

eNewspaper Clippings

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TOI

Online IIT counselling fails to give many course of choice

Akshaya Mukul / TNN

New Delhi: The online counselling for admission into IITs, introduced for the first time, has not quite lived up to the expectations. Many students, who figure between 5,000 and 6,000 on the All India Rank (AIR) of the common merit list, have failed to make it to any engineering or science courses in any of the IITs.

A student pointed out that he was unaware about the cutoff ranks even though the online process does have the option. He said, "We are also clueless why we did not get a particular course or the possibility of getting it after the second round of counselling."

Of the 13,000 successful candidates, 9,000 got the AIR and were placed in the common merit list. IIT insiders say online counselling should also show the status of all the seats up for grabs along with their AIRs so that a student can assess his chances, including whether the aspirant can qualify in the second round of admission that begins later this month.

There are other major lacunae in the online counselling process. One of them is lack of confidentiality. Anyone can virtually tamper with a student's choice of the course.

DU cleans up act, to make its labs safer

Neha Pushkarna / TNN

New Delhi: Jolted out of slumber by the Cobalt-60 leak, Delhi University is finally taking steps to make its labs safer for use.

As the new session begins later this month, all chemicals in chemistry labs will have to be marked prominently based on their properties. Posters with dos and don'ts will be sent to all colleges and departments. Special manuals containing information on the properties and handling methods of different chemicals will be provided to students. Moreover, workshops on safety measures are in the pipeline for all chemistry teachers.

DU's Institute of Lifelong Learning (ILLL) has been working on devising lab safety measures for the past one month now. "After what followed the sale of gamma irradiator, we thought it was imperative to take immediate measures to make our students and teachers aware of the handling process of various chemicals and equipment. We are focussing on chemistry labs to begin with as they are the most accident-prone," said professor A K Bakhshi, director, ILLL and head of department of chemistry.

DU's chemistry department had sold gamma irradiator containing radioactive Cobalt-60 to scrapdealers in February this year. As a result of exposure to radiation, eight persons from Mayapuri scrap market had to be hospitalized in April this year. One of them died later.

ILLL has now decided to send different stickers to department and college labs to be pasted on every bottle of the chemicals available, based on their properties. "We have got stickers of different signs made that will tell the users if the chemical they are using is corrosive, radioactive, toxic, explosive or dangerous to environment. This way it will be easy to classify them and the users can also take appropriate precautions," Bakhshi said. The safety manual prepared by the ILLL will also be ready by the start of the new session on July 21.

RTI reveals IIT-JEE record of impersonation

Akshaya Mukul / TNN

New Delhi: Impersonation is nothing new to IIT-JEE. Way back in 2000, the son of a senior faculty member, who later became director of IITKharagpur and even chairperson of the Joint Admission Board, was caught redhanded impersonating.

Sitesh Dube was studying in IIT-Delhi, while his father Sishir Kumar Dube was then a professor in Centre of Atmospheric Science in the premier institute. Also, IIT-Delhi had organised the JEE that year. However, unlike present case — where Patna police have busted a racket in which engineering graduates and BTech students resorted to impersonation to make a fast buck — Dube junior never faced criminal charges as police were not even informed. He was only suspended for three years (six semesters).

The disciplinary committee consisted of the then IIT-Delhi director, V S Raju, and other deans of the faculty.

Food for PM at IIT event found to be sub-standard

Shailvee Sharda / TNN

Lucknow: Adulterated pulses would have reached Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's platter had there not been stringent checking prior to his visit to IIT-Kanpur on Saturday. Samples of several food items that formed the raw material for meals to be served to the PM were found to be substandard by the Food and Drug Authority (FDA) lab in Lucknow.

Though officials refused to go on record, TOI managed to get a copy of the report issued by the FDA authorities. It showed that sample of 'de-husked moong dal' contained synthetic colours.

