION GAME

December 22, 2011 In the run-up to UP polls, Centre announces 4.5% quota for minorities in education, jobs within 27% OBC quota

March 2012 Bunch of PILs in Andhra HC against the move

May 28 HC quashes sub-quota, says Constitution does not allow reservation on religious grounds

Dainik Jagran ND 01/06/2012 P-9

आइआईटी ने अल्पसंख्यक छात्रों को अधर में छोड़ा

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस : आइआईटी-जेईई परीक्षा में ओबीसी आरक्षण के तहत सब कोटा में चयनित अल्पसंख्यक छात्रों का भविष्य अधर में लटक गया है। आंध्र प्रदेश हाई कोर्ट के ताजा फैसले को देखते हुए सभी आइआईटी संस्थानों ने फिलहाल सब कोटा प्रावधान को नजरअंदाज करने का निर्णय लिया है। आइआईटी-जेईई 2012 के आर्गेनाइजिंग चेयरमैन जीबी रेड्डी ने बताया कि इस फैसले के साथ ही 4.5 फीसद सब कोटा में काउंसलिंग के लिए चयनित उम्मीदवारों को जारी प्रक्रिया के तहत अपनी पसंद का कोर्स चुनने को कहा गया है। इन छात्रों को अब सब कोटा नहीं बल्कि रैंक के हिसाब से सीट आवंटित की जाएगी। आइआईटी की एक विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया है, चयनित अभ्यर्थियों को परामर्श दिया जाता है कि ओबीसी (गैर

◆ ओबीसी आरक्षण के तहत सब कोटा नजरअंदाज करने का फैसला

क्रीमी लेयर) के लिए 4.5 फीसद आरक्षण 13 जून तक के कानूनी घटनाक्रमों पर निर्भर करेगा। वे इसी के मुताबिक अपने कोर्स का चुनाव कर सकते हैं। आइआईटी 4.5 फीसद आरक्षण के प्रावधान को नजरअंदाज कर आंध्र प्रदेश हाई कोर्ट के फैसले के अनुरूप ही चलेगा। कानून मंत्री पहले ही कह चुके हैं कि हाई कोर्ट के फैसले के खिलाफ केंद्र सरकार सुप्रीम कोर्ट में जाएगी। इस बार अल्पसंख्यक समुदायों के आर्थिक और सामाजिक रूप से पिछड़े तबकों के 325 अभ्यर्थियों को सब कोटे के तहत 15 आइआईटी में काउंसलिंग के चयनित किया गया है।

Minority quota in IITs on hold; ready options, students told

Himanshi Dhawan | TNN

New Delhi: Putting the 4.5% minority sub-quota on hold till legal challenges are resolved, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) on Thursday sought to allay students' fears and advised them to expand their choice of courses.

The statement came on the back of the Andhra Pradesh high court judgment scrapping the sub-quota, putting in quandary the over 300 IIT aspirants who had been shortlisted under the provision. The urgency in the case is because counselling for students is already underway.

IIT-JEE organizing chairman Prof G B Reddy said, "The students should expand their choices to take care of both eventualities (if the HC decision is upheld or stayed by the Supreme Court)."

While law minister Salman Khurshid has categorically said the government would approach the SC to challenge the high court order, it remains to be seen whether it will be able to get a stay.

In the wake of the court order, IITs have decided to abide by the ruling, "ignoring" the quota provision till further legal developments. The statement said "the judgment of the Andhra Pradesh HC High Court will be implemented by ignoring the provision for reservation of 4.5% seats and by converting seats meant for OBC (non-creamy layer)-minority community to OBC (non-creamy layer) category".

With this, about 325 candidates who had been shortlisted under the sub-quota for counselling may have to compete with the 27% OBC non-creamy layer quota. This means that aspirants who were assured of the course of their choice will now have to keep their options open.

The statement also said that "all shortlisted candidates are advised to note that availability of 4.5% quota for OBC (non-creamy layer-minority) shall depend on the legal developments till June 13 and hence register the choice of courses accordingly."

NO MINORITY SUB-QUOTA IN IITs FOR NOW

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

The IITs have decided to abide by the Andhra Pradesh high court order striking down the 4.5 per cent sub-quota to minorities within OBC reservation and not to implement the quota provision till further legal developments.

"Candidates who benefited under the sub-quota and were shortlisted for counselling have been advised to register the choice of courses accordingly under the ongoing counselling process," IIT-JEE 2012 organising chairman G.B. Reddy said.

"These candidates will now be allocated seats as per their ranks not under the sub-quota," Mr Reddy said.

