

Newspaper Clips

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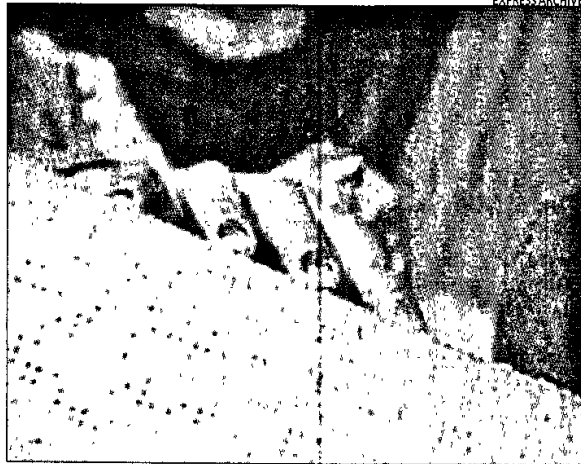
Allow scribes with science background for blind candidates in IIT-JEE exam: HE tells exam body

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 4

PROVIDING relief to a visually challenged student scheduled to take the IIT-JEE exam this year, the Delhi High Court has directed the IIT-JEE examination control body to follow the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and allow him to take the exam with the help of a writer who has studied science at least up to class XI.

The directions of Justice G S Sistani came on a writ petition filed by visually challenged student Kartik Sawhney. He alleged that the present rules governing the IT-JEEP exam were in violation of the guidelines issued by the Department of Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in February, and created several barriers for disabled candidates.

Sawhney, who has passed his Class XII examination, is scheduled to take the IT-JEEP exam



The IIT-JEE rules only allow for scribes with a commerce or humanities to avoid unfair advantage or cheating

on April 7.

The guidelines issued by the ministry on February 26 under the Persons with Disability (equal opportunities, Protection of Rights and full participation) Act state

that a visually challenged person "should have the discretion of opting for his own scribe/reader/ lab assistant or request the examination body for the same... In such instances the candidates should be

allowed to meet the scribe a day before the examination so that the candidate gets a chance to check and verify whether the scribe is suitable or not."

The guidelines also state that alternative questions should be provided for visually and hearing impaired persons in place of those questions which require a visual or descriptive input.

The present rules, however, mandate that a person from commerce or humanities background is provided as scribe by the Central Superintendent of Examinations for the IT-JEEP exam.

"It is the duty and responsibility of the state to create a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities," the court said.

The Centre and the IT-JEEP body in their reply to the petition had informed the court that the examination body could not have incorporated the guidelines passed by the Social Justice Ministry into the rules for this year's examination since the guidelines

were passed on February 26. By then, the exam paper and the rules had already been set. The counsel of IT-JEEP Amit Bansal told the court that the reason for not allowing a scribe with a science background was to avoid unfair advantage or cheating by a candidate.

"Prima facie, there is force in the submission made by the petitioner and his counsel that the blind candidate should be provided with scribe/reader/lab assistant for written examinations with science background as a person of commerce and humanities background will either not be able to identify, read out the question properly or explain the visual inputs to blind candidates," Justice Sistani said.

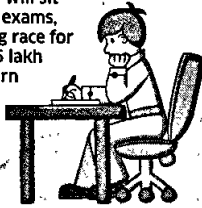
The court then passed interim directions to allow Sawhney to use a scribe who has studied science up to class XI and to meet the scribe one hour before the exam. The court will hear the matter again on April 17.

Double or Nothing: Getting Into an IIT in 2013

Starting Sunday, almost 1.26 million students across the country will sit for the JEE (Main) entrance exams, the first step in the gruelling race for 10,000-odd IIT seats. The 1.5 lakh toppers in this exam will earn the right to face the JEE (Advanced) exams, the second and last leg in the selection process

The less successful applicants will then fight it out for the 25,000 plus seats open at NITs, IIITs and so on

This new exam format was announced in mid-2012 after the HRD ministry's proposal of 'One nation one test' drew criticism from various quarters, including the IITs. The compromise of having a two-tiered test was intended to maintain IIT autonomy



The First Hurdle - JEE Main

DATES:
 April 7 (offline) **10.86 lakh** to appear
 April 8-30 (comp-based) **1.75 lakh** to appear

Exam conducted by: Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) under the supervision of the JEE Apex Board.