It also said the exact adulterant could not be ascertained immediately. "The sample contains synthetic colour in traces which could not be identified owing to shortage of time," read the report.

Experts at the Indian Institute of Toxicology Research and Lucknow University confirmed that an organic dye called 'malachite green' is used to give green colour to vegetables and pulses. Sources also claimed that samples of dried seeds of musk-melon or 'kharbooze-ka-beej' (commonly used in sweets and sometimes to thicken the gravy) and 'buchanania lazan', commonly known as 'chiraunji', also failed the quality standards.

The samples were collected around 4pm by the Kanpur district administration in the presence of Special Protection Group (SPG) personnel. A total of 23 items were seen by the team, which found them to be 'fit for human consumption' after the initial physical examination.

However, nine of the total 23 items that were to be served to the PM, were short-listed and sent to the FDA lab for detailed chemical analysis. A sample each of 'rajma', 'de-husked moong dal', plain 'chana dal', 'India Gate rice', 'Shakti Bhog besan', 'Amul Taza double toned milk' and 'Pillsbury chakki fresh atta' and two samples of 'dehusked urad dal' were sent to FDA lab in Lucknow for mandatory quality check.

PM: Country needs quality research

Pitching for greater collaboration between institutions such as IITs and the corporate sector, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said there was an urgent need to increase quality research in science and technology, especially to meet newer challenges like climate change. TNN



PM at the convocation of IIT-Kanpur on Saturday

HRD ministry under Arjun pushed case of 2 institutes

Akshaya Mukul / TNN

New Delhi: It seems former HRD minister Arjun Singh was a votary of deemed universities and in some cases, the interest taken by his office raised eyebrows. A close look at the files of relating to Shobhit Institute of Engineering & Technology and Santosh World Medical Academy would suffice.

In case of Santosh, query from the minister's office began even as a report from UGC was awaited. There was also a recommendation letter from LS member Chinta Mohan. A UGC expert committee's report, placed before the screening panel, said the "institute is not running any innovative/emerging programmes, research base of the institute is weak and the potential of the senior faculty members for more positive contribution to research is required to be fully exploited". This was in March 2005. Singh was appraised of the report. Seven months later he again wanted to know the status of the case.

Two years later, Santosh made a fresh request and UGC set up a smaller expert panel which recommended deemed status to it and three medical colleges under it. Ministry analysed the UGC report and found it lacking on details of ownership of property and corpus fund. Joint secretary in the ministry noted on the file: "The proposal is not in order. UGC is continuing to ignore due diligence. This will have to be impressed upon them that the first recommendation of the commission is at variance with the initial report, which means either the UGC committee does not apply itself initially or reverses its own stand making it difficult for MHRD to take a definite stand."

Another director-level officer was still unwilling to let Santosh get deemed status and raised two issues: Santosh Trust should take over the colleges that deemed university will comprise. He also doubted the existence of Santosh Paramedical College. All the then education secretary did was to order that the issue of Trust owning other colleges should be made a part of notification which would grant the deemed status. He also talked of leaving out paramedical college. The larger issues of faculty, programmes and research were completely forgotten.

In the case of Shobhit Institute, the deemed university status under the de novo (innovation) category was granted despite the fact that the committee set up UGC had stated that "all courses being run are conventional areas with no innovativeness in there." It went on to say that the institute does not even propose to pursue emerging areas of knowledge.

IT'S A GIRL'S WORLD?

The boardroom scene in India is definitely set to change as more girls make it to the IITs and IIMs

Arpita Nath / TNN

The academic milieu of engineering and management schools is changing, what with more girls appearing for CAT and IIT JEE to make it to the hallowed halls of the IIMs and IITs.

This increase in the number of girl students has tilted the gender scales. In 2005, only 25,000 girls appeared for IITJEE. In 2009, the number reached 98,000, while in 2010, the figure touched 1.18 lakh.

