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**Amar Ujala ND 24/10/2015 P-08**

## आईआईटी का दीक्षांत समारोह 31 को

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। आईआईटी शनिवार (31 अक्टूबर) को अपना 46वां दीक्षांत समारोह आयोजित करने जा रहा है। इस समारोह में देश के भावी इंजीनियरों को डिग्री प्रदान की जाएगी। समारोह की खास बात यह है कि आईआईटी के ही एक एल्युमिनी छात्रों को डिग्री प्रदान करेंगे। रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया के गवर्नर डॉ रघुराम. जी. राजन आईआईटी दिल्ली के एल्युमिनी है। वह मुख्य अतिथि होंगे। समारोह में एप्लाइड मेकेनिक, बायो टेक्नोलॉजी इंजीनियरिंग, बायो टेक्नोलॉजी केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग, केमिस्ट्री, सिविल इंजीनियरिंग, एमबीए, भौतिकी, एटमोसफेरिक साइंस, एप्लॉयड रिसर्च, इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग समेत इंजीनियरिंग की अन्य शाखाओं में डिग्री मिलेगी। दो चरणों में होने वाले इस दीक्षांत समारोह के पहले चरण में मुख्य अतिथि छात्रों को दीक्षांत भाषण देंगे और पीएचडी छात्रों को डिग्री दी जाएगी। दूसरे चरण में यूजी व पीजी स्तर की डिग्री प्रदान की जाएगी।

## IISc has made available over 110 technologies exclusively for MSMEs

<http://www.knnindia.co.in/msmes/iisc-has-made-available-over-110-technologies-exclusively-for-msmes/34-11976.go>

**Bengaluru, Oct 23 (KNN)** Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (IISc) has identified more than 110 technologies and made them available exclusively to micro, small and medium enterprises.

The institution is also in the process of identifying about 35 import substitute products and their technologies for MSMEs, according to the MSME Ministry's social media site.

So far, 100 design projects and 22 student projects have been approved, it said.

Under the Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP), the Ministry has set up a Design Clinic at IISc. The Design Clinic is a Centre of Excellence, and a joint initiative of the Ministry of MSME and IISc.

Technological Development projects start culminating out of similar MoU signed with CSIR.

Design Clinic is a tested strategic model of design intervention, where a solution to an existing design problem is diagnosed and remedial steps suggested by a multi-disciplinary team of design experts. In this scheme, the value additions to an idea or a concept are imparted through interaction at a lesser cost to a specific industry/sector. It applies to a sector that requires intervention, like manufacturing etc, as the existing conventional models of design consultancy and training are not viable. These models bring design exposure to the door-step of industry clusters for design improvement, evaluation, analysis and adopting even long-term consultancy/design related intervention.

The main objective of the Design Clinic is to bring the MSME sector and design expertise into a common platform, to provide expert advice and solutions on real time design problems, resulting in continuous improvement and value addition for existing products. It also aims at value added cost effective solutions. These Design Clinics in clusters of the country are to usher in a continuous competitive advantage to the MSMEs.

The broad activities planned under the scheme include creation of Design Clinics Centre along with four regional centres for intervention on the design needs of the MSME Sector. Further these centres will have linkages with engineering, management, design institutes of the country.

# What has gone wrong with IIT-Madras?

IIT-Madras [has lost two students](#) in the past month. Yet, a disturbing silence prevails on campus.

<http://www.thehindu.com/webexclusives/what-has-gone-wrong-with-iitmadrass/article7797219.ece>

I don't intend to investigate the particular reasons that led these students to take such an extreme step. At this moment, investigating their relationship status or academic records are not relevant, but merely superficial to find a reason to close the case. In the past five years, at least five students I know have chosen to end their lives (we do not know how many failed in their attempts). What has gone wrong in an institution that claims to provide professional counselling services as well as peer-to-peer counselling services, where the Guidance and Counselling Unit (GCU) was renamed 'Mitr'(friend)?