For entry into: IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology), NITs (National Institutes of Technology), IIITs (Indian Institutes of Information Technology), other centrally funded technical institutions (CFTIs), institutions funded by several participating state governments including Gujarat, Nagaland, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand & Arunachal Pradesh

Distribution of top 1.5 lakh candidates across categories:

Common merit list - top 75,750 (50.5%)	OBC - top 40,500 (27%) OBC if they belong to non-creamy layer
SC - top 22,500 (15%)	ST - top 11,250 (7.5%)

(3% of seats in each category reserved for candidates with physical disability)

RESULTS TO BE DECLARED BY MAY 7

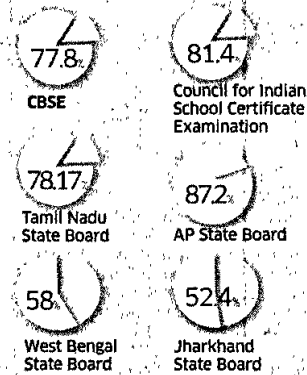
The Second Hurdle - JEE Advanced

DATE: June 2	For entry into: 15 IITs, ITBHU and ISM Dhanbad	Results to be declared: By June 23
Exam conducted by: IITs		

How this year's JEE (Advanced) will be different from last year's IIT-JEE

Levelling out boards, be they high or low-scoring: Till last year, a 60% in Standard 12 was enough for a student to get a shot at an IIT. This year, one has to be in the top 20 percentile of his or her board. For students, it will be a mixed bag. While students in higher-scoring boards will lose out, those in the lower-scoring boards stand to benefit

Minimum % requirements to make it to the top 20 percentile at the Standard XII level (as of 2012)



Till last year, students could sit for two individual exams: the AIEEE (for entrance into IITs and NITs among others; this exam is scrapped this year) and the IIT-JEE. Not faring well in one would not rule out success in another. This year, as the first-stage exam, everything hinges on the JEE Main

Students need to perform well in all the exams: the boards, the JEE Main, as well as the JEE Advanced. Earlier, a majority of IIT aspirants would concentrate primarily on the IIT-JEE above all else

HERE'S A RUN-DOWN OF THE HURDLES INDIA'S BRIGHTEST YOUNG STUDENTS WILL HAVE TO CLEAR TO GET TO THAT ELUSIVE IIT DREAM

Pioneer ND 05/04/2013 p-5

Ministry calls in IIT-Kgp babus for challenging CVC

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

Taking strong exception to IIT-Kharagpur moving the Delhi High Court — challenging Central Vigilance Commission's (CVC) jurisdiction over the 'autonomous' institute — Union HRD Ministry on Thursday summoned its top brass to seek an explanation.

The Ministry's summonses follow the CVC's query on the basis of The Pioneer's report, about grounds on which IIT-Kharagpur took the 'misleading' stand.

Sources said the CVC has directed the HRD Ministry to provide a copy of the affidavit filed by IIT. CVC drew the Ministry's attention to the news report titled 'IIT-Kgp takes CVC head on', published in *The Pioneer* on March 22, and asked if the Ministry was consulted by the institute before filing such an affidavit.

According to Ministry sources, IIT-Kharagpur director-officiating Prof Shankar Kumar Some and Registrar Tapan Kumar Ghosal, under whose name the affidavit is sworn, were summoned by the Ministry for their clarification.

Prof Some had told *The Pioneer* earlier that he was clueless about such an affidavit.

IIT-Kharagpur, a public-funded institute established by

According to CVC Act 2003, the function and powers of the commission is to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration of the various ministries of Central Government or corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by that Government



pioneer impact

an Act of Parliament, in an affidavit on March 21, 2013, stated that it does not fall under the purview of the CVC. "It is pertinent to mention that CVC does not have jurisdiction over the answering respondent (IIT-Kharagpur), being an autonomous institute does not fall within any of the categories mentioned in the CVC's provision," it states in its affidavit in the Delhi High Court.