The rise in the number of girls in the domain of the IITs can be attributed to the slashing of the application fees in 2006, in which girls were made to pay only Rs 500 as compared to boys, who had to shell out Rs 1000. Also, unlike in the past where girls were expected to stick to 'feminine' professions like teaching, girls today are encouraged to get into engineering and management schools.

In 2009, the HRD minister Kapil Sibal, asked the IIT directors to initiate steps to improve the gender ratio in IITs, which was said to be 1:10. This trend is also being reflected in the IIMs. This year IIM Kozhikode has seen a dramatic increase in the number of girl students, a record of sorts, as 100 out of the 326 students are girls.

Says Debashish Chatterjee, the director of IIM-K, "Fundamentally, the students are chosen on the basis of merit, and talent. We don't compromise on talent. Since we have started considering the previous education qualifications – secondary, senior secondary, graduation and post-graduation — in that respect, girls fare better, as they are more serious about academics. Our choice of students is based not just on CAT, it's not like 'Kaun Banega The Next Narayan Murthy'; other skills are taken into consideration, and girls fare better on the managerial scales. The objective of having more girls in IIMs is to

change the boardroom scene in the whole of India.”

In IIM Kolkata, 38 of the 290 students who've enrolled for the 2010-12 PG programme are girls.

In IIM Ahmedabad, compared to 2008-10 where there were only 17 girl students out of 297, the 2010-12 session has 39 girls in a batch of 380 students. Likewise, in IIM Bangalore, 78 of the 375 students are girls.

Chatterjee says, “The system is transparent. We judge candidates on competence, capability and calibre. There is no deliberate effort to include more girls. If we were to do that, even the girls would feel bad. It is based entirely on merit.”

Even as girls break through the gender barrier, the ‘eye candy’ factor still seems to dog them on campus

In IIT Delhi, the girls are known as ‘alpha males’, because they are manly. They generally wear specs, are either fat or very thin, and are generally not well endowed in the right places,” Nikunj Jain, an alumnus of IIT-Delhi, is quick to judge the girls in his campus.

Branded as ‘geeky’ and ‘not much into looks’, these girls are constantly judged on parameters beyond the fields of chemistry equations and quantum physics.

Says Vibhuti Agrawal, an MTech student at IIT-Delhi, “IIT girls are independent, they do their own thing, are outspoken, bold and if that is seen as manly, then the guys can go take a hike! The girls are so into their books that no one gets the time to dress up.”

Hooked on to the ‘looks’ factor, these guys are quick to judge their fellow students. But, do working women need to be decked up all the time?

Pranika Gupta (name changed on request), a chemical engineering student at IIT-Delhi, has a point to make. She says, “The moment you dress up, you get branded as a ‘weakling’ and you are not considered competition any more. If we dress up, we become ‘delicate darlings’ and they don’t care about us anymore. IIT girls do dress up, when they are going out with their boyfriends. But otherwise, IIT is not a place to deck up everyday. If you do, then you start getting noticed for all the wrong reasons.”

Abhinav Dhar, who passed out of IIT in 2009, doesn’t mince words when he says, “The girls in IIT aren’t really what you call ‘eye candy’ material. They are not girly, generally have a ghathi accent and are hairy. But, the ones from metropolitan cities are good company. Most girls are from small towns and have spent most of their lives studying, and they don’t pay attention to looks. However, most of these girls undergo a metamorphosis of sorts when they pass out of the institute, as they start moving around with the Delhi girls. I guess somewhere down the line, they do get conscious... girls aren’t that thickskinned.”

Avinash’s batchmate Diya Patel (name changed) seconds this and adds, “This perception that IIT girls are not hot, stems from the fact that most girls come from small towns and looks are not the prime factor on their minds. So, the guys in IIT Delhi usually hang out at the SDA Market, opposite the institute, for their daily dose of birdwatching. Dating wise, about 5-10 per cent IIT boys would have girlfriends within the campus itself. However, this can also be attributed to the fact that there are fewer girls in campus.”

