

## Newspaper Clips Sept. 23, 2015

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**P-05**

# IIT Madras student found dead

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI, SEPT. 22

A 23-year-old post-graduate student at Indian Institute of Technology — Madras, N. Nagendra Kumar Reddy, committed suicide in his hostel room on campus on Monday night. Depression over his futile attempts to clear the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering exams to get into a public sector company is suspected to be the reason behind his suicide, according to the police.

Only son of an agricultural labourer couple, Mr Narayana Reddy and Ms Kanthammal, Kumar was a native of Kesavapuram village in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh. He was pursuing the second year of M.Tech, civil engineering, at IIT-M, sponsored by his employer, L&T.

"According to his friends, he was aiming for a government job and was unhappy after he failed to clear the GATE exams twice. In the first attempt, his rank was in the 2000's and in the recent attempt in March this year, he was ranked in 700's and missed the list by a whisker," an investigat-

ing official said.

Around 9 pm on Monday, one of his friends found Kumar hanging from the ceiling fan in his fifth floor room at Thamaraparani hostel. "We were informed around 10 pm and moved the body to the Government Royapettah Hospital for post mortem," Kotturpuram inspector N. Elangovan said.

Investigations revealed that Kumar had spent the weekend at his native place and returned to his hostel on Monday morning. "He did not turn up for classes on Monday and locked himself up in his room," the inspector said.

His friends had checked on him once during lunch and left assuming he was tired. They grew suspicious after he didn't turn up for dinner, after which they broke open the door to find Kumar hanging from the ceiling fan using the bedspread.

"Our personnel checked his laptop and screened his room too. There was no suicide note," a senior police officer said. Kotturpuram police registered a case under Section 174 of CrPC and are investigating.

# SC stops UGC from invalidating degrees of thousands of students

**BIG RELIEF** Does the education regulator need to acknowledge the SC order and help students?

Jeevan Prakash Sharma  
 ■ jeevan.sharma@hindustantimes.com

One of the reasons for setting up the University Grants Commission (UGC) was mainly to safeguard students' interests. Unfortunately, the education regulator moved court recently in a case that could have affected the future of thousands of students of the Sikkim Manipal University (SMU).

This unfortunate aspect of UGC's functioning was evident in its petition filed before the Supreme Court in which it asked the court to stay the order of the Sikkim High Court (HC) which had validated the degrees of SMU students who had completed their courses before 2011-12, others who had started their programme prior to 2011-12 and those admitted for programmes after February 22, 2013, till June 26, 2015. Surprisingly, in its 250-page special leave petition, UGC made no mention of any action



■ HT Education had reported the Sikkim HC judgment on July 29, 2015.

it had taken against the office-bearers of SMU, who had offered courses that violated the very rules that UGC had created.

Pleading before the apex court, Tushar Mehta, additional solicitor general appearing for UGC, wanted the court to stay the

Sikkim HC judgment of June 26, 2015, which had validated the degrees of SMU, a private university in Sikkim. Many SMU students had been in a fix because the degrees they had received had no legal status as these violated (a) UGC (Establishment of

and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003, (b) Supreme Court's judgment in Prof Yashpal vs State of Chhattisgarh which prohibits a state university from offering courses beyond the boundary of its own state and (c) UGC's notification dated June 27, 2013, which states that a university established or incorporated by or under a state act shall operate only within the territorial jurisdiction allotted to it under its act and in no case beyond the territory of the state of its location.

The Sikkim HC judgment, UGC argued, has validated degrees obtained by all SMU students of distance learning and not just the four students who had intervened in HC with pleas to make their degrees valid even though these were issued in violation of UGC norms. They were Pralhad Dani Chhetri, Pradip Kharbuja, Suresh Tiwari and Rashmi Adhikari. All four

completed their graduation from SMU's study centres in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Refusing to hurt the interests of the students, the Supreme Court Bench of Justices AK Sikri and Justice Rohinton F Nariman dismissed the UGC petition, but on Mehta's request, ordered that the case not be treated as a precedent.

"Any other university which has violated UGC's norms can't take any benefit straightway from this order and ask for similar relief. However it can be cited as a reference. However, the UGC move is really surprising. Instead of taking action against the defaulting universities, it's targeting the students. Now the commission should issue circular on its website so that these students can't be deprived of the benefits of their valid degrees," says Ritesh Aggarwal, a Supreme Court lawyer who appeared on behalf of the students.

## IIT-BHU to host its first ever alumni meet from December 30

<http://www.iamin.in/en/varanasi/news/iit-bhu-host-its-first-ever-alumni-meet-december-30-70501>

Banaras Hindu University's (BHU) technology wing, IIT-BHU will host its first ever alumni meet from December 30 to January 1.

BHU got the status of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in year 2012.

The authorities have started to prepare elaborate plans to invite ex-students from across the globe and honour them. An 'alumni portal' has also been developed for one-time registration wherein the details of all former students will be stored in the 'alumni database', for signing up to the impending 'Alumni Meet'. The online registrations for the meet has started from September 15.

The features of the meet include campus tour with updates about recent infrastructure development, departmental visits and interaction with professors and faculties of concerned department, exploring the holy city and a visit to Sarnath for reviving the city experience and a series of cultural programmes. The registration charges are Rs 5,000 per visiting alumnus and Rs 3,000 per accompanying person.

## Karnataka, We Have a Winner. And the IIT Goes to...

<http://www.ndtv.com/karnataka-news/karnataka-we-have-a-winner-and-the-iit-goes-to-1220422>

Karnataka, home to India's Silicon Valley of Bengaluru, cannot wait to get its IIT. However, there's fierce competition between towns to host the premier engineering institute.

In March, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley sanctioned an IIT for the state. A team of experts including IIT directors and representatives of the centre then inspected three towns to pick a winner.

Dharwad in the North was picked because of infrastructure and other facilities available - like an existing institute with a building big enough for 750 students that could serve as a temporary campus and allow classes to start next year. Sources in the Human Resources Development Ministry, which handles colleges and universities, confirm that despite last-minute lobbying for another town, Dharwad will be home to IIT.

The town is also on the list of nearly 100 hotspots picked for the national Smart Cities makeover - where towns will be upgraded with free wifi, better roads and upgraded public services.

India currently has 16 branches of the IIT, nowhere near enough to accommodate the lakhs of students who vie for admission.

The excitement in Dharwad turned into protests this week when it was learnt that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had written to the centre suggesting that Raichur is a better option. Raichur, also in Northern Karnataka, is located in one of the most backward districts of the state: the "Hyderabad- Karnatak" region, which has been granted Special Status, entitling it to special financial assistance from the centre for its development.

Sources say senior and influential Congress leaders from Raichur like Mallikarjun Kharge lobbied the Chief Minister for the IIT relocation. In the last few days, protests have been held in Dharwad groups including the opposition BJP, and a bandh is planned tomorrow for the city.

The town can relax...it appears to have got what it wanted.