IIT Madras student found dead

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


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...


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.

Dharward 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- Karnataka" 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.