While the government pushes for various measures for girls, to level the academic field, it seems like the girls of IIT have a slightly hatke battle ahead of them.

Techno fest

Surbhi Bhatia/TNN

A contest floated by IIT-Guwahati (IIT-G), which will give selected candidates a chance to stay in IIT-G, has gained much popularity with schools from Dubai, Singapore and Nepal.

Every year, IIT-G organises its technology festival, Technothon. As part of the festival, it invites school students (classes IX to XII) across India to stay at IIT-G and offer them a flavour of life at an IIT. If you are a student curious about technology and wonder what it means to be in an IIT, it can be your chance. The test allows student from any stream to be part of the IIT fervour.

IIT-G initiated this effort by inviting school students from and around Guwahati. But gradually it gained popularity. “We thought students from across India should participate in the event. When it came to selecting deserving candidates who would have acumen to understand technology, we decided to have a mock test. An online test, it assesses students on their general knowledge and logical reasoning,” informs Tushar Krishnan, member of the organising team.

The previous edition was conducted in 65 cities across the nation and saw a participation of over 1.25 lakh students. It also witnessed students’ participation from regions like Arunachal Pradesh and Garwhal hills. “The objective of the event is to broaden the education spectrum of young minds as well as inculcate a sense of

scientific temper amongst them. To spread this awareness among Indian students studying outside India, we organised the test in countries and schools where there is a high population of Indian students," Krishnan says.

The national leg of Technothon will be conducted in 75 cities across the nation on July 18. Selected candidates would be invited to IIT-G during its annual technical festival Techniche '10 from September 2-5.

Students will get the chance to witness lectures by Richard Stallman (famous American software freedom activist and computer programmer) and Nathan Schulhof, inventor of the MP3 player. Students will also get an opportunity to try their hand in robotics, crime scene investigation and structure building.

The preliminary examination will be a complete IQ-based test with no requirement of prior knowledge on any subject. Students from any stream can participate irrespective of it being organised by an engineering institute. The event is open to students divided into two squads — the Junior Squad for classes IX and X and the Hauts Squad for classes XI and XII. Students can participate in teams of two from the same squad. Both the team members should be from the same school. The registration fee is Rs 50 per-team. Students can register online and for further details log on to www.techniche.org/technothon.html.

ET

Immigration Woes

Time to rethink overseas campus plans

UK & Australia have announced policy decisions that will cut down the intake of skilled immigrants from India

Ishani Duttagupta

IN WHAT is being seen as a double whammy, the UK and Australia have announced policy decisions that will cut down the intake of skilled immigrants from India. The UK government's interim measures will limit Tier 1 visas for highly skilled immigrants to the current level and raise the number of points needed to qualify. The decision to limit the number of certificates of sponsorship that licensed employers can issue to migrant workers under Tier 2 resident labour market and shortage occupation routes will have an impact on Indian and MNC companies that hire Indian professionals for UK assignments.

While interim measures will kick in from July 19, 2010, UK has also started full consultations with businesses and other interested parties on how new limits on Tiers 1 and 2 of the points-based system should work. The consultation will run until September 17, 2010, and the permanent measures will be in place by April 1, 2011. The exercise is targeted at drastically lowering the number of migrants into UK from non-EU countries, to the levels prevalent in the 1990s.

Not surprisingly, Indian professionals in UK and companies that have a large number of Indians on their rolls are concerned. Amit Kapadia, executive director of the HSMP Forum, which campaigns for non EU immigrants in the UK said: "We do not think any sort of cap would work out. It would be unworkable. Most non-EU migrants on Tier 1 and Tier 2 status come to fill in skills shortage, which cannot be filled in locally. Therefore, taking such drastic measures will affect UK businesses and in turn it will affect the economy."

