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P-5

# IITs' fee hike call set to boil Raju cauldron!

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NEW DELHI

The new HRD Minister Dr M M Pallam Raju's first task is likely to create some headache for him as the Council of IITs has sought an immediate hike in the annual fee structure. Even as objectivity of recommendations of Anil Kakodkar committee recommendations seeking a massive hike is being weighed upon, the imperative and interim demand of the Directors of all the IITs is likely to create ripples.

Citing financial crunch at IITs, the demand has been to increase the annual fee from existing ₹50,000 to ₹90,000, which is a hike of almost 90 per cent. The matter is listed in the agenda of the meeting of Standing Committee on IITs, HRD Ministry and Council of IITs scheduled on Monday.

"An interim hike has been sought as all the 15 IITs is unable exert the financial pressure. We have been told that industrial training and laboratory programmes are severely hit," said a source at one of the IIT. He confirmed

that the agenda has been circulated to the stakeholders and this issue tops the list.

The agenda, according to sources, also points to vacancies of about 1,600 faculty against the sanctioned strength of 5,149 which also includes prolonged vacancies of Directors in some of the IITs.

Earlier the Anil Kakodkar committee had recommendations for revision of the fee structure massively. The cost factor for an IIT for each students at present stands at around ₹8 lakh against ₹2 lakh paid over the entire duration of the four years engineering degree courses.

The former HRD Minister Kapil Sibal had announced that the implementation of the Kakodkar committee recommendation, which had sought to raise the tuition fee to ₹2 lakh per annum, was "not possible" with interest of all sections of the society kept in mind.

However, later the HRD Ministry in tandem with the Council of IIT had been devising a plan where an engineering graduate would re-pay the increased fee after

getting an employment anywhere. The Finance Ministry's nod is awaited for the past one year on the scheme.

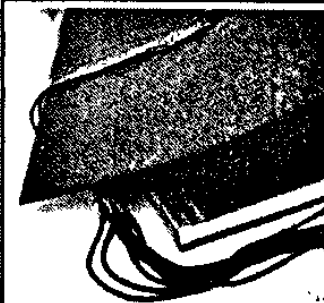
The scheme suggested that students would 'pay back' the amount which is the difference between the fee deposited and what the IIT spends on a student within a certain period of time just like educational loan funding works.

The Ministry had exuded confidence on the viability of the 'pay back' scheme in installments but the matter was put into cold basket as the Ministry got embroiled in a prolonged controversy pertaining to the change of format of Joint Entrance Examination system for IIT as well as other centrally funded technical institutions.

The controversy is likely to persist as minutes after Raju took over as HRD Minister on Wednesday, the IIT Delhi Alumni Association, which has been opposing the IIT-JEE exam under the new format, sought the intervention of new HRD Minister.

"We are looking to your

## PAY BACK TIME?



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help to remedy the situation and to help IIT retain its high standards and augment the same to compete with the best of the world's institutions," the association said in a letter to Raju.

# IIT council may ask to hike UG fee

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

The IIT council, supreme decision making body of the IITs, is expected to take a decision on fee hike at its meeting on November 5 in Mumbai. A standing committee is expected to recommend raising tuition fee of undergraduate programme from ₹50,000 to ₹90,000.

Sources said the proposal for raising the fee by ₹40,000 per annum is expected be taken up by the directors as an "interim measure". They pointed out that a task force is considering the details for implementation of the Kakodkar Committee recommendations which had sought a steep hike of ₹2-2.5 lakh per annum from the existing ₹50,000 last year.

The IIT council had given

in principle approval to the recommendation to be implemented from 2013, with the then HRD minister stating that the extra burden will be "paid back" by students once they are employed. The four-fold increase in tuition fee was made in an effort to help IITs attain financial independence.

The meet is also expected to take up the issue of periodic peer review of IITs as per the recommendation of the Kakodkar Committee. The committee had said the government should, through the IIT Council, exercise its prerogative over the IITs by invoking the power of visitor every five years to review its achievements and governance. This will ensure transparency and accountability to the government and the public.

