

# Newspaper Clips

June 22-23, 2017

June 23

## **Students stressed, IIT-Delhi considers online counselling**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/students-stressed-iit-delhi-considers-online-counselling-suicide-4717794/>

**Two suicide-related incidents this year prompt move. On May 30, PhD scholar Manjula Devak was found hanging in her room. The IIT Director, however, had said cited “personal problems” as the reason. In March, a first year student had allegedly jumped from the hostel building, but survived. Some peers had alleged it was due to academic stress.**

Following A suicide and an attempted suicide on its campus, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi is considering starting free online counselling from the next semester. The institute is in talks with a service provider for the same, officials said, adding that it would be in addition to its existing counselling services. According to officials, suicidal tendencies could be a result of stress due to academic pressure. On May 30, PhD scholar Manjula Devak was found hanging in her room. The IIT Director, however, had said cited “personal problems” as the reason. In March, a first year student had allegedly jumped from the hostel building, but survived. Some peers had alleged it was due to academic stress.

Speaking about the initiative, Associate Dean, Student Welfare Sangeeta Kohli said, “We currently have more than 1,000 students attending counselling sessions and just three counsellors. They sit five days a week from 9.30 am to 5 pm and their schedules are packed. We’re in talks to start online counselling from the next semester. This would help in reaching out to more students, since many don’t come because of the stigma attached with seeking psychological help.” She said the institute had taken inspiration from IIT-Madras — which was the first to start such a service among the IITs — through a tie up with YourDOST, an emotional wellness platform. She said, if finalised, the service would give students the option to chat online with therapists.

Dean, Students Affairs, T R Sreekrishnan said the number of students seeking counselling has been “consistently growing” in the last few years. Kohli said first year students, in particular, found it difficult to handle the academic pressure. “Students work very hard to get into IIT, and then they want to relax. They don’t realise that they need to at least keep some minimum pace (to keep up)... There is so much freedom in the hostels that suddenly they’re not able to handle it,” she said.

“In the first semester, particularly, many of them don’t know how to handle it. Once they don’t perform well, they start feeling the pressure... They try to escape this mental stress because they don’t know how to handle it. Some stop attending classes... The situation gets worse and stress builds up. It becomes a vicious circle,” Kohli added. The Dean also pointed out that “overindulgence” in extra-curricular activities by some students could also cause problems. “There are so many extra-curricular activities... So they start focusing too much on that and start neglecting academics,” he said.

## Delhi's drainage master plan ready to take off

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/delhis-drainage-master-plan-ready-to-take-off/article19131661.ece>



Report highlights need for keeping storm-water drains free of sewage; 40-50 projects aimed at curbing waterlogging to be implemented in next three months

Five years after the Delhi government commissioned it, the new drainage master plan for the Capital will finally be implemented, with the first step towards identifying problem areas.

With pre-monsoon rain hitting the city, the government, its various departments, and the municipal corporations have already faced flak over waterlogging in the past week. As the agencies pass blame, the Irrigation and Flood Control Department is working on long-term solutions to Delhi's monsoon-related urban flooding.

### IIT-D team at work

The drainage master plan, prepared by an Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi team, was submitted to the government in December 2016, four years after the Sheila Dikshit government commissioned it in 2012. The report highlighted the need for the city's storm-water drainage system to remain free of sewage and solid waste. Another recommendation was that the impact of a new drain on the existing network be taken into account.

Recently, the Irrigation and Flood Control Department set up a team of engineers to work with IIT-D in order to come up with specific projects that can be carried out to improve drainage based on recommendations of the master plan, a senior department official said.

### Laying of pipes

Around 40 to 50 projects, which will include changing the slope of a drain to ease flow, laying pipes to convey storm-water from the surface to nearby parks or water bodies, would be identified by the team in the next two to three months, the official said.

While experts welcomed the new master plan, as the previous one was made in 1976, they said the implementation of solutions in the report would be key.

The master plan highlights problems that environmentalists have been pointing out for years— covering up of drains and mixing of sewage and storm-water. Since storm-water drains have not been cleaned or have been commandeered for conveying sewage, they end up flooding when it rains, leading to waterlogging and traffic snarls.