IIT-Madras, probably like other IIT campuses in the country, is a highly competitive one. One of the terms we familiarise ourselves with in our sophomore year is "RG". RG is a short form for relative grading, and in IIT-M parlance, it refers to anyone who tries to hinder another person from studying so that he gets a better grade. One's victory only depends on the bad performance of another. Such an academic training only alienates one classmate from another, each living in their own cocoons. The ones who clear the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) and enter the much-coveted IITs are the ones who started their JEE coaching as young adolescents. Who worries about the intensive coaching and pressure young minds go through when the result is a degree from the most prestigious institute in the country? Thanks to reservation, IIT Madras now has student representation from backward castes. But, the academic structure in the campus is not revised to suit the needs of everyone equally. The 'privilege' acquired through reservation ends with admission; the students are forced to compete in an environment where their worth is measured only by their academic achievements, often subjecting themselves to insults for not performing well. The class/caste backgrounds and its influence on the performance of students are never a serious concern when it comes to academic evaluation. In a way, the entire academic system on campus is exclusive to the set of students hailing from upper caste-upper class backgrounds, who had access to top-notch schooling, good coaching and excellence in English language.

Nevertheless, the hyper-competitive atmosphere in the campus affects everyone in different ways.

It comes as a shock to the ones outside this campus, but inside the campus it is a widely accepted fact that a majority of students are depressed. But, how many of us avail the services provided by the campus? In the latest news report by *The Indian Express*, the Director has refuted allegations on inefficiencies of Mitr, even after these many suicides on campus. Mitr is a centrally-funded organisation to prevent student suicides. One of the main allegations by the student community against Mitr is the highly moralistic attitude of its coordinators who often spy on students to know if they smoke, drink or are in a relationship. The aura of suspicion around Mitr is also because of the cemented belief that the things shared with Mitr will be held against the students, because the heads of the organisation are professors. Many ask, "if I'm depressed because of this particular professor, and the professor in Mitr is his friend, how can I talk to him about this?" Mitr claims to have provided its student counsellors with professional training on counselling, but we often hear complaints that the student counsellors fail to keep in confidence the things shared with them by students who availed of their services. The administration has also started paying these student coordinators for their service. However, if these services fail to earn the trust of student community, shouldn't there be a change in thinking about the way in which Mitr functions? I am not talking about taking away counselling, but an urgent re-visioning is required to help students in need.

One of the stringent rules in IIT Madras is of maintaining 100 per cent attendance with an exemption of 15 per cent for medical reasons. Most of the professors are not strict about enforcing it, but if a student goes below the minimum required, he/she is dependent on the professor's mercy. Additionally, if a student gets two or more "W" grades (a grade allotted for not maintaining 85 per cent attendance), he/she will be expelled from hostel.

For the creators of this rule, what diseases did you have in mind when you decided that it will be cured within this 15 per cent you offer? In my own personal experience, after a grievous illness, when I had about 84-85 per cent attendance, my professor advised me, “If it’s a disease like Jaundice, you can go beyond 85. But this...” The poor quality of mess food (which is again compulsory, leaves students with no option but to avail mess food and nothing else) often result in students ending up in hospital due to diarrhoea, or they suffer from weight loss, fever, and low immunity, because they skip meals. The insensitivity of professors towards students is manifested when they trivialise the issues students face or attribute a bad performance in class to laziness. By throwing out the students from hostel for lack of attendance, the administration hopes the students will be corrected under parental care (Yes, they do expect parents to come over and stay with students outside campus). For many students who are sent here, burdened with the hopes of getting placed in a high paying company, bursting their parents’ hopes is unthinkable. Their dissatisfaction with themselves, amplified by such an apathetic situation, cannot be cured unless a serious rethinking happens.

In 2014, there was a discussion on mental health organised by an institute body called the Colloquium. Until the last minute, organisers were unsure if the debate would happen because the higher authorities did not want Colloquium to discuss an issue that is “clearly under the purview of Mitr”. One question was about the sexual frustration that students of age group 18-25 go through while on campus. The psychiatrist present said students do approach him on the said issue. Even though some IIT-M men’s hostels are open to women (only for academic purposes and not for “undesirable, anti-social, anti-national activities”), sex is a taboo on campus. Several times, entry to hostels has been kept under restriction citing that the authorities are answerable to parents. Relationships are seen as unhealthy and an obstruction to academic performance. Hushed moral policing in the campus is active, manifested through different ways by different people.