"Any changes introduced should not affect resident migrants in the UK. It will be unfair to apply any strict measures for further visa extensions to migrants who came under a different set of rules. The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats when in opposition principally opposed such retrospective legislation of the Labour government in 2006. We believe any measures, if at all, should only be taken after proper and independent consultation with stakeholders who will be affected by such a decision," Mr Kapadia added.

Experts also point out that moves to cut the number of skilled migrants from India could impact the number of students going to study in UK. British Council has estimated an annual revenue of £12 billion from international students. Post study work has been a major attraction for international students who go to Britain. Post study work allows international students to work for a stipulated time after successful completion of their course with the accredited university.

Meanwhile, the trimmed Australian skills occupation list from the earlier 450 to 150—for getting permanent resident status in the country too will affect students from India who study in Australia and had so far enjoyed a fast pathway to permanent residence. The new SOL now does not comprise courses like hair dressing and cookery among others, which were very popular with Indian students.

Students in India who are planning to make Australia their campus destination are so far adopting a wait and watch policy for making their final decision is concerned. "As far as students are concerned, it is clear that the regulations favour university and degree bound students. At this time it appears that the Australian government will allow those studying for post-graduate disciplines in accounting, engineering etc to still be able to get work visas and possibly also immigrate. Being able to get a job and having good English skills will be key requirements. Besides, there is a transitional arrangement in place that will allow all those who were in system as on Feb 8, 2010, to be able to still find pathways to migration or work visas. However, in the absence of clear cut point system yet there is some vacuum," said Mr Ravi Lochan Singh, managing director of Global Reach, a leading Australian student counselling company, and former president of Association of Australian Education Representatives in India.

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Sibal wants clean-up, but HRD babus don't

FRATERNAL Vigilance wing says officers shirking probe into corruption complaints

ht SPECIAL

Charu Sudan Kasturi
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NEW DELHI: Kapil Sibal may want to clean up corruption in education but his officers are in no hurry to act against others from their fraternity according to the human resource development ministry's vigilance wing.

In a scathing letter received by officers up to the rank of joint-secretary in the ministry, the vigilance wing of the ministry has said babus were "shirking" investigative work following complaints of corruption.

Officers are giving "last priority" to vigilance work assigned to them, states the letter which is understood to have been blessed by Sibal, who is keen to make the cleansing of education his signature initiative.

Each union ministry has a vigilance wing that coordinates with the Central Vigilance Commission to probe allegations of corruption and malpractices against central government employees. The vigilance wing then assigns cases to officers in the ministry — not from the vigilance wing — to conduct preliminary enquiries within a month.

But officers take months to submit reports on enquiries and

Officers are giving "last priority" to vigilance work assigned to them.

Letter from vigilance wing

sometimes request the vigilance wing to assign the task to other colleagues.

Complaints against former Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan commissioner Ranglal Jamuda, received months before he retired last year, are still to see any outcome, sources said. Complaints against director of Rashtriya Sankrit Sansthan and the Director of IIT-Delhi are

You look at our workload... it is next to impossible to complete all work on time.

Officer in HRD ministry

also pending.

Officers who have received the letter, however, dismissed suggestions that delay in probing cases was related to a reluctance to probe administrators. "That would be a simplistic and incorrect conclusion to draw. Yes, we may be uncomfortable probing people we know, but we are professionals and try our best to perform tasks assigned

to us," a senior officer said.

HRD ministry officers argue they are as of now overstretched. "You look at our workload today as compared to just two years back, and you would see that it is next to impossible to complete all work on time," another officer said.

The HRD ministry's workload has expanded over the past two years, following an increase in the number of institutions and schemes. India has 40 central universities today, as compared to just 25 two years back. It also has to tackle challenges thrown up by the Right to Education law and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan.

Hindustan Times

Title : ONLINE IIT ADMISSION 'NOT SECURE', DRAWS FLAK

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ONLINE IIT ADMISSION 'NOT SECURE', DRAWS FLAK

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: Just as the IIMs were forced to cope with glitches in their online entrance exams in 2009, the IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) are also drawing flak for the online admission system introduced this year.