### Need of the hour

“The first step should be to make sure that the storm-water and sewerage networks do not remain connected. If the storm-water network is maintained properly, it will take the water to the river. There won’t be a need to divert the run-off,” said Manoj Misra, an environmentalist and the convenor of the Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan.

### Only 44 drains traced

According to Mr. Misra, only 44 of the 201 drains in the 1976 master plan can now be traced, with the remaining having been covered or illegally converted into sewers.

He added that the city’s natural storm-water drainage system needed to be revived in order to prevent waterlogging during monsoon.

Two teams of four-five police personnel each, Home Guards and Road Safety Officers will remain deployed at these points for twelve hours every day during monsoon. In case of emergency, Station House Officer concerned along with his deputy and at least 10 police personnel will manage traffic at these points.

Patrolling on motorcycles at Kherki Daula toll plaza and on Sohna Road (from Rajiv Chowk to Badshahpur village) to manage traffic

Two additional police personnel deployed at Police Control Room to take calls related to traffic snarls

Four big and two small cranes to be deployed at major intersections to tow away vehicles that break down

### DISTRIBUTION OF STORM-WATER SYSTEMS

Agency	Length of storm-water network (km)
Irrigation and Flood Control	426.55
Public Works Department	2,064.08
South Delhi Municipal Corporation	258.78
North Delhi Municipal Corporation	122.46
East Delhi Municipal Corporation	140.63
New Delhi Municipal Council	335.297
Delhi Development Authority	251.30

DSIIDC	98.12
Delhi Cantonment Board	39.68
National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.	3.11
U. P. Irrigation (Old Agra Canal)	0.311

## SOLUTIONS

No encroachment to be allowed on storm-water drains. The agency in-charge should be held responsible for keeping the drain free of encroachments

No sewage should be allowed to enter storm-water network. Only treated sewage that complies to CPCB norms should be allowed to enter storm-water drains.

No solid waste should be allowed to enter the storm-water drains either in the form of silt from cleaning of roads or dumping of waste into the drains.

Access to covered drains to enable de-silting should be provided. Schedule of de-silting should be made public.

No storm-water should enter the sewer network as it would lead to flooding of roads by sewage.

*Source: Drainage Master Plan for NCT of Delhi, Draft Final Report, prepared by IIT-Delhi*

## **IT-Bombay students boycott classes, stage march against fee hike**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/education/iit-bombay-students-boycott-classes-stage-march-against-fee-hike-4717687/>

**Authorities have hiked fee for new academic session: 300% in hostel rent, 167% in gymkhana fees & 100% in exam, registration and medical fees.**

Students of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, (IIT-B), boycotted classes on Thursday and staged a march in protest against the fee hike, introduced by the institute last month. Around 200 students gathered around 9 am and marched on campus with banners asking the administration to roll back the fee hike.

In May, the IIT-B administration introduced a fee hike for the new academic session, including a 300 per cent hike in hostel rent, 167 per cent hike in gymkhana fees, 100 per cent hike in examination, registration and medical fees, and around 50 per cent increase in other charges. The institute had cited inflation as the reason behind the hike.

The students across all programmes as well as research scholars were, however, upset with the hike that came after a year of the institute doubling its fee.

A signature campaign was launched where 700 students participated. A letter of representation was sent to the administration. However, students claimed the move did not garner any response from the administration.

Hence, on Thursday students marched in protest of the hike and sought audience with the Director and Dean of student affairs to discuss the matter.

Director Devang Khakhar told The Indian Express that the management would consider the students' plea. "We will look into the request sincerely," said Khakhar. However, when asked if the fee would be revised, he said a decision would be taken after consultation with senior administrators.

Soumyo Mukherjee, dean of student affairs, said the hike was justified. "The students have a right to protest. However, they also must understand the institute's situation. The fee has been hiked considering the inflation," Mukherjee said.