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**P-4**

# **IIT fee hike on the cards at UG level**

**STUDENTS** hoping to enter the prestigious IITs may be in for a shock with the IIT council planning to hike tuition fee of undergraduate programme from `50,000 to ₹90,000 a year when it meets in Mumbai on Monday. The proposal to increase the fee to ₹90,000 per annum will be taken up by the council as an interim measure even as an empowered task force considers the details for implementation of the Kakodkar committee, which had suggested a four-fold increase in tuition fee to help the institutes attain financial independence. *Mail Today/New Delhi*

# अगले वर्ष महंगी हो सकती है आईआईटी में पढ़ाई

नई दिल्ली | हिन्दुस्तान टीम

अगले साल से आईआईटी की सालाना ट्यूशन फीस दोगुनी या उससे भी ज्यादा हो सकती है। आईआईटी काउंसिल की स्थायी समिति मुंबई में इस मसले पर 5 नवंबर को बैठक करेगी। यहां समिति के अंतिम निर्णय के बाद ही ट्यूशन फीस वृद्धि की असली तस्वीर सामने आएगी।

सूत्रों की मानें तो फीस वृद्धि का प्रस्ताव 50 से 90 हजार रुपये के बीच है। अगर यह वृद्धि लागू हो गई, तो अगले साल से दाखिला लेने वाले छात्रों को चार

समिति की रिपोर्ट बड़ी वजह

वर्ष 2011 में पूर्व केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल के निर्देश पर काकोदकर समिति बनाई गई थी। इस समिति ने अपनी सिफारिश में आईआईटी की फीस में सालाना दो से ढाई लाख रुपये बढ़ाने की बात कही थी।

वर्षीय बीटेक या बीई डिग्री हासिल करने के लिए करीब चार लाख (50 हजार रुपये सालाना बढ़ने पर) ट्यूशन फीस चुकानी होगी। जबकि अभी तक इस डिग्री के लिए यह खर्च दो लाख रुपये था।

## आईआईटी की फीस हो सकती है दोगुनी

नई दिल्ली: आईआईटी में अंडर ग्रेजुएट कोर्स करने वाले छात्रों को आगामी सत्र से लगभग दोगुनी ट्यूशन फीस चुकानी पड़ सकती है। 5 नवंबर को मुंबई में होने जा रही बैठक में आईआईटी काउंसिल की स्थायी समिति अंडर ग्रेजुएट कोर्स के लिए ट्यूशन फीस 50 हजार रुपये से बढ़ाकर 90 हजार रुपये करने की सिफारिश कर सकती है। यह समिति अभी काकोदकर कमेटी की रिपोर्ट लागू करने को लेकर विचार कर रही है। काकोदकर कमेटी ने सिफारिशों में कहा था कि ट्यूशन फीस को 50 हजार रुपये सालाना से बढ़ाकर दो से ढाई लाख रुपये किया जाना चाहिए। सिफारिशों पर विचार चल रहा है। ऐसे में आईआईटी के निदेशक फीस में 40 हजार रुपये की बढ़ोतरी पर मुहर लगा सकते हैं। एजेंसी

# IIT-K alumnus creates flying 'rescue' robot

**Vanita Srivastava**

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**NEW DELHI:** An Indian scientist in Cornell University and his team have designed and developed a flying robot—a foot-long helicopter—with a tremendous potential to carry out search-and-rescue operations in natural calamities like Hurricane Sandy.

“In natural disasters, one of the greatest challenges is to search for people who are lost or injured. Because of lack of personnel and wide-

spread damage like the recent Hurricane Sandy, we need better methods to find and rescue people who are affected. Ground robots cannot navigate the terrain in such conditions,” Dr Ashutosh Saxena, professor in computer science department of Cornell University told HT over phone.

Currently the challenge is that aerial robots cannot fly in obstacle-rich environments, and they crash, he said. “This is because humans cannot react fast enough to save it from



■ **A prototype of the robot**

crashing into a tree, or obstacles in a building. We wanted to develop learning algorithms that could enable a robot to avoid obstacles in such conditions.” In a series of projects,

we have designed autonomous aerial robots both for indoor and outdoor environments that can navigate without crashing into obstacles, Dr Saxena, who is an alumnus of IIT Kanpur said.

“Our computer programme can work with any big or small aerial vehicle as long as it has a camera and a small computer (or micro-processor) on it. In this particular case, we are working with a aerial vehicle that has four small propellers.”

# Foreign diplomats can now study in India

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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**NEW DELHI:** Foreign diplomats can finally study while posted in India, with the UPA government relaxing rules that till now effectively barred them from pursuing any academic programme at the country's universities.

