

IITs yet to take final decision on fee hike

HURDLE Recommendation by Kakodkar committee versus parents' views

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INDORE: In a meeting of directors of all the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) last Saturday, no final decision was taken on fee hike from next session, said director of IIT, Indore Pradeep Mathur.

The biggest challenge before the directors is to maintain a balance between the recommendation by the Kakodkar committee and the response from parents.

Talking to HT Mathur said, "The meeting was inconclusive. Those students who have to bear this cost should be able to get the bank loans. We are still looking into it keeping in mind that all this is managed."

In January, the IIT Council had given its nod to hike the fees after which the undergraduate and masters students at the IITs will have to pay Rs 90,000 a year instead of Rs 50,000 a year at present. Whether this would be the final decision and if this would be implemented in the next session is still under consideration.

"This is under discussion and we had a directors' meeting but that was inconclusive in a way that we have to keep in mind the fee increase and Kakodkar committee report. The two have to be balanced. To which extent and to how it would affect students

from different categories. We had a three/four-hour discussion. It would have other meeting and take the issue to the council," said Mathur.

About 25% of all students who clear the test come from families with incomes less than Rs 4.5 lakh annually and they do not need to pay tuition fee. All scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students - another 22.5% of those admitted - are also exempted from tuition fee. The move is to bridge the gap between the amount the IITs spend on each student - over Rs 2.25 lakh a year - and the fee they collect.