Another IIT Student Commits Suicide

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Hyderabad: Close on the heels of a Karimnagar student committing suicide at IIT Madras two days ago, another belonging to IIT Kanpur killed himself by consuming poison in Hayatnagar here on Thursday. He had reportedly been rusticated from the institute.

According to the police, 20-year-old Vadithya Nehru was studying for his B.Tech (electronics) degree at IIT Kanpur. He was a native of Nalgonda and his father Ramana is a farmer. Nehru reportedly took the extreme step after the IIT-Kanpur management turned him out of campus because he had failed in all his subjects. The matter had also come to the notice of his parents.

At around 3.30 p.m. Thursday, Nehru had a conversation with his family and his brother on the mobile phone and went to a under-construction apartment at Abdullahpurmet within Hayatnagar police station limits. There he drank poison. Workers at the site noticed him lying unconscious and alerted the police. He was shifted to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

“Nehru obtained admission in B.Tech (electronics) at IIT-Kanpur campus two years ago. However, he failed in all subjects in both first and second year, following which, the IIT-Kanpur management asked him to leave the institute,” said G Srinivas Kumar, inspector at the Hayatnagar police station.

The inspector said Nehru returned to Hyderabad and stayed in a friend's room. He used to call his parents and lie that he was in Kanpur. But his father had found out and asked him to come home.

Amar Ujala, ND 25/08/2012 p-13
STUDENT PROJECTS ON DISPLAY AT IIT-B

MUMBAI: Robots controlled by graphic interface and voice modulation will be among a host of student projects on display at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) over the weekend. Miniature planes, submarines and even a solar telescope will also be showcased.

The Students’ Technica Activities Body will be showcasing the technical summer projects of first year students across departments for the first time. This year, 120 teams stayed in the institute through the summer, completing 80 projects in all. Of these, 60 projects will be showcased. Some of the institute’s other projects will also be showcased, including a Formula One car and a miniature self-propelling submarine.
NIT dismisses prof for beating up colleagues

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JALANDHAR: For the first time in its history, the Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology (NIT) here has terminated the services of an associate professor for misconduct on the campus.

Speaking to Hindustan Times, NIT registrar Ajit Singh said an inquiry conducted by HP Handa, a retired district and sessions judge, had established the charges against associate professor Rajiv Kumar of the industrial and production engineering department.

"Based on the inquiry report, the board of governors decided to terminate Kumar's services during its meeting held earlier this month. Subsequently, he was relieved recently," he added.

Kumar had allegedly hurled abuses at a colleague, A Sachdeva, and later beat him up (as well as another colleague, A Bhardwaj) in the presence of fellow teachers on December 8, 2010. Kumar was placed under suspension on January 6, 2011, after the preliminary inquiry found him prima facie guilty of misconduct and recommended strict action against him. Immediately after the incident, director-in-charge SBS Mishra had constituted a panel of deans to conduct the preliminary inquiry after receiving a report from department head RK Garg.

In his report, Garg had said that a meeting was held to distribute semester workload among teachers. "The faculty were apprised of the workload, while RK Garg, A Bhardwaj, RV Sharma, Rajiv Kumar and Sarabjit Singh (in order of seniority) had named courses of their choice. Then, Rajiv asked Sarabjit that he should be given the chance to select his course first, considering the new seniority list. Garg offered to restart the process, while Sachdeva endorsed the same," the report said.

"Then, Rajiv started hurrying abuses at Sachdeva, questioning why the latter was endorsing it now. Rajiv started kicking Sachdeva despite being stopped by colleagues. Rajiv also beat up Bhardwaj, who was saved by others," the report said.
New Delhi: The Supreme Court has ruled that the judiciary cannot round off a candidate's marks to make them eligible for admission to higher studies.

Frowning upon a 0.29% upward rounding off done by Karnataka high court to allow a student to get admitted to a PG course, a bench of Justice A K Patnaik and Ranjan G. P. Desai on Thursday said, "The division bench of the HC erred in holding that the single judge was right in rounding off 54.71% to 55% so as to make the student eligible for admission to the PG course. Such rounding off is impermissible."

It added, "When eligibility criteria is prescribed in a qualifying examination, it must be strictly adhered to. Any tampering with it will do injustice to other candidates."

The eligibility criteria prescribed for securing admission to the PG course was 55% aggregate marks. The student, who secured 54.71%, approached the Indian Nursing Council requesting issuance of a certificate of eligibility to her by rounding off her aggregate marks to 55%.

The council said 50% would normally be rounded off to the next digit and suggested her to request the institute to which she wanted to get admitted to in a PG course. But the institute refused to admit her on the ground that she did not have 55% aggregate marks.

Without disturbing her career as she has been admitted into the institute on the basis of the HC order, the SC bench said, "No provision of any statute or any rule framed thereunder has been shown to us which permits rounding off of eligibility criteria prescribed for qualifying examination for admission to PG course in MSc (Nursing)."

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SC: Courts can’t round off marks for eligibility

The way to raise standards

When it comes to matters of government policy vis-a-vis the Indian market, one of the few constants is the reaction of our urban elites to the word "liberalisation". All one needs to do is mention the word and a Pavlovian response ensues, which is not about profit for the country, which is not about profit for foreign investors, but will be looking solely at the bottom line, not at what is best for the country's development. Given their resources and the unique playing field that will create, what is likely to happen is that a small percentage of elite institutions will soon be the market leaders - already a huge problem here - further making it difficult for the vast majority of students to gain quality education. What of other social objectives? Will foreign investment, for instance, be willing to institute the quotas that will inevitably be in place if the market is driven by foreign investors? The point is, the fear that foreign varsities would eat into the share of domestic varsities is unfounded. Such inferior tendencies have no place in an increasingly globalised world, characterised by free flow of knowledge and collaborative academic endeavours. The mean factor motivating opposition to foreign universities is the fear that they will undermine the quality of domestic varsities to pull up their students and compete for students and faculty. This is directly linked to the unspoken policy of using educational institutions to divide political patronage is, therefore, high time we had a shake-up.

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Kapil Sibal questions opposition to foreign investment in education

Education is not for profit

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IISER director among national level science awardees

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BHOPAL: Director of Bhopal-based Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Vinod Singh has been selected for the national level Jawaharlal Nehru Award for outstanding contribution in field of science for the year 2010. The award for the year 2009 would be given to Tushar Kanti Chakraborty, Director, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow.

The state government on Friday announced the nominees for the national and state level awards for outstanding contributions in science, engineering & technology and social sciences.

The National Award in the field of Engineering & Technology for the year 2009 award would go to Vijay Kumar Saraswat, secretary, department of defence research and development and for the year 2010 to ML Munjal, professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

National award in the field of social science for the year 2009 would go to Girishwar Misra of Delhi University and for the year 2010 to Dr Anjula Gurtoo of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.