An IIT statement also pointed that "all the shortlisted candidates are advised to note that availability of 4.5 per cent reservation for OBC shall depend on the legal developments till June 13 and hence they may register the choice of courses accordingly."

As many as 325 aspirants belonging to economically and socially backward sections of minority communities have been shortlisted for admission to the 15 Indian Institutes of Technology under the sub-quota.

Indian Express, ND 1/06/2012
P-5

IITs decide to ignore sub-quota

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

IT'S a move that could jeopardise chances of 325 minority candidates shortlisted under the 4.5 per cent sub-quota to make it to the IITs. On Thursday, the IITs announced that they would "ignore" the 4.5 per cent sub-quota and implement the Andhra Pradesh High Court order that scrapped it earlier this week.

"In the absence of any further legal development/information from the Ministry of HRD before 13th June 2012, the judgment of the Andhra Pradesh High Court will be implemented by ignoring the provision for reservation of 4.5 per cent seats and by converting seats meant for OBC (NCL)-Minority community to OBC(NCL) category. Therefore, all the shortlisted candidates are advised to note that availability of 4.5 per cent reservation for OBC(NCL)-Minority shall depend on the legal developments till 13th June and hence they may register the choice of courses accordingly," the IIT advisory told all quota students.

The IITs had to make this move as they would on June

13 finally announce and allocate all their seats for JEE 2012. With no firm direction from the ministry on how to handle the 4.5 per cent minority sub-quota issue and little hope of a legal resolution within a fortnight, the IITs have decided to prepare for both possible situations — of the Supreme Court setting aside the HC judgment or of reinforcing it.

However, in an attempt to give a chance to minority students shortlisted in JEE 2012, the Joint Entrance Examination Organising chairman G B Reddy has advised that these students opt for as many course choices as they can during the ongoing counselling to secure a seat. A student can indicate a maximum of 215 choices from courses on offer across 15 IITs.

The IITs hint that in case the Andhra HC order is stayed or overturned, the minority sub-quota students will automatically be allocated seats as per the first choice of course indicated. However, in the event of an unfavourable verdict and the 4.5 per cent quota collapsing back into its parent 27 per cent OBC quota, the minority candidates may have a slim chance.



City teachers hail change in IIT entrance format

The Centre recently announced that admission to all IITs, NITs and other centrally funded institutes will take into consideration class XII examination marks. As per the new pattern, board results and the main test will be given 50% weightage each. Mannat Jaspal notes opinions of city parents, teachers, and students over the government's move.



MADHU BAHL,
Principal, K8 DAV School, Sector 7

I appreciate the initiative taken by the government. Mostly students do not give importance to their Class XI and XII exams and focus entirely on the entrance exams. But now, they will learn how to cultivate a balanced approach to both. This will also curb the commercialisation and popularity of coaching institutes.

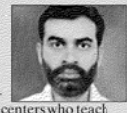
MARIASWATI,
Principal Carmel Convent School, Sector 9

I endorse this idea. Students have long been ignoring the Class XII exams. But now, they will have to take it into consideration, both the classroom teaching and their preparation for competitive exams. Also, coaching centres have taken away the charm of classroom teaching. Parents and students are often misled and fall prey to their commercialised approach.



RAJINDER KANT,
Physics teacher, Government Model Senior Secondary (GMS55) School 16

I believe that this initiative will strengthen the education system but the coaching centres will still retain their influence over the students. School imposes discipline among students and concentrates on practical experience and knowledge. Individual attention is given to all students unlike the coaching centres who teach 150-200 students in a class and parents also suffer financially due to the centres.



GOPAL KRISHAN AGGARWAL,
student of GMS55, Sector 6

I am originally from Amritsar and have come to Chandigarh pursue Class XI and XII and take coaching for the entrance exams. There are many others like me who come to the big cities and struggle to clear the entrance exams. The government may feel that its decision will reduce stress levels but on the contrary it burdens the students.

TEGINDER SONDHII,
Chemistry Teacher, Sacred Heart, Sector 26

I encourage this proposal as children aspiring for these engineering colleges pay no attention in class. They remain dependent on coaching institutes, which charge exorbitant fees and pay little attention to the practical aspects of education. Students become irregular to school. Here, we stress on the basics of every chapter aiming at enhancing the students' knowledge levels. The government's proposal will create the much-needed balance in the system.

JAIN PRAKASH,
city-based businessman, parent of an IIT aspirant

I do not support this proposal. Earlier, when a student would not qualify for IIT, there were opportunities for other esteemed colleges. But due to the common entrance exam for all the, there will be more stress for students.



