Deccan Herald ND
20/10/2015   P-06

Second suicide in IIT-Madras

CHENNAI, DHNS: In the second case of its kind at the IIT-Madras in as many months, a final-year student was found hanging in his hostel room on Monday.

Rahul Prasad from Kollam district in Kerala was found hanging in his hostel room by his fellow students at the B Tech Electronic Engineering course, a police source at the headquarters said.

Though no suicide note was found in his room, the police are working to ascertain the cause of his suicide with cooperation from the IIT authorities.

The police said Prasad spoke to some of his classmates on Sunday night, hours before he ended his life.

Last month, Narendra Kumar, a 23-year-old student from Kadapa in Andhra Pradesh, was found hanging in his hostel room on a bed sheet tied to the ceiling fan. Kumar was frustrated over his failure to clear GATE exams.

Hindustan Times ND 20/10/2015   P-03

Govt looking for IIT, IIM grads

CHANGE IN GUARD Wants young people with fresh ideas to be part of its creative team

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NEW DELHI: In a bid to generate new ideas to develop the city and change its landscape, the Delhi government is scouting for fresh graduates — preferably from IIT, IIM and other prestigious institutes — to be part of its creative team.

An official said the government wanted to move away from the routine way of implementing any infrastructure projects and look for innovative ideas. Salaries will range from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh.

"The Delhi government proposes to conceive, plan and execute several important projects in a time-bound manner in the next 2-3 years. The projects could be related to schools, hospitals, housing, smart city, elevated roads, redesigning roads or streetscaping. We believe young professionals can implement the same project in a different manner. We want them to join the government on contract," said an official.

The public works department (PWD) has been appointed as nodal agency to employ these graduates. "Any new project requires elaborate process of brainstorming and planning — not only for design and innovative structural concepts but also for finding new and alternative methods of financing and executing them in minimum cost and time. We require young professionals who always thought that a certain way of doing things was always possible but was never implemented in the government. They can approach the PWD now," the official added.

The government had recently decided to adopt the Swiss challenge method of procurement where anyone can give a proposal that could be given priority. The Delhi cabinet approved the plan and ideas related to transport, housing, communication, redevelopment, roads, water, security, tourism and environment would be invited from individuals or companies.

Before that, the PWD had announced a ₹2.5-lakh reward for any individual or company who prepared a perfect design for a skywalk at ITO. As the metro and railway line are not at the same height and there three crossings within 1 km, the PWD wanted to have a long skywalk to connect offices and the metro stations.

The government has also decided to redesign over 50km roads across the capital in order to make them friendly for pedestrians and physically-challenged people as well to promote public transport. To begin with, the government has chosen 10 arterial roads as a pilot project.

UGC to do away with non-NET fellowship, students to protest

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NEW DELHI: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to do away with the non-National Eligibility Test (NET) fellowship, which is provided to students undertaking research in central universities across India.

The scheme is in place for providing financial assistance to students undertaking MPhil and PhD — they are provided ₹5,000 and ₹8,000 per month respectively. PhD students get assistance for four years and MPhil students for 18 months. They also get a contingency amount per year to help them carry out their research.

The fellowship will not be available to students enrolling from the new academic year, officials said.

Confirming the move, UGC chairman Ved Prakash said a decision was taken in the last meeting of the commission.

"We were getting a lot of complaints about the fellowship, so we have decided to do away with it. However, NET fellowship will be in place, so anyone who clears the test will get financial assistance," he said.

The issue of discontinuing Non-Net fellowship was discussed in the

> **Many students from humble backgrounds have been getting this financial assistance. It is sheer discrimination if the UGC has decided to do away with the fellowship. We will protest against this decision.**
>
> Ravi Ranjan Choudhary,
> President of ABVP JNU

last meeting of the commission.

"Considered and resolved to discontinue the scheme. However, the students who are already getting non-NET fellowship will continue to do so as per the existing guidelines," state the minutes of the commission's last meeting, held on October 7.

Officials said each department of the university has a certain ceiling on the number of students who can be provided fellowship, funds for which are provided by UGC that falls under the HRD ministry. However, no data is readily available on the number of students. Students are required to apply to the university to avail the benefits.

Facebook's Zukerberg likely to push Free Basics on India visit

http://www.domain-b.com/companies/companies_f/facebook/20151019_mark_zukerberg.html

Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg is planning his second visit to India on 28 October, exactly one month after he met Prime Minister, Zuckerberg announced on his Facebook page on Friday.

In the post, Zuckerberg said he would be hosting a townhall Q&A at the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi, answering queries from across Facebook and also from a live audience at IIT-Delhi.

Earlier Zuckerberg had said that India is personally very relevant to the history of Facebook. He had shared his memory about Apple founder Steve Jobs, one of his mentors, persuading him to visit India. As a result, Zuckerberg travelled in the country for nearly a month, and realised how much better the world could be if every human had a better ability to connect.

This is something on the top of his mind over the last decade as he and his team built Facebook.

One of the main topics that came up during Modi's visit was universal internet access. Zuckerberg, who advocates universal internet access as a fundamental human right, had also appealed to the Indian Prime Minister by articulating support for the 'Digital India' campaign before Modi's visit.

India is apparently the predominant focus for Facebook's Free Basics initiative. Earlier recognized as Internet.org, it's an open platform across 19 developing countries by Facebook **(See: Facebook rebrands Internet.org to 'Free Basics', expands Indian operations)**.

The initiative attempts convenient access of selected apps as well as app-based services to common people at no charge.

Facebook had partnered with Reliance Communications to give free access to around 30 websites. However, the selective angle of Internet.org came in for criticism from several quarters **(See: WWW founder slams Facebook's 'Free Basics' move)**.

India is a strategic market for Facebook, with over 130 million users. India also makes up the largest app developer community for Facebook outside of the United States

- See more at: http://www.domain-b.com/companies/companies_f/facebook/20151019_mark_zukerberg.html#sthash.naD9NmJh.dpuf