The affidavit was a precursor to the institute's board of governors (BoG) meet a couple of days later to respond to the CVC's direction to HRD Ministry to initiate major penalty proceedings against three professors — IIT-Patna director Prof AK Bhowmick, IIT-Kharagpur dean and director-select Prof PP Chakraborty

and retired Prof RN Banerjee — indicted in the Rs 40-crore CoalNet scam.

"Investigations are on and the Ministry may ask the institute to fix responsibility so action can be initiated. Such carelessness and misleading the judiciary for some vested interest is unpardonable at least for a famous institute. This is disastrous," said a top HRD Ministry official.

According to CVC Act 2003, the function and powers of the commission is to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration of the various ministries of Central Government or corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by that Government.

Hindustan Times ND 05/04/2013

P-11

Quietly, India makes foreign varsity collaborations harder

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: Only the best foreign universities and the top layer of Indian varsities will be allowed to collaborate under new regulations proposed by the University Grants Commission (UGC), at a time when a long-awaited law to streamline global tie-ups lies entangled in a web of bureaucratic and political indecision.

The UGC regulations will create a mechanism that will allow universities in the US, UK and other developed countries keen to tap the Indian student market an opportunity to join hands with Indian institutions to both offer academic programmes and to conduct research together.

But the new regulations

SEVERAL PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COLLABORATE UNDER NEW UGC REGULATIONS

finalised by the UGC at its last meeting are tougher than the Foreign Educational Institutions (FEI) Bill that global varsities were eyeing as their window into India. The UGC resolved that only “those foreign institutions which are accredited with the highest grade in their homeland should be allowed to collaborate with those Indian institutions which are also accredited with the highest grade by the recognised Indian accrediting agencies.”

Several public universities — including each of Gujarat’s seven universities and Kerala’s two varsities — which have a ‘B’ rating from the National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) will be unable to collaborate under the UGC regulations if the higher education regulator sticks to its resolution.

Internationally, while a few foreign universities — including Duke and VirginiaTech in the US — have expressed interest in setting up campuses in India, many others, including some Ivy League institutions, are keen on increased collaboration with Indian counterparts.



HT Chandigarh

Three IISER students bag German fellowship

HT Live Correspondent

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CHANDIGARH: Three students of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), SAS Nagar bagged the prestigious Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) working internship in science and engineering (WISE) fellowship 2013.

The IISER students, Tanya K Srivastava, Debanjana Kundu and Nidhi Kaihnsa, are pursuing dual BS-MS degree.

They will work for two to three months at the academic institutions across Germany this year.

German Academic Exchange Service a joint organisation of German institutions of higher education and student bodies has given the scholarship to these students.

It is not for the first time that



■ (From left) Tanya K Srivastava, Debanjana Kundu and Nidhi Kaihnsa, who were awarded a German scholarship.

HT PHOTO

IISER students have won the coveted award. Students from IISER had been interning at German Academic Institutes.

German students also keep visiting IISER and work for two to three months at the state-of-the-art research facilities of IISER.

HT Kolkata

THIS CAR DOES 1,000KM ON JUST A LITRE OF FUEL

Asian News International

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ABU DHABI: A team of engineering students from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have designed a car that could potentially travel up to 1,000km on just one litre of fuel.

The lightweight vehicle — which has been named Eco Dubai 1 — is in its final stage of construction and will begin testing in the next two weeks.

The product of almost two years of work by students at the Higher Colleges of Technology Dubai Men's College, the vehicle is half a metre wide, two metres long and half a metre high and weighs about 25kg.

It will enter a race in July against similarly designed cars from around the world,

including four other vehicles produced in the UAE.

Ahmad Khamis Al Suwaidi, one of the students behind the car, said: "Petrol is not going to last forever.

One day we're going to run out. So in terms of developing a local eco-car industry, it starts with us. We're the future of the UAE in this."

The students will put their creation to the test at Shell's Eco-Marathon to be held July 4-7 in Kuala Lumpur.

The competition is based on designing a car that can travel the farthest on just one litre of fuel.

Students are allowed to use electricity, solar or hybrid technologies to reach their goal.

The record for the longest distance travelled is held by students from France's Polytech Nantes University who designed a car that travelled almost 4,900km. Conserving fossil fuel is a global priority.

**THE LIGHTWEIGHT
VEHICLE HAS BEEN
NAMED ECO-DUBAI 1**