SUKRANT,
a city-based student who qualified IIT this year

I got a 95.8 per cent marks in Class XII and have just qualified the IIT entrance exam. I believe this proposal will not make much of a difference. On the contrary, due to different exams, students will be overworked and stressed.



AAKRITI MAHAJAN,
a student from Delhi Public School Sector 40

I believe in school based teaching. If one follows the classroom teaching regularly, coaching classes will become a secondary option. This way, the students will not have to remain dependent on coaching classes.



Pioneer ND 01/06/2012

P-5

Secy shunted for shielding IIT brass

MOUSHUMI BASU ■ NEW DELHI

In a sudden move, Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, Higher Education (HE), MHRD has been moved to Tribal Affairs, considered an insignificant posting in IAS circles. According to well placed sources, this "shunting" has come in the wake of her alleged role in quashing CBI recommendations against top IIT Directors and Professors.

Das, who is a 1976 batch IAS officer, was appointed Secretary, Higher Education in November 2009. Subsequently, Sibal, as Chairman, IIT Council, nominated her as a Member, Board of Governors, IIT Kharagpur. No other IIT had such a high profile Secretary (HE), MHRD as a Member, Board of Governors.

The sources pointed out her dual role was solely aimed at exercising MHRD's remote control over IIT Kharagpur, which was involved in a lot of vigilance controversies for the past few years. It is the only educational institute in the country where CVC had directed for a full time CVO. While her nomination as member IIT council was seen as encroachment on the autonomy of IIT, Das consequently got embroiled in many controversies.

The Pioneer had earlier reported on how the IIT Kharagpur Board of Governors had quashed the CBI recommendations for regular departmental action and penalty against three faculty members (AK



IN ANOTHER GLARING MISUSE OF AUTHORITY AND POWER, THE IIT BOARD HAS KEPT WHISTLEBLOWER PROFESSOR RAJEEV KUMAR ON SUSPENSION BEYOND A YEAR WITHOUT ANY REVIEW FOR ITS REVOCATION OR EXTENSION

Bhowmick, Director IIT Patna, PP Chakrabarti, Dean IIT Kharagpur and RN Banerjee, a senior professor on extension) for outsourcing the Coal-Net project to The

Chatterjee Group of an IIT alumnus.

This sudden hurry on the part of IIT Board to quash the CBI cases after sitting over them for the past five years, was allegedly to help the two big names Bhowmick and Chakrabarti to get vigilance clearance for appointment as Director IIT Kharagpur.

The above action is beyond the jurisdiction of the IITs Board. The Pioneer had again reported on how MHRD Joint Secretary and CVO pointed out to the IIT Board that it had no jurisdiction to quash a departmental action which was yet to be taken. The Joint Secretary advised the Board to take a decision on the departmental action in consultation with the Central Vigilance commission (CVC).

In another glaring misuse of authority and power, the IIT Board has kept whistleblower professor Rajeev Kumar on suspension beyond a year without any review for its revocation or extension.

As per the applicable rules, the suspension order should have been reviewed within a 90-day period. In the absence of any such review, the suspension order is null and void.

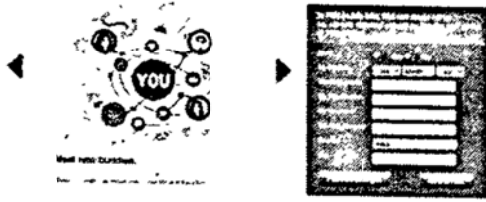
Sources say that Das turned a Nelson eye to many of the requests for revocation of the suspension. It is learnt that on the advice of the Central Vigilance commission, MHRD Joint Secretary and CVO also directed the IIT Board to review the suspension.

The list of irregularities do not end here. The incumbent Director IIT Kharagpur Damodar Acharya who is also in the rat race for a second term for the post of the top brass was allowed to continue to work as the IIT director despite facing regular departmental action by CBI for major penalty which includes dismissal from service too. The Board quashed the CBI prosecution of its then Registrar, Dr D Gunasekaran.

This newspaper had reported earlier Prof Acharya misled the CVC in the irregularities and favoritism in the appointments of IIT's Officiating Registrar, Dr TK Ghosal.

IIT's then CVO, Prof AK Ghosh, was arrested for running a fake Institute with the alleged support of IIT's past and current administrators. IIT's current CVC, Prof BK Mathur, is under CBI scanner.

Following increased vigilance activities in IIT Kharagpur, the CVC had repeatedly directed MHRD for appointment of a full-time CVO at IIT Kharagpur. As the Secretary, Das failed to appoint a full-time CVO at IIT Kharagpur. IIT Board rejected the CVC proposal stating that IIT's accounts are audited by CAG. The Board suppressed the fact that CAG itself, in their 2009-10 report rapped the IIT that the Coal Net Project could not be completed even after seven years and despite spending ₹39.58 crore, which led to the foreclosure of the agreement with the premier institution.



