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IITs At Opposing Ends Over Fee Hike Plan

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New Delhi: India's top IITs are divided on the issue of a rise in fees being considered by a council set up by the HRD ministry to tide over paucity of funds, especially at a time when at least one new institute is being added every year.

While some Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) say that an increase in fees makes sense, as long as it is done moderately and on a regular basis, others totally dismiss the suggestion saying that the whole idea of IITs encouraging higher education to all sections of the society will be lost.

The last fee revision for undergraduate courses at the IITs took place in early 2013. "It's time we look at another round of hike," said a director of a top IIT. In 2013, the fee was raised to ₹90,000 from ₹50,000.

At present, a little less than half the undergraduate students pay the entire fee as the rest of the UG students are either on scholarship or are exempted from paying full fee as they belong to the reserved category, pointed out some IIT professors.

"Only 25% of the total students at any of the IITs (including UG and PG students) are paying their full fee. Most of them are on scholarships or are exempted from paying full fee," said SK Jain, director, IIT Gandhinagar, adding that any extent of fee hike will not impact the income of the institutes much. "One can always explore other ways of generating revenues like enrolling foreign students who would be charged a higher fee," he explained.

"The annual budget of the top five IITs together is way less than the Tsinghua University in China," said a faculty of the oldest IIT in the country. Apart from maintaining their quality standards, the IITs have to improve their rankings as well, and this depends to a large extent on research-related journals.

IIT Bombay director Devang Khakhar, said, "There are many students at IITs who come from economically weaker backgrounds, and a fee raise will definitely im-

Raise the Fees for Real Returns

ET VIEW

It's time the IITs pulled out the 2011 Kakodkar

Committee Report and implemented it. The IIT undergraduate programme costs ₹14 lakh. Students pay ₹3.6 lakh. The fees need to be raised, and not gradually. It isn't just about addressing paucity of funds. Fees account for a fraction of the annual revenue. However, a more realistic fee has several benefits: it makes the IIT less dependent on government funds; improves the ability to provide freeships, full and partial scholarships; and allows subsidising postgraduate and research programmes, which has been unable to attract the best minds.

pact them." A student's annual cost of studying in an IIT works out to be more than ₹2 lakh, which includes the annual fee of ₹90,000.

IIT Roorkee director Pradipta Banerji claims that most of the universities outside India usually raise fee by 10 to 15% every year. "This is a sensible way to raise fee rather than a sudden hike. This will also ensure that the quality of education is maintained," said Banerji.

Students' fee contributes a little under 10% to the total revenue kitty of any IIT. "After graduating from IITs, all earn in multiples of 100 or 150 of what they pay for the undergraduate degree. It is only sensible to raise fee," said another director of one of the top IITs on the condition of anonymity.

Reforming IIT fees

Govt should free IITs to be financially sustainable

A proposal to almost triple the annual fees paid by students of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to ₹2.5 lakh has emerged from the IIT Council. According to a report in this newspaper, the proposal has been referred to a committee, which will submit a report to the Union ministry of human resource development for it to take a decision on the extent of the fee increase. However, some reports also suggest that the Council, headed by the Union human resources development minister, may have put any decision on hold in view of the coming Bihar Assembly elections. Instead, the council has set up a committee to look for ways to make available more loans to students and maintain and enhance scholarships available to needy students. In this context, it is worth noting that fees paid by students attending the National Institutes of Technology have recently been raised nearly three times, to ₹2 lakh per year, without much public fuss. There are now quite a few IITs, as many as 18, and three more are coming. With this many around, it is time to be realistic about fees charged by government-funded institutions. Private institutions offering equivalent degrees charge students in the ₹2-10 lakh range. Even the ₹2.5 lakh a year proposed for the IITs is still about ₹1 lakh short of what each student costs the government per annum.

Education, particularly quality higher education, is a great social equaliser and should be made available to all. Nobody qualifying for admission to an IIT should fail to get in because she cannot afford the fees. At the moment, only about half of the IITs' students pay the full fees; those coming from the reserved categories or families with an annual income of less than ₹4.5 lakh pay only 10 per cent of the prescribed fees. Concessional loans are also an important way of increasing access to tertiary education. As the financial system deepens and spreads, the costs of administering such education loans will decrease. Any future plans to make the IITs self-sustainable in terms of cost should indeed have student loans as a key element, combined with the existing concessional fee rates for the most needy.