Complaints about the new process being unsafe were echoed by several IIT faculty members, who told *HT* that the "non-secure" nature of the online counselling website makes the process prone to misuse.

The controversy has its origins in the online counselling system that has replaced physical counselling sessions that were in practise till last year.

IIT freshers choose their stream and the institute where they want to study during the counselling process.

All that the eligible IIT students now have to do is feed their registration number and name on the website to select a course and the institution where they would prefer to study.

The website doesn't seek a password, and once the choices have been made, the software doesn't allow any changes.

"A student's registration number is not secret and can be known to several others, including competing students," a computer science professor said.

HindustanTimes

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Online counselling under fire

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Rivals can pick a course for
any student in a manner

A senior IIT administrator, on the condition of anonymity, admitted “the online system may not be tamper-proof but no evidence has come up to suggest there has been a misuse”.

Several IIT teachers — who cannot officially speak to the

media under service rules — argued the “non-secure” nature of the online counselling website makes the process open to misuse.

Online counselling also offers less transparency than face-to-face sessions, some students say.

The first round of the counselling is over but the IITs will host a second round to enable students to pick up any vacant

seats that were available only to higher ranked students in the first round.

All general category students who earned a rank in the IIT Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) this year were asked to visit jee.iitm.ac.in/allotcourses to pick their stream and the institution where they want to study.

The options available to them were based on their rank.

Collaborate with corporate sector for research: PM to IITs



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the convocation ceremony of IIT Kanpur on Saturday.

KAJITILYA SINGH
KANPUR | JULY 3

STHESING on the need to increase quality research in leading education institutions of the country, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today called for increased collaboration between IITs and the corporate sector in research projects.

Addressing the 42nd convocation ceremony of the IIT-K on Saturday, Singh said, "For corporate sector, the collaboration would mean cost-effective solutions and newer technology and products, while for the IITs it would bring in much needed funds and enhance their research capabilities." The PM also suggested that IITs need to work together for research projects.

Singh was awarded an honorary degree of the Doctor of Science by IIT-K Director Sanjay Gorind Dharale at the convocation ceremony of the institute today. Prior to the convocation ceremony, the PM released a message on the institute's solar energy programme and on the participation of seven IITs in framing work plan for National Ganga River Basin Authority.

Addressing the gathering at IIT-K auditorium, Singh said the country

urgently needs to increase quality research in science and technology, so it, he said, plays a dominant role in determining the power and progress of a nation. He added, "The role has become even more critical in the wake of newer challenges like climate change, health care, energy security and sustainable agriculture."

Commenting on the shortage of quality faculty in IITs, he said "... an obvious solution lies in encouraging a larger number of bright students to join academics." Singh said the efforts are being made by the Union Government to bring about major changes in the country's higher education system. Several important bills relating to accreditation, foreign universities, educational tribunals and unfair practices have been introduced in the Parliament. He further said: "Intensive consultations are being carried out for setting up the National Council for Higher Education and Research." Singh invited the IITs to come forward and make their suggestions in the regard.

The PM also thanked the IIT-K students about their role to the country and society.

Be positive to development in UP: Maya tells Manmohan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW | JULY 3

CHIEF Minister Mayawati has appealed to the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to adopt positive approach towards various development schemes for the state pending at the level of the Central government.

The CM, in a press release, has welcomed the PM's assurance on the development issue of Kanpur and requested him to revive the closed industrial units that were set up by the Centre in the past.

Reacting to the Singh's reference to power problem in UP during his speech at a conference at Merchant Chambers of Uttar Pradesh in Kanpur on Saturday, the CM said the state has got the power problem in its legacy. She said her government has already issued a white paper in this regard on July 18, 2009.