After the latest suicide on campus, close friends of the victim were interrogated by the police in the absence of anyone from the institution. The very next day, classes happened as usual and IIT-M worked as if nothing had gone wrong. An acknowledgment of the death came two days later. How long should we go along with this apathetic attitude? There needs to be a radical change in how this premier institution views students and their issues. This can be done only by letting go of moral prejudices and reaching out to students in a way that it will be reciprocated. Only a radical rethinking of the existing structure can prevent the campus from more unfortunate incidents.

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## ADDING TECH STRENGTH

# IITs Emerge as High Interest Area for Banks

As focus on tech rises, industry looks to hire heavily from top engg colleges

**Anumeha Chaturvedi & Sreeradha D Basu**

**New Delhi Mumbai:** Banks are looking to hire heavily from India's top engineering schools as the industry becomes increasingly focused on technology, competing with long-established campus recruiters and startups that are all the rage.

A spurt in digital banking and rising mobile transactions have led banks to bolster staff strength because tech is no longer a matter of keeping the backbone up and running — it's part

of core operations. Citi-bank, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank all plan to hire in unprecedented numbers at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and other schools. The numbers may go up by up to 50% for some banks this year.

Citi plans to hire at least 275 graduates mainly through engineering campuses, up from 214 last year. Bunty Bohra, CEO of Goldman Sachs Services India, said one in four campus hires is joining Goldman Sachs' growing tech team in Bengaluru.

ICICI Bank made its debut at IITs in Delhi, Bombay and Madras as well as Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) in Pilani for the class of 2015.

**'Salary on Par with IIM Recruits' >>> 5**

## Banking on Tech



**Spurt in digital banking and rising mobile transactions push banks to ramp up tech strength**

**Citi, ICICI, HDFC Bank** step up tech hiring through campuses

**ICICI made its debut** at IITs' class of 2015. Has bigger plans this year

**One in four campus hires** at Goldman Sachs is joining tech team in Bengaluru

**Citi plans to hire at least 275 grads,** mostly from engg campuses

**Campus hiring will go up by 30% this year** at HDFC Bank, which also visits IITs

**Hiring by banks has risen fourfold** at IIT-Madras in past four years

**IIT-Bombay, where 15% of undergrads join banking companies,** is expecting greater participation this year

## PSU Banks told to Pull up Socks

**Bank chiefs were in** for a shock when they met junior FM Jayant

Sinha this week. Sinha was not interested in their woes, he only wanted to know how they planned to take on competition, reports **Sangita Mehta. >>> 5**

**'Salary on Par with IIM Recruits' >>> 5**

# Salary on Par with IIM Recruits: Srirang

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A top recruiter at India's premier business schools, ICICI plans to tap more IITs. The country's largest private sector lender is looking to generate business worth ₹80,000 crore through mobile banking this year. The industry is moving away from commodity banking to customised services, said TK Srirang, head of human resources at ICICI Bank, which is investing heavily in digital technology.

"While we have core skills sets of banking and sales, going forward a lot of our services will be delivered through smart devices," he said. "Data analytics is gaining focus too and our ability to mine customer-centric information will be of key strategic advantage."

The 214 graduates that Citi hired in the year ended March were mostly from engineering campuses under its Citi Analyst programme, up from 143 in FY14.

The role of technology in banking is changing, said Vikram Subrahmanyam, head of operations and technology, Citi South Asia. Technology specialists, once seen as delivering a support function, are now a part of teams working on products and services.

"There is a larger involvement of tech teams in business solutions from an early stage. Some of the tech operations may be outsourced, but banks are looking at building greater expertise in the domain and are reaching out to engineering schools to hire directly," Subrahmanyam said. "Technology lifecycles are shorten-

ing and the way we can use information and the speed at which we can react and offer solutions to customers is critical. India is not seen as a cost arbitrage play alone anymore. Operations and technology are key to delivery transformation in banks," he said.

ICICI will pay its top engineering hires on par with recruits from the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

"We're hiring at the same salary levels as the IIM graduates so that they can build key leadership skills while working with us instead of pursuing an MBA programme," Srirang said. "Going ahead, these graduates could build their careers in any of the banking fields."

