

Newspaper Clips

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Govt may ease IIT admission norms

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Drawing flak over the controversial eligibility criteria for admissions to IITs, the Government is considering relaxing the percentile system. The HRD Ministry has asked the Joint Admission Board (JAB) of IITs, the apex body for IIT admissions, to decide on selection norms to clear the prevailing confusion before aspirants get ready for the 2014 entrance test.

The crucial JAB meet is scheduled for Monday which comes soon after the August 14 review meeting conducted by HRD Minister MM Pallam Raju on the issue.

The new two-tier IIT entrance test introduced by Kapil Sibal led to controversies and legal tangles. Incidentally, students from the HRD Minister's home turf were worst affected by this pattern.

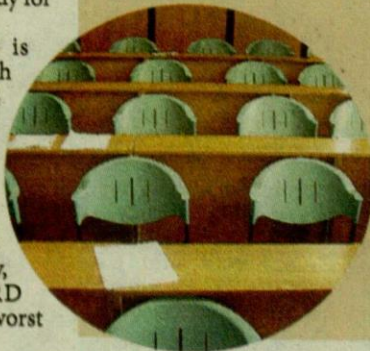
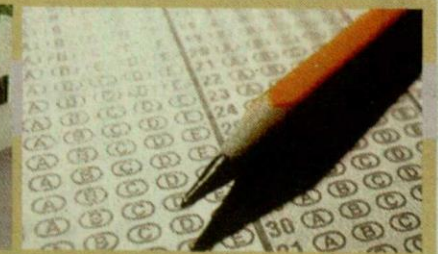
For instance, this year, students scoring 91% from Andhra Pradesh were not eligible for IIT-JEE (Advanced) as they did not fall within the top 20th percentile.

HRD Ministry sources said the eligibility cut-off is expected to be revised upward. In the 2013 two-tier JEE, the eligibility norm was that a candidate has to be in the top 20th percentile in their secondary examination to get into an IIT.

The JAB may relax the 2014 IIT-

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- HRD Ministry has asked JAB, the apex body for IIT admissions, to decide on selection norms to clear the prevailing confusion
- The crucial JAB meet is scheduled for Monday
- The JAB may relax 2014 IIT-JEE (Advanced) norms with fixed eligibility cut-off
- Another possibility open to the JAB is that low scoring school boards like Bihar, West Bengal and UP can continue to adhere to the top 20th percentile as others, like AP, Kerala, can adopt the cut-off mark
- HRD Minister MM Pallam Raju has already reviewed the system on August 14 in the presence of top HRD, IIT and CBSE officials. The review meeting had also discussed to stick to the multiple choice format of IIT-JEE, introduced in 2005-06

JEE (Advanced) norms with fixed eligibility cut-off (say between 70% and 80%). Even in the old format till year 2012, JEE cut-off was 60%.

Another possibility open to the JAB is that low scoring school boards like Bihar, West Bengal and UP can continue to adhere to the top 20th percentile as others, like AP, Kerala, can adopt the cut-off mark (70-80 per cent) criterion.

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system on August 14 in the presence of top HRD, IIT and CBSE officials. The review meeting had also discussed to stick to the multiple choice format of IIT-JEE, introduced in 2005-06.

A two-tier common engineering admission test for entry into all Central Government-funded technical institutes (CFTIs) was announced for the 2013 JEE.

The first part, called JEE-Main, was conducted for selecting students

to all the CFTIs except the IITs. The JEE-Main adopted ranking with 40% weightage to the secondary examination results and 60% to the entrance examination.

The top 1.5 lakh rank holders of JEE-Main took the second part known as Advanced and they had to be in the top 20th percentile to get into IIT. But irony surfaced when many students found that though they qualified Advanced but did not fall in the top 20th percentile.

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Fake maid agency busted, three arrested

Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

New Delhi: A woman from Darjeeling in West Bengal and two others have been arrested for running a maid placement service which was a cover for a theft racket in the capital. Whenever a person in need of a maid contacted her on her mobile, she immediately came down to the victim's house and offered them a choice of two persons. She charged an advance of anything between Rs 5,000 and Rs 50,000, gave the victim 'agreement papers' and insisted they even fill out the police verification form.

A couple of hours later, the newly-inducted maid would feign illness and disappear with whatever she could lay her hands on. Cops have now arrested two women and a man for duping a woman doctor working in a hospital in IIT Delhi. They have been identified as Jitender

THEFT AT DOC'S HOUSE

alias Jitu, Reshma, the Darjeeling resident, and Roopa, Jitu's wife. "The maid placement racket has been earlier arrested in an automobile theft case. In all, there are eight theft cases registered against the gang in Rohini and Sangam Vihar police station areas," additional DCP (south) P S Khuswah said.

According to the complaint of Dr Renu Misrya residing at Hauz Khas, she had contacted Mamta Placement Service on June 16. The caller introduced himself as Anil and promised a trained help within three days. The next day Jitender reached her residence with two women—Roopa and Reshma. He took an advance of Rs 10,000 from the complainant out of a total sum of Rs 20,000.

Around 9pm, when the victim was cooking, Reshma told her that she was not feeling well and would step out for some air. After some time, the complainant went looking for her and found that she had left with valuables from the house. She tried to contact Mamta Placement Service but their phone was switched off.

During interrogation, the trio confessed committing the crime. Five mobile phones, six SIM cards and some blank forms were seized.

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Fall in line with Indian law: HC to FB, Google

Abhinav Garg | TNN

New Delhi: Cracking the whip on social networking sites Facebook and Google Inc, the Delhi high court Friday asked them to fall in line with Indian laws, saying

'just because you are a foreign company you can't flout the law'.

A division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice B D Ahmed and Justice Vibhu Bakhru directed the companies to immediately abide by the Information Technology Act and appoint a 'grievance officer'.

"Like us, you are bound by the rule of law of this

country," the bench comprising Acting Chief Justice B D Ahmed and Justice Vibhu Bakhru reminded the counsels for the networking sites, and asked the Centre to take steps to ensure that the social networking sites



comply with the rules and display the name and contact details of grievance officer to deal with complaints. It sought a response within

two weeks.

HC also expressed concern on data of government agencies being stored in servers abroad and wondered how can agencies like Delhi Police, Indian Rail-

ways create accounts on these websites. It asked the government to explain its stand, after the petitioner alleged that government departments are not entitled to create accounts on social networking sites. Appearing on behalf of former BJP leader K N Govindacharya, his counsel Virag Gupta argued that the government departments are not entitled to open any account on the social networking sites under the Public Records Act. "Since Google and Facebook are keeping the data in their US servers, the public records are transferred outside the country....," the lawyer highlighted.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com