## **June 22**

### **CBI books IIT-Goa director for corruption during previous stint**

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/cbi-books-iit-goa-director-for-corruption-during-previous-stint/story-nu5RAj16483ioilBrY4pOJ.html>

**Dr Barada Kanta Mishra, a renowned academician, was booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act for allegedly possessing disproportionate assets to the tune of Rs 1.14 crore.**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) booked the director of the recently established Indian Institute of Technology-Goa on Wednesday for allegedly possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Dr Barada Kanta Mishra has been accused of indulging in graft during his stint as the Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT) director in Bhubaneswar between April 2006 and March 2017. He was booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act for allegedly possessing disproportionate assets to the tune of Rs 1.14 crore.

The renowned academician, known for his extensive studies in the fields of mineral processing and extractive metallurgy, graduated in metallurgical engineering from NIT Rourkela and obtained his PhD and post-doctoral degrees from the University of Utah. He has published over 200 journals, and holds claim over five US patents.

Besides serving as IMMT director between December 2005 and March 2017, Dr Mishra was the chairman of the Recruitment and Assessment Board from May 2015 to May 2016.

In its FIR, the CBI said Dr Mishra's assets – movable and immovable – amounted to Rs 3.39 lakh in 2006. However, by 2016, it had allegedly risen to over Rs 2.19 crore. This was inclusive of his bank savings, properties and car.

The investigation agency further alleged that Dr Mishra had made over Rs 2.39 crore and spent nearly Rs 1.31 crore on "payment of margin amount for purchase of car, advance payment on purchase of flat, house loan repayment, educational expenditure of his children, and kitchen expenses" during this period. It observed that while the institute director's actual savings should have been in the whereabouts of Rs 1 crore, it rose to as much as Rs 2.15 crore – showing a discrepancy of Rs 1.14 crore.

## The reason behind fewer girl students in IITs

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/punjab/the-reason-behind-fewer-girl-students-in-iits/story-jRcVTCaqQoB5vXdzLZzcGL.html>

A lot of girls clear JEE (Advanced) exam but only a handful make it to the IITs. HT explores why



Neha Muthiyan, a third year student of computer science engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, was not surprised when she found out that she was one of the five girls in a batch of 115 students. Right through her JEE preparation days, she had seen the number of girl students around her dwindling.

The poor gender ratio is one of the sad realities of the premier institutes of technology in our country.

In 2016, girls formed only 8% of the total students enrolled in IITs.

It's not that the girls aren't bright enough to get admission. The fact is systematic societal biases deprive them of making it to these top institutes.

A study by the sub-committee of the Joint Admission Board (JAB), the overall advisory body in charge of admission to IITs, found that in 2016, 4,570 girls cleared the JEE (Advanced) but only 848 of them were admitted to an IIT.

### WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

The report said that societal biases are the main reason for poor representation of women in IITs. Most girls don't have access to the kind of facilities that boys of their age have. Coaching plays a significant role in preparation for JEE (Advanced). But most parents are not willing to invest in a girl child's coaching. Because of this, girls are denied a fair playing ground in the entrance exam.

Another problem is that of lack of role models. While most boys would find someone or the other who would have been to an IIT before them, for girl students, it's unlikely that they will have any sisters, aunts, cousins who did B.Tech from an IIT and who they could look up to.

For many girls, there is also a problem of family-imposed restrictions on geographical mobility due to safety concerns. Neha says, "When my relatives realised that by clearing JEE, I will have to stay away from my hometown for four years; they were not supportive of it. Statements like 'Girls shouldn't be sent away from home' or 'Do engineering from your hometown' had become pretty common."

## NUMBERS AT GLANCE

- Enrolment of girls in IITs in 2016: 8%
- Girls joining engineering in India: 3 lakh
- Girls qualifying JEE Advanced: 4,570
- Girls admitted to IITs: 848

### I (I) T's A GIRL'S WORLD TOO!

Why should the low number of girls in IITs concern us? Engineers develop most products and technology for society. Women form almost half of this society that consumes this technology. If there aren't enough women involved in the creation process, it's unlikely that these products can fully serve women. Male engineers may not necessarily understand the needs of women.

### DEBUGGING THE GENDER GAP

The JAB has made 15 recommendations to improve the gender ratio at IITs.