IIT dating site to go global

SHRUTI BADYAL

✉ A social network to date IITians which was launched in January is going global soon. With more than 7,000 registered users, *dateitians.com* is planning to expand its reach. The portal which was only open to techies and engineering professionals from IITs and IIMs was later open to others as they got many requests. Layak Singh, co-founder tells us, "We will go global in July with the name *cogxio.com* as this has appealed to many."

The site gives one a chance to flirt and propose, but with more cautions and care. "You become buddies first and then if the user accepts your flirt

Users earn points while interacting and those points can be used for purchasing real gifts, books, etc

LAYAK SINGH OF
DATEITIANS.COM



request, you can express a 'crush' on them and take it further only with the other person's permit," adds Singh.

The registration is an elaborate process. It can take up to three days. "It involves verification and authentication of user's credentials, personal email address, contact number as well as ID proofs such as IDs of college, institute or university. After submitting details, the user will get an email confirmation from the site and will receive a code on the mobile phone," says Singh.

For users, it's more meaningful than most other dating options online. Says Animesh (name changed on request), "It's a three-step dating system. You first become buddies, and then you can flirt with each other depending on profile's acceptance and third is dating where you can go for movies, etc."

Another interesting feature is that you can send messages to your buddy's phone, only if the person accepts your "crush" request. "Buddies (users) earn points while interacting and those points can be used for purchasing real gifts, books, etc." says Singh.

Hari Bhumi ND 01/06/2012
P-8

आईआईटी कानपुर को पूर्व छात्र ने दिए 40 लाख

एजेंसी. कानपुर

आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्र ने गुरुवार को अपनी पत्नी के माता पिता के नाम पर आईआईटी कानपुर में एक फ़ैकल्टी चेयर स्थापित करने के लिये 40 लाख रुपए की धनराशि दी। इसका उपयोग संस्थान में उच्च शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में किये जाने वाले शोध के लिए किया जाएगा। डिप्टी रजिस्ट्रार मो. शकील अहमद ने बताया कि आईआईटी कानपुर से वर्ष 1979 में इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग में बीटेक की डिग्री लेने वाले और इस समय जापान में सेवारत कमलेश द्विवेदी ने अपने सास ससुर गिरीश रंजन और सुषमा रानी पाठक के नाम से एक फ़ैकल्टी चेयर की स्थापना की है। इससे पहले कमलेश अपने माता पिता के नाम पर वर्ष 2006 में एक फ़ैकल्टी चेयर स्थापित कर चुके हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि संस्थान के पूर्व छात्र कमलेश द्विवेदी ने अपनी पत्नी के माता पिता के नाम से स्थापित इस फ़ैकल्टी चेयर के लिए 40 लाख रुपए की धनराशि दी। इसका इस्तेमाल संस्थान में उच्च शिक्षा में किये जाने वाले शोध कार्यों में किया जाएगा। उन्होंने बताया कि कमलेश इससे पूर्व अपनी बेटियों के नाम पर छात्रों के लिए नकद पुरस्कार की भी घोषणा कर चुके हैं, जो प्रतिवर्ष मेधावी छात्रों को दी जाती है।

- उच्च शिक्षा में शोध के लिए राशि का उपयोग
- 79 में इलेक्ट्रिकल में बीटेक की डिग्री ली थी

Debt worries rise for students eyeing foreign schools

Though students are not deferring plans to go abroad, they are now left with no choice but to borrow more

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA & REMYA NAIR

NEW DELHI

As the rupee's slide continues unabated, Natasha Kumar knows she'll need to take on a larger debt burden to achieve her dream of going to Singapore for her master's degree.

Kumar, currently a B. Tech student at the privately run Amity University in Noida, will have to pay around ₹18 lakh for her course at Nanyang Technology University (NTU) in Singapore.

"I am suffering for non-academic reasons. Had I done the course a year earlier, I would have paid some 20% less than now," said Kumar.

Kumar, who has a 50% merit scholarship at Amity, said she won't abandon the plan as NTU is a globally recognized institute.

"I cannot hold my plan for a year or so. Now I have no choice but to take more loans," she said. In April 2011, one Singapore dollar was around ₹36; now it's more than ₹43.5.

Studying abroad has always been a costly affair, with US universities charging \$15,000 to \$50,000 (approximately ₹8.46 lakh to ₹28.21 lakh on Thursday) for a year. In the UK, course fees range between £7,000 and 25,000 a year (approximately ₹6.11 lakh and ₹21.84 lakh on Thursday). While some payments such as lodging and boarding are made in advance, tuition fees have to be paid every semester. Thus students who have already got admission also feel the pinch.