It is also true that the IITs should do more to generate their own financial resources. Sponsored projects currently account for only about 24 per cent of their total revenue; their equivalents globally earn 60-80 per cent through this route. Greater attention to these will also impart a more applied, as opposed to fundamental, tone to academic work, and produce engineers who are more job-ready when they graduate. The IITs should also strive to build their endowments, with donations from industry and successful alumni. Well-known Indian business houses and iconic names in business have chosen to sponsor chairs in leading institutions abroad. Certainly, business leaders may have their reasons for doing so; for one, the IITs are still far away from matching the research potential of many Western universities. But, perhaps, the IITs need to become more business-friendly, too; if they did, targeted endowments would surely follow sponsored projects. This needs government action: the human resource development ministry must minimise the overpowering red tape associated with such projects and endowments.

आईआईटी फीस

आईआईटी में बढ़ सकती है फीस, खर्च के मुकाबले आमदनी फिर भी कम

इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी संस्थानों ने बीटेक की सालाना ट्यूशन फीस 90 हजार रुपए से बढ़ाकर 2 लाख 50 रुपए करने की मांग की है। आईआईटी काउंसिल ने इससे संबंधित प्रस्ताव सरकार को भेजा है। करीब एक सप्ताह पहले एनआईटी संस्थानों ने भी यूजी कोर्स की फीस तीन गुना बढ़ाने का प्रस्ताव सरकार को दिया है। आईआईटी अपने बढ़ते खर्चों की भरपाई फीस से करना चाहती है। फीस वृद्धि का प्रस्ताव मंजूर हो भी गया तो यह रकम शीर्ष विदेशी और देशी प्राइवेट संस्थानों से कम होगी। हालांकि, विदेशी संस्थानों के साथ आईआईटी की तुलना ठीक नहीं है क्योंकि सबकी फंडिंग अलग-अलग है। कई विदेशी संस्थान पूरी तरह प्राइवेट हैं, कुछ पब्लिक फंडेड हैं, जबकि कुछ इन दोनों का मिलाजुला रूप हैं। वहीं आईआईटी में सरकार ने सब्सिडाइज्ड एजुकेशन की व्यवस्था की है।

Rajasthan tops list in admissions to IITs

1965 students secured IIT seats out of a total 9974 seats

KOTA: Rajasthan topped the list of states in cracking entrance exam of the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology this year, with nearly 20 per cent students gaining admission to the 18 IITs belonging to the state.

According to a recent report of JEE Advance 2015 by IIT Bombay, 19.7 per cent of those students who secured seats in the prestigious insti-

tute belong to Rajasthan.

1965 students from Rajasthan secured IIT seats out of a total of 9974 seats.

Uttar Pradesh has secured the second position with 1259 qualifying students, while Andhra Pradesh which topped the list last time, had 776 students.

770 students from Telangana secured seats this year.

In another interesting

trend, 25 per cent of the seats, this year, were secured by students from rural areas who have completed their upper primary schooling in Hindi medium as compared to 90 per cent seats grabbed by students from urban areas last year.

Girls ranks

Girls, this year, secured 900 seats in IITs, a share of 9.03 per cent as compared to 8 per cent of the seats secured in 2014.

The detailed report also said the fathers of 888 quali-

Numbers

■ 19.7 per cent of those students who secured seats in IIT-Mumbai belong to Rajasthan

■ 1965 students from Rajasthan secured IIT seats out of a total of 9974 seats

■ Uttar Pradesh has secured the second position with 1259 qualifying students

fying students practiced agriculture whereas fathers of 232 students were doctors and of 466 students were engineers.

The fathers of 1548 qualifying students were involved in business while mothers of 6690 selected students were housewives with a modest level of education.

The fathers of 479 students were teachers while of 2989 qualifying students were government employees.

A considerable number of students from low earning families have earned seats in IITs this time with over 1600 students coming from families where the father's annual income is less than Rs one lakh.