Hiring of freshers with technical specialisations has gone up 30% this year at HDFC Bank. In addition to core IT needs, the bank is seeking expertise in digital, payments, market risk, risk analytics and credit risk fields. "This year the bank will increase its intake of candidates from engineering institutes. The hiring will be across various roles in IT and business technology functions," said a spokesperson.

"We built an innovation team in the bank a few quarters ago to scan new solutions and developments in emerging technologies," said Nitin Chugh, head of digital banking at HDFC Bank. "The team is expected to identify potential problems and opportunities and run solutions or projects, and create capacity for experimentation."

New-age banking products that require data analytics and more real-time cus-

FILE PHOTO



tomised solutions have led to a fourfold increase in hiring of tech graduates from IIT-Madras in the last four years, said V Babu, professor, department of mechanical engineering, and advisor, training and placement at the institute.

IIT-Bombay said that typically 15% of their undergraduate batch and 10% of the combined undergraduate and post graduate batch joins banking companies. They typically register toward end November; indications are that hiring will be significantly higher.

While Axis Bank, Credit Suisse, ICICI Bank and ICICI Lombard recruited from IIT-Madras last year, Deutsche Bank has given seven pre-placement offers to institute students this year. Barclays has also expressed interest in hiring.

Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Deutsche Bank, HSBC, Credit Suisse, Citi, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, JP Morgan, Bank of America and ANZ Bank visited IIT-Bombay last year. The banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) industry made a total of 106 offers. Almost all

the companies have confirmed participation this year as well. The typical profiles for which banks are hiring include analyst, investment banking analyst, risk analyst, modelling analyst, IT analyst and manager.

"The rapid ongoing digitisation of financial services sector in India is one of the main reasons of financial firms coming to IIT-Bombay," said Rahul Katyal, placement manager, IIT-Bombay. "Engineering graduates have good numerical and problem solving skills and, moreover, information technology serves as a backbone for smoother functioning of the constantly evolving new systems."

Even the newer IITs have witnessed an interest from banks. Bank of America hired four students from IIT-Hyderabad's class of 2015 for technology graduate trainee roles. B Venkatesham, faculty-in-charge for the training and placement cell at IIT Hyderabad, said tech graduates can contribute to evolving banking businesses in the areas of digitisation, remote access and security.

Banks will also have to compete with the likes of Paytm, which has approval to set up a payments bank. Paytm will hire 300-350 recruits from campuses this year and a substantial number of them will be for the payments banking business.

"Last year, we had taken around 150 engineers from top IITs and NITs (National Institutes of Technology)," said Amit Sinha, vice-president, business and people, at Paytm. "We will reach out to more campuses this year."



## NON-NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY TEST FELLOWSHIP DISCONTINUED

# 'Occupy UGC' movement intensifies after crackdown

ARANYA SHANKAR

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE STUDENTS' protest against the University Grants Commission's (UGC's) decision to discontinue the non-National Eligibility Test (NET) Fellowship for research scholars escalated Friday, with police and paramilitary personnel cracking down on "Occupy UGC" movement.

A group of protesters was picked up early morning by ITBP and CRPF personnel from the UGC office premises and detained, while another group faced lathicharge at ITO later.

A delegation of students met UGC officials in the evening, but were not satisfied with the response. The protesters decided to organise an indefinite gherao of the UGC office from Monday.

The UGC, meanwhile, decided to refer its decision to scrap the fellowship to an expert committee after the HRD ministry stepped in. According to ministry sources, the UGC justified scrapping of the fellowship on the grounds that there was little transparency and accountability in this scholarship programme.

The protesters have been asking for not just the reinstatement of the fellowship of Rs 5,000 and 8,000 per month, respectively for MPhil and PhD students, but also its increase.

"Last year, the UGC disbursed Rs 99.16 crore under the non-



Protesters block the road at ITO on Friday. Prem Nath Pandey

NET fellowship. This is a huge amount and it was spent without any transparency. On one hand, we expect students to qualify NET to get fellowship and on the other we have students who don't need to take any test to get financial aid. The UGC felt this amounted to double standards and decided to discontinue the non-NET fellowship," said a ministry source.