One of the recommendations is to add supernumerary seats or exceeding the usual number in BTech for women in all institutes. This would not reduce the number of male students being admitted, unless the overall performance of male candidates is poor. Also, this won't bring down the academic standards as only those girls who have cleared the JEE (Advanced) will be admitted. The idea is to ensure meritorious girls who clear the entrance exam don't opt out due to societal pressures or unavailability of seats in branches of their choice.

### ENGINEERING A CHANGE

To encourage meritorious girls to enroll in IITs, a special help desk was set up IIT Mandi, to advise girls who qualified the JEE(Advanced) 2017 exam on a range of attractive options in IITs.

IIT Mandi, director Timothy A Gonsalves wrote to each successful candidate, urging her to avail of the unique opportunity to study in an IIT.

### **IIT-Bhagalpur to become functional from August; IIT-Guwahati to mentor**

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/iit-bhagalpur-to-become-functional-from-august-iit-guwahati-to-mentor/story-iBxaVOrmjFdxLOHLijkriO.html>

**The Indian Institute of Information Technology, first in Bihar, will function from its temporary campus on the premises of Bhagalpur College of Engineering with 120 students in the first batch.**

The newly established Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Bhagalpur, 109 kms southeast of Patna, will start functioning from August. It will be inaugurated by Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar and Union human resource development (HRD) minister Prakash Javadekar.

Director of Science and technology department, Bihar, Atul Sinha, said the IIIT, first in the state, would function from its temporary campus on the premises of Bhagalpur College of Engineering (BCE).

The permanent campus would come up in the next two to three years, he said, adding that 50 acres of land on BCE premises had been transferred to the IIIT for the purpose.

The institute would be mentored by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, he said.

Admission for first session would be taken against 120 seats, 60 each in computer science and engineering (CSE) and electronics and communication engineering (ECE), he said. Sinha said the student intake would be subsequently increased to 300. Teaching in more disciplines would also be introduced in the due course, Sinha added.

The central government had borne 50% of the establishment cost while the state government had provided 35%. The remaining 15% had been shared by the industry partner, Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation Limited (Beltron), Sinha added.

The seat details of IIIT had been already made available to the joint seat allocation authority (JoSSA) for selection of candidates, Sinha said, adding that the appointment of faculty for IIIT would be made by the mentor institution.

Officials from the Union HRD ministry and the science and technology department of Bihar government were at Bhagalpur on Tuesday to review the arrangements being made for starting teaching in the institution. The team, led by Rakesh Ranjan, joint secretary in the Union HRD ministry, saw the building from where IIIT would function and also inspected the infrastructure created for the institution.

Pinakeswar Mahanta, head of mechanical engineering department at IIT, Guwahati, has been appointed director of IIIT. He was present during the visit by the officials.

Mahanta later said the IIIT would later introduce courses in some other disciplines, like information technology, robotics and bioinformatics.

The infrastructure at the temporary campus was sufficient to start of teaching at the IIIT, he said, adding that the institution would initially have 10 faculty members, who would be appointed through open advertisement.

BCE principal Nirmal Kumar said the IIIT would function temporarily from the computer science department's building of the college. While male students of the IIIT would be provided accommodation in one of the boy's hostel, the girls would be lodged in the alumni hostel, he added.

### **NPTEL to offer 116 new certification courses**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/nptel-offers-116-new-certification-courses-this-session/articleshow/59235237.cms>

The National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) is soon going to offer 159 courses of which 116 will be the new ones and 43 older ones.

The new courses will be available for its July to November, 2017 session and are open for online enrollment (<https://onlinecourses.nptel.ac.in>)



The seven IITs (Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Madras, Guwahati and Roorkee) along with the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru have initiated the NPTEL in 2003.

NPTEL coordinator at IIT Madras Prof Andrew Thangaraj said, "It is a great opportunity for learners across the country to access the IIT and IISc systems as well as experts from other reputed institutions. This enables learning without boundaries. You learn what you are interested in, and get a certificate confirming your abilities in that area."

All courses are free and will begin from July 24, 2017 or August 21, 2017. The certification examination for courses is optional and comes at a fee of Rs 1000/course examination with examination dates being on September 24/October 22, 2017 (Sundays).