She said it was wrong to blame the state government for delay in approval of the two proposed power plants in the state. She also justified her demand for 90 per cent share of the power from the two proposed plants. She said the state government is supposed to make arrangement for resources like land and water for the two power projects.

The CM said her government is making best efforts for the development of Kanpur Nagar with its limited resources.

Earlier in the day, Mayawati went to receive Manmohan Singh on his arrival to the Bahartal town on a day-long visit.

"She greeted Manmohan Singh on his arrival, offered him a bouquet and exchanged pleasantries," said sources. However, Mayawati left immediately after receiving Singh.

IIT-K to confer doctorate on PM

KANPUR: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Science by the IIT-K during the 42nd convocation ceremony of the institute on Saturday. The director of the IIT-K, Sanjay Goward Dhanoo, said Singh has given his consent to receive the honorary degree. "For the first time a PM is attending a convocation ceremony at the IIT-K," he said. According to Dhanoo, of the 115 students who will be awarded degrees this year, 131 students will be awarded Ph D degrees.

The five IIT-K students who will receive special awards from the PM include Hareeta Tejwani (IISc), Madhav Parag Tripathi, Aditya Verma, Pooja Khata and Saravali Chandrahari Joshi. Singh will become the 8th person to receive an honorary degree from the IIT-K. The previous recipients of the honorary degree include Punjabotari Kashish Khatkar (Founder-director of IIT-K), Professor Mangal Gahl (Director of Karpur Indo-American Programmes at IIT-K), Manoj Ghosh (former PM) and APJ Abdul Kalam (former President).

MANMohan SINGH

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

KANPUR, JULY 3

TALES of bad food in canteens are not altogether unexceptional. On July 3, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was served by a chef from an unhygienic and insect-infested kitchen during his visit to IIT-Kanpur.

During his visit to the institute on Saturday, the Prime Minister was expected to have lunch at the 'Visitors' Hostel' of the institute and kindly intervened by the security personnel and the district administration ensured the quality of the food served.

On Friday, 25 samples of raw food materials from the IIT-K kitchen were sent to State Public Analyst Lab (SPAL) at Lucknow for standard and quality check.

The samples of moong dal and dried seeds of mung, mool were found substandard. Some chemicals were found in the dal, whereas the mung and mool seeds were found to contain insects and fungus.

Lesser than two hours before PM's arrival, the raw items were pulled out of the menu following a fax from the laboratory to the District Magistrate, Kanpur, Minkesh Kumar Mishra.

"If the ration supplier at IIT-K is found guilty, he would be booked under the Food Adulteration Act," Mishra said.

As per norms, a team of district food inspectors is deployed to check the raw food and the cooked items before any VIP visit. The SPAL authorities had given the samples to its Chief Market Officer (CMO) Kanpur, Dr Ashok Mishra to send for tests.

The samples included cheese, salt,

No thought for food at IIT-K, reveals PM's visit



PM at the convocation on Saturday.

(Express Photo)

tomato paste, edible oil, ghee, cashew nut, refined flour, rajma, chana dal, moong dal, two types of seed dal, rice, dry woods of mung and mool, vegetable waste, toned milk, paneer, wheat flour and butter. Contrasting the findings of the lab, CMO Mishra said: "Due to shortage of time, the lab experts could not confirm the nature of the chemicals in the moong dal."

The City Magistrate, HP Nishi, will visit IIT-K to investigate the matter, he added.

The IIT-K authorities have denied any link on their part and said all norms were followed during the PM's visit. Director Sanjay Goward Dhanoo said: "Only the food items approved by security agencies and the state administration were included in the menu. So it is baseless and misleading to say the food meant for PM

FOOD WOES

This is not the first time the issue of sub-standard food has cropped up at IIT-K. In October 2009, 12 students from ten IITs across the country had come to IIT-K to participate in the 42nd convocation meet. They suffered from stomach ailments after consuming poor quality burgers and bakery products, sold in the institute premises and had to be admitted to the IIT-K Health Centre for treatment. The IIT-K Director, Sanjay Goward Dhanoo, said following an internal inquiry the supplier was found guilty and was blacklisted. "We have always ensured that only quality food products are sold in the institute premises," he added.

was found to be sub-standard." Refusing to disclose the name of the person supplying ration to IIT-K, Dhanoo said: "Our own teams will look into the matter and the required steps are being initiated."