The rupee, which touched a record low of 56.515 to the dollar in intra-day trade on Thursday, has depreciated by more than 23% against the US currency in the last one year. In

MINT SERIES-III

May alone, the rupee has declined by around 6.51% on account of the uncertainty in global markets.

The rupee's decline is especially nerve-wracking for those seeking a mid-career improvement in qualifications.

"The depreciating rupee is going to have a huge hole in our savings," said Maya Nair. Her son, who's in the merchant navy, plans to get a master's degree in a related field from City University London.

"My son is 37 and married, and perhaps wants to settle down with a more secure job than what he is doing now. A masters degree will help his career path," said Nair, a senior citizen in Delhi. "We are worried it's going to have an impact on his plan."

Over 100,000 Indians go abroad every year to study. While the US continues to be the leading choice in this respect for Indians, Australia, the UK, Canada and Switzerland are some of the other key destinations.

According to the US-based Institute of International Education, there were some 103,895 Indian students in the US in 2010-11, down 1% from the previous year. This

number includes new and old enrolments. More than 27,000 Indian students went to Australia last year and some 12,000 to Canada, according to official statistics.

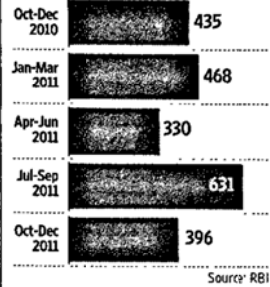
"When the dollar is strengthening against the rupee, it's bound to affect the cost of education, especially stay and other expenses," said Vineet Gupta, managing director of Jamboree Education Pvt. Ltd, an education company that helps students who want to study abroad with international entrance coaching and consulting. "When the course fee goes up let's say 10 or 15% because of non-academic reasons, it definitely hurts students."

While aspirants are worried about the rupee decline, "we

SPIRALLING COSTS

Outflow from India on account of education.

(Million \$)



YOGESH KUMAR/MINT

have not seen students dropping the plan if they have a good offer. The (decline) has happened quickly in the last three months or so. Hence, its impact will be seen in the next few months."

Costs vary across courses, with an international MBA about 25% more expensive than a regular master's degree, he said.

The weaker rupee may make students more choosy, said Amit Agnihotri, who runs management education website MBAUniverse.com.

"It may not affect the Ivy Leagues because of their pedigree but it will certainly hamper tier-II foreign colleges that get the bulk of the Indian students," he said.

Conversely, Indian business schools that have foreign guest faculty will also be feeling the pain. "When the rupee depreciates, Indian business schools have to pay more," he said.

Some countries see opportunity in the currency fluctuation—Canada for instance.

"In Canada, the institutes are publicly funded (hence relatively less costly), the cost of living is cheaper and they can work while studying," said Simon Cridland, counsellor and head, advocacy programme, Canadian high commission in New Delhi.

Gupta of Jamboree said though that the Canadian dollar, too, has appreciated in the last five or six years, so the advantage may not be that decisive.

The rupee's slump is forcing students to be more hardnosed about what to study and where, says Paroma Bhatt, who has

got admission to the World Trade Institute in Switzerland for a master's degree in international law and economics.

"Serious students are looking for courses which will give returns on investment. So, people are opting for less costly countries and for sure courses with a better shelf life," she said.

Opinion among officials at banks and other lenders is mixed about whether the rupee's slide will lead to a drop in loans, as students forego plans to study abroad, or a rise in loans, as aspirants go forth regardless.

"If the rupee continues to trade above 52 to a dollar for the next few months, the demand for foreign study loans will start reducing," said a senior official with a Delhi-based public sector bank.

An executive at the country's largest lender **State Bank of India** said loans may rise. "The admission season for foreign universities will start in a few months. Students will start applying for study loans from next month. Only then we will know if there is a dip in demand," he said. "But given the depreciating rupee, students may go in for higher loan amounts."

Prashant Bhonsle, country head, **Credila Financial Services Pvt. Ltd**, a unit of **HDFC Ltd**, said that with the "rupee depreciating, the loan application amounts have seen an increase. If students are getting into the university of their choice, they are going ahead with the enrolment even if their fees are seeing an increase because of the rupee's movement".

On the other hand, students who aren't getting into institutions of their choice may choose to wait for another year, he said.

prashant.n@livemint.com
Asit Ranjan Mishra contributed to this story.

This is the third in a five-part series on living with a weak rupee. Next: The luxury market