Meanwhile, 1500 students come from families where the annual income of fathers is over Rs 8 lakh.

As for the education background of parents, the study said fathers of about 1100 qualifying students are only metric pass (Class X) while fathers of about 250 are illiterate.

The mothers of nearly 900 students are illiterate.

The report also mentions that every fifth of the qualifying students had prepared for the exam in Kota.

PTI

25% IIT seats grabbed by students from rural areas

MPOST BUREAU

KOTA: Twenty-five per cent of the seats of the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) across the country were grabbed by students from rural areas this year compared with only 10 per cent last year.

According to a report JEE Advance 2015 by IIT Mumbai, 25 per cent of the seats, this year, were secured by students, from rural areas who have completed their upper primary schooling in Hindi medium as compared to 90 per cent seats which were secured by students from urban areas last year.

This year, 1,600 students from families, where the father's annual income is less than Rs 1 lakh, have secured seats in IITs

A considerable number of students from low earning families have also earned seats in the 18 IITs this time with over 1,600 students coming from families where the father's annual income is less than Rs one lakh. Meanwhile, 1,500 students come from families where the annual income of fathers is over Rs 8 lakh.

As for the educational background of parents, the study

said fathers of 1,100 qualifying students are only Class X pass, while fathers of 250 are illiterate. The mothers of nearly 900 students are illiterate. Girls, this year, secured 900 out of 9,974 seats in IITs.

The report also said Rajasthan topped the list of states in cracking the IIT exam this year. A total of 1,965 students from Rajasthan secured seats in the 18 IITs.

DU V-C's move irks HRD Ministry

Issues show-cause notice to him and recommends to Prez to ask Dinesh Singh to go on leave

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

Delhi University's outgoing Vice Chancellor Dinesh Singh refuted the allegation of conflict of interest in appointment of K Kasturirangan into the panel for selecting his successor which has irked the HRD ministry that even issued a show-cause notice to a DU V-C for the first time.

Singh, who retires on October 28, asserted that he has "no regrets" though his tenure saw the massive controversy over Four Year Undergraduate Programme.

The latest controversy is on nomination of former ISRO Chief K Kasturirangan to the selection panel by DU despite him being an honorary professor at the university.

The HRD ministry is understood to have asked the

President who is the varsity Visitor to direct Singh to proceed on compulsory leave but had to withdraw the request considerably because Rasthrapati Bhavan was not inclined towards taking an action against the V-C who has only few weeks left in office.

The Ministry is also learned to have asked DU to suggest another name replacing Kasturirangan. "The nomination of the members was discussed at length in the DU's Executive Council. Somehow it (conflict of interest) seems to have escaped the attention of the Council and I don't really know until I hear from the Ministry what the exact issue is," he said.

"I don't know if something has been communicated to the university so far, if they do it we will do the needful immediately. I will have to get

in touch with the government to take further steps regarding the same," he added while he himself chairs the EC meeting.

A well known mathematics professor, whose father also served as V-C of Allahabad University, Singh said he has no inclination of taking any extension and will not accept it even if offered.

"On 28th I demit office and I will be a free man then. I will have all the weight off my shoulders.... I am not going to stay a day or for that matter an hour beyond my tenure. If a VC is not appointed till the time I retire, I will not be holding the charge even for time being. The university statutes have a provision that in absence of VC, the pro Vice Chancellor takes the charge. So he will assume the position if need be but not me," he said.

While the allegations of conflict of interest in appointment of UGC Chairman Ved Prakash by the Ministry as the head of the same panel have also been raised by various quarters, Singh has refused to comment on it.

IIM-L's second interim director gets 6 month extension

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/IIM-Ls-second-interim-director-gets-6-month-extension/articleshow/49279838.cms>

LUCKNOW: After completing his three-month term on October 8, Indian Institute of Management-Lucknow's interim director Bharat Bhasker was given six-month extension by Union ministry of human resource development on Thursday.

Confirming the extension, secretary of IIM-L's board of governors Vishwa Ranjan told TOI that the institute has received a written order from MHRD. "They have issued fresh directives giving six-month extension to Bhasker with effect from October 8, or until further orders whichever is earliest."