The move comes after several foreign missions petitioned the Centre against the old regulation, at a time when understanding emerging economies like India and China is a key part of foreign relations for most

countries around the world.

"We realised that not only was the regulation outdated, but that it was counterproductive to our aims of getting the world to understand us better," a senior government official told Hindustan Times.

India is host to 365 foreign and international offices and missions where officials hold diplomatic visas.

These include 145 foreign embassies, 29 international multilateral organizations and 191 consulates and trade and industry offices for different countries.

## A DIPLOMAT NEEDS TO APPLY TO THE MEA THAT WILL VET APPLICATION BEFORE GIVING ITS PERMISSION TO STUDY

As India's global economic clout has increased over the past decade, the demand from foreign diplomats for an opportunity to pursue academic courses and even research while they are posted here has risen significantly, veterans at the University

Grants Commission said.

But in a February 2009 decision, the government decided not to allow them to pursue regular academic courses at Indian universities unless they took up student visas instead of the diplomatic visas they need to work at their missions.

"In effect, we were told that we couldn't study while we were posted here," said a European diplomat who wrote to the ministry of external affairs (MEA) on the regulation.

The government's logic was based on security concerns and

worries about possible consequences of the vast differences in rights enjoyed by foreign students and foreign diplomats — who enjoy diplomatic immunity that protects them from several domestic laws.

Under the new decision — which has been communicated to all universities by the UGC — foreign diplomats can study on diplomatic visas.

But they will need to apply to the MEA, which will vet each application and decide whether to allow the diplomat to study at an Indian university.

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# India's best minds gear up for final cut

TIMESNEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The contest has been keen, the challenges tough. And the final cut of the top 20 young minds, mined from across the country, will be made in the last round being held in Delhi over November 2 and 3.

To recap, Times Scholars' is an initiative by The Times of India to recognize and reward the brightest young people studying in Class XII. Powered by the belief that with proper guidance and mentoring, these students will be the drivers of change and development of the nation, and the world, 'Times Scholars' was launched and students of Class XII invited from all over the country to apply online for the programme.

Twenty students will be chosen for a scholarship of Rs 5 lakh each that will be paid in annual instalments through their graduation period. Three rounds of the merit-based contest for the scholarship

have been held so far and 105 students have made it to the final round — a selection from over 45,000 applications at the first stage.

These 105 come from 32 cities, from Aurangabad and Patna, Tiruchirapalli and Vadodara, from Amritsar and Dharwad. A large number of students belong to Delhi, followed by Bangalore, Chennai, Bhubaneswar.

Responsible for the selection of the twenty winners will be a panel of judges including eminent educationists, careers counsellors and education officials. "It is a great initiative on the part of the Times of India and I believe it will motivate and inspire students to do well. Hopefully there will be more such initiatives," says P C Jain, principal, Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University, a member of the panel of judges on November

3. The others are Meera Ramachandran, principal, Gargi College, Vinit Joshi, chairman, CBSE, Perveen Malhotra, career counsellor, and Anand Kumar, founder, Super 30. "There is no dearth of talent in this country. We can get really good results if we try even a little and those talents should be nurtured. I respect this kind of effort. It's good work being done," says Kumar who started a unique coaching class meant exclusively for the very poor, but bright, students. He coaches 30 students every year — all of them extremely poor — for the IIT entrance exam. His success rate has been stupendously high.

The panel for November 2 includes career counsellor Usha Albuquerque, Shobhit Mahajan of the department of Physics & Astrophysics, DU, Neeraj Sharma, head (academics) at NIIT, Venkatesh Malur, education officer, Unicef, Gur-

preet Tuteja, deputy dean, students' welfare, DU, and Pradeep Narayan, MD, Admissionz Campus.

The panel will also include education officers facilitating admissions overseas — Renuka Raja Rao, country co-ordinator, Education USA Advising Services of the USEFI, and Hazel Siromoni, managing director, Maple Bear. Principals and former principals — Sunita Tanwar, principal, DPS Dwarka, Veena Bhasin, former principal, Vishwa Bharati Public School (Noida), Vijay Pokhriyal, former vice-principal, GD Goenka World School — as well as teachers, Vandana Tandon and Jamila Khan, will be a part of the panel.

The Times Scholars initiative thoroughly tested academic strength, mental stamina and fortitude. The final stage has 105 gems of young people with infinite potential who will surely go on to make the nation proud.