Nearly 100 students from various universities led by the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) had camped on the UGC office premises since Wednesday. The protesters dug in their heels following the crackdown.

The protesters said they were

"forcibly picked up" at about 6 am, put in buses and taken to Bhalswa Dairy police station, nearly 20 km away.

"We had just about lied down and gone to sleep at about 4.30 am when there was a sudden crackdown on us. We didn't even know where we were being taken till we reached. Why did they have to take us 20 km away to the outskirts?" said AISA national president Sucheta De.

The protesters said Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) activists who had kept away from the protest showed up at about 12.45 am and stayed put outside the UGC office. They were not touched by

the paramilitary or police forces, the protesters alleged.

As news spread about protesters being detained, other students, primarily from JNU, decided to "reoccupy UGC" and staged a protest outside the premises and brought down barricades.

"We could not be part of their protest because they are blaming the Centre for the problem, whereas we believe Congressmen are behind it. To protest this, we laid down on roads and pelted stones," said ABVP state secretary Saket Bahuguna.

Minutes into the protest by JNUSU at ITO, the lathicharge started. "There was absolutely no provocation from students. Several students were severely injured, but the police did not stop. We then decided to block roads at the ITO crossing, following which the UGC decided to meet a delegation of students," said Pratim Ghosal of DSF.

De said, "After two hours of violence, the police put forth a condition before our fellow protesters, telling them to disperse if they wanted us (picked up from UGC office) to be released. They were forced to agree."

SFI state secretary Sunand said, "We have called for an all-India 'Black Day' on Monday."

A senior police official who did not want to be named said the students' allegations of police brutality were not true.



# HRD ministry relents, may review decision on non-NET fellowship

**RETHINK** Protesting students detained outside UGC headquarters

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Facing criticism, the University Grants Commission (UGC) is considering a possible review of the non-National Eligibility Test (NET) scheme, which will allow students to continue getting financial help, but with greater focus on merit and equity. According to sources, the human resource development (HRD) ministry had sought a clarification from the UGC over the issue.

"The UGC has recommended setting up an expert panel to study the non-NET fellowship scheme in detail and suggest ways to improve it. The way forward is to focus on merit and strengthen the already existing NET/JRF scheme or create another method of all India examination for non-net qualified candidates so that equity is maintained while availing this fellowship," said a UGC note.

The commission also felt that the scheme, if revived, can be expanded to cover state universities too. "A committee of experts was recommended to be constituted for the same," the note said.

The commission on October 7 took a decision to discontinue the non-NET fellowship, which was first reported by HT.

However, it had said that students who are already getting the non-NET fellowship will continue to do so. A number of students have been protesting outside the UGC headquarters over its decision.

"The scheme was limited to



Students protest outside the UGC headquarters at Deen Dayal Upadhaya Marg on Friday.

RAJ K RAJ/ HT PHOTO

only central universities with potential for excellence and as such was discriminatory as students of other universities were not entitled to avail the same. Continuing the scheme would have meant huge financial implications for the UGC. The expenditure in 2014-15 was to the tune of ₹99.16 crore," said a senior official.

The NET fellowship is provided to students undertaking research in central universities across the country. Students undertaking MPhil and PhD are provided ₹5,000 and ₹,8000 per month, respectively.

PhD students get financial assistance for four years and MPhil students for 18 months. Apart from this, they get a contingency amount per year too to help them carry out their research.

Earlier, hundreds of students

protested against the move to scrap non-NET fellowship outside the UGC office. Police detained scores of them after they tried to enter the premises.

The students leading the 'Occupy UGC' are had been camping outside the UGC office since Wednesday. They said they were lathi-charged and about 100 of them detained when they tried to go inside to meet the officials. Protestors claimed police did not allow them to use toilets.

"When we tried to go inside, police prevented us. When we protested, we were lathi-charged, leading to injuries to a few of the students. The students had to be rushed to hospital," said Sucheta De, one of the protesters.

A senior police official said that around 100 protesters were detained and taken to Bhalswa dairy police station in north-west Delhi.