*IITian
impersonated
others in
entrance exam
for money*

SANTOSH SINGH

PATNA, JULY 2

THEY entered India's top engineering colleges and then went about helping others get in — for a price. Police in Patna say they have busted a racket in which engineering graduates and B.Tech students, including one from IIT Delhi, impersonated aspirants from Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand, UP and Delhi at entrance exams.

A Patna Police team swooped on Kaushal Kumar, a B.Tech from an Orissa engineering college and the alleged kingpin of the racket, in Bhubaneswar today. Three others — IIT Delhi student Ankur Agrawal, Kalinga Engineering College student Abhinav Anand, and Gopalganj (Bihar) resident Ajay Anand — were arrested from a hotel in Patna on Thursday. Ajay secured the 6,814th rank at the AIEEE this year, allegedly after Ankur appeared for him.

Manmohan Singh depends on IITians for social engineering

The PMO has five officers from IITs, out of which three are from IIT Kanpur alone

Vineeta Pandey. New Delhi



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This is what you call social engineering through IIT engineers. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh may himself be an avante grade economist but his core team of handpicked officers has five IITians at present. In fact, the PM seems to have a special liking for the IITians and he acknowledged as much during his speech at IIT-Kanpur's convocation function on Saturday where he said that the institute was well represented in his office too. The Prime Minister's Office has five officers from IITs — out of which three are from IIT Kanpur alone — while both his private secretaries are IITians too. In fact, the PM's office has always been packed with top IITians for a long time. PM's two private secretaries who are IITians are Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi and Jaideep Sarkar while Amit Aggarwal (IIT-K) and Ashish Gupta (IIT-K) are the directors in PMO. Besides two years back Shaleen Kabra (IIT-Delhi) was also part of the PM's core team while Ashish Kumar Singh (IIT-Mumbai) was PS to MoS PMO Prithviraj Chavan. "There is a long list of illustrious IIT alumni - Shri Narayanamurthy in the software industry, Shri Vinod Khosla in venture capital, Prof. Raghuram Rajan in economics, Dr. Subba Rao in public service, late Prof. Rajiv Motwani in computer science, Shri Ashok Kejriwal in the NGO sector and so on. Your institute is well represented in my office too. There are three officers from IIT Kanpur in the Prime Minister's Office today. Both my private secretaries are alumni of the IITs," the PM said.

While talking about the IITians, the PM said that IIT alumni have helped immensely in this transformation of India's image, serving as excellent ambassadors for their country and in issues of governance. However, while lauding the achievements of the IITians, the PM also added that these students should also make an effort to give back to the society. "You will be well off; you will have accomplishments in your professional life. But you must always bear in mind that the people of our country have partly paid for your education, that our country is still burdened with persistent poverty, hunger and disease and that institutions like yours are islands of excellence in a sea of less endowed institutions. You must in some manner, however small it might be, give back to the society and the people who have nurtured you," Singh said probably indicating about his officers. "...I hope you will be a little old fashioned and build your life on the bedrock of ethical conduct. I hope you will have the courage of conviction that Abraham Lincoln once spoke of- to close your ears to a howling mob and to stand and fight if you think you are right," the PM added. The PM wants IITs to take up more research and collaborate with the corporate sector. "We need more innovation in areas like sustainable agriculture, affordable health care and energy security. India's strength in frugal engineering and extremely affordable innovations is becoming known internationally. Indian scientists and engineers should leverage this strength to play a more prominent role in addressing problems that affect all countries of the world," the PM said.