MHRD had on July 8 assigned additional charge of the director IIM-L to the next senior faculty Bharat Bhasker, after second senior most faculty Yogesh Agarwal declined taking charge for a period of three months. This came after senior-most professor Rajiv Kumar Srivastava completed his six-month term of the IIM-L director on July 7 and refused to continue on health grounds saying his professional work was suffering because of his official duties.

The post of the IIM-L director is lying vacant for the last 19 months since Devi Singh's extended second term ended in September last year. His second term ended on March 9, 2014 after which he was given six months extension.

Applications for the post of director were invited till January 24, 2014. But, with model code of conduct in place, the appointment was put on hold. The newly formed BJP government in May 2014 took the process ahead only for three months and scrapped the earlier process in September 2014, at a time when the search-sum-selection panel has already shortlisted the three names. MHRD had on September 9, 2014 issued orders directing the senior most faculty, Prof Rajiv Kumar Srivastava to be appointed as interim director for a period of six months or till appointment of regular director or until further order, whichever is earliest.

A fresh process was started in December and applications were invited again. In July, officials in Ministry of Human Resource Development said the appointment of the IIM-L director is in the final stage with the file lying with the Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC) headed by the prime minister.

PM may address Cambridge senate during 3-day tour

Hindustan Times (Indore)

LONDON: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address the senate of the University of Cambridge during his three- day visit to Britain in November even as a section of the British Indian community announced a ‘day of protest’ on 12 November, the day he arrives here.

TRAVEL PLANS

- University of Cambridge vice-chancellor, Leszek Borysiewicz, has invited Modi to address the senate
- Modi may visit the Warwick Manufacturing Group (MWG) headed by Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya
- Besides meeting Prime Minister David Cameron in 10 Downing Street, Modi is expected to address British MPs in the Westminster Hall of Parliament
- He may also visit Buckingham Palace, inaugurate BR Ambedkar memorial in north London and address business meetings



- **Three former Indian prime ministers studied in the University of Cambridge**

SHUTTERSTOCK

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TRAVEL PLAN Three former Indian prime ministers studied in the University of Cambridge University of Cambridge vice-chancellor, Leszek Borysiewicz, has invited Modi to address the senate Modi may visit the Warwick Manufacturing Group (MWG) headed by Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya Besides meeting Prime Minister David Cameron in 10 Downing Street, Modi is expected to address British MPs in the Westminster Hall of Parliament He may also visit Buckingham Palace, inaugurate BR Ambedkar memorial in north London and address business meetings

University sources told HT on Wednesday that “nothing is confirmed yet”. It is understood that the vice-chancellor, Leszek Borysiewicz, has invited Modi to address the senate, which is one of most influential bodies in the ancient university.

As officials finetune details of several events during the first bilateral visit by an Indian prime minister in nearly a decade, there is also a possibility that Modi may visit the Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) headed by Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya.

Both Cambridge and WMG (part of the University of Warwick) have close links with India. Three former prime ministers studied in Cambridge — Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajiv Gandhi and Manmohan Singh. WMG has links with IIT Kharagpur as well as the Tata Group.

Besides meeting Prime Minister David Cameron in 10 Downing Street, Modi is expected to address British MPs in the Westminster Hall of Parliament, visit Buckingham Palace, inaugurate B R Ambedkar memorial in north London and address business meetings.

Some MPs are contributing to the over £ 1- million cost of organising the community event at the Wembley Stadium on 13 November, which is billed as an ‘Olympic-style’ event.

Awaaz UK, a collective of several campaign groups, said Modi was “not welcome in London” and announced the ‘day of protest’ on November 12. The protest is to begin at 10, Downing Street, and move to Parliament Square.

Declaring that it was not affiliated to any political party or ideology, it says that “Awaaz is opposed to the violence, intolerance and hate that Hindutva represents, just as Awaaz is opposed to religious hatred, intolerance and violence in any form”.

Members of the network include Indian Workers Association, Indian Muslim federation (UK), Dalit Solidarity Network, Southall Black Sisters, India Forum and Campaign Against Racism and Fascism.

Protests by other groups are also likely. Indian high commissioner Ranjan Mathai had called on the British Indian community to present a “united front” while welcoming Modi.