

Research scholars demand a hike in stipend

STAFF REPORTER
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Hundreds of research scholars from the Indian Institute of Science, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore University and NIMHANS, among others, held a silent protest at IISc on Friday demanding a hike in fellowship stipend.

Protesters said the stipend they currently received was insufficient and demanded that the institutes double it. "With increasing

cost of living, it has become very difficult to manage our tuition, mess and hostel fees with the current stipend," said Saloni Kakkar, a senior research fellowship (SRF), IISc.

The scholars want the stipend for PhD students to be revised to ₹50,000 from the current ₹25,000 for Junior Research fellowship (JRF). Senior research fellows who currently get a stipend of ₹28,000 have asked for it to be raised to ₹56,000. They said there had been no assurances from the government despite repeated demands.



Silent protest: Research scholars staging a protest at IISc in Bengaluru on Friday. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN