Newspaper Clips
July 10, 2013

JEE chairman allays fears on admissions

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Denied IIT seat, 4 students move court

"Hundreds of seats are available for students of all categories," said JEE (advanced) chairman H C Gupta. "While there are seats available in every IIT, most vacant seats are at ISM-Dhanbad. IT-BHU (now an IIT), which used to have many unfilled seats, does not have as many vacancies this year. It has improved," Gupta said.

After the first round closed in 2009, 505 seats were unfilled; in 2011, 300-odd seats were vacant and came up in the second round. But until a few years ago, IITs did not conduct a second round of admis-

The Andhra Pradesh HC on Monday asked IIT not to fill the seats offered to four Andhra students who were later denied admission citing poor percentile. Justice Ramesh Ranganathan said this was violation of the Article 14 of the Constitution while dealing with a writ petition filed by Anudeep Pendyala and three others. The students contended that they appeared in the JEE (advanced) 2013 after qualifying in JEE Mains and got good ranks in the JEE (advanced). TNN

sions and unfilled seats used to be transferred to the preparatory programme, a bridge course to bring quota students to the mark. In 2008, TOI had campaigned that IITs conduct multiple rounds of admission to fill up colleges' capacity, following which IITs did so and vacancies fell since 2009 (see table).

A 1993 report by former IIT-Madras director P V Indiresan and former IIT-Delhi director N C Nigam had dwelt on the impact of quotas in IITs. "Nearly 50% reserved seats remain vacant as SC/ST students are unable to secure the minimum threshold marks. Of those admitted, almost 25% are told to leave due to poor performance," the 1993 report said.

IIT seats go vacant as 769 refuse to join

Hemali Chhapia | TNN

Mumbai: The Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), where gaining admission is said to be more difficult than entering some Ivy League colleges in the US, have had to go through the ignominy of a second round of allotments to fill up the seats.

A total of 769 students did the unthinkable this year: they refused to study in an IIT after getting in. It's a rare situation where even general category seats in various IITs across the country have remained vacant after the first round of admission.

Previously, only seats meant for reserved categories used to go vacant, but this time there is hope for general category students too as seats are up for grabs. The reasons for not joining varied from "not

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having confidence in the new IITs" to "getting allotments in not-so-popular streams".

The second round of allotment of IIT seats, which starts on Wednesday, offers hope to aspirants to get into top engineering schools of India.

Students who got admitted were offered internal betterment before the second round. So, if a student ranked 1,100 did not take the seat allotted, another with a lower ranking got that place, provided it was opted for in the preference form.

Revised IIT eligibility criteria baffles students, boards alike

Vanita Srivastava

✉ vanita.shrivastava@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Eighty students have been denied admission to IITs after eligibility criteria for students was revised to their mandatory inclusion in the top 20 percentile of their respective boards. Till last year the minimum eligibility was pegged at 60% marks in board exams.

The maximum number of rejections are from IIT Madras (35) followed by IIT Kharagpur (17). Sources said admission denials could have been higher considering that nearly 40,000 students did not appear in the exam even after qualifying.

> **The qualifying students may have decided not to appear because they were not in 20 percentile bracket.**
>
> **IIT OFFICIAL**

"They may have decided not to appear because they were not in 20 percentile bracket."

Several students of the Andhra Pradesh board, who were denied admission under the new criteria, have decided to fight it out in the high court.

The AP high court had on Monday directed the IIT authorities not to fill four seats which were offered to Andhra students and then withdrawn. The court then gave a directive for reserving seats for 9 more students.

The students contended that the top 20 percentile cut offs on their board website at 476 marks was lower than that on the JEE website, which mentioned a cut-off of 487 marks.

"The different cut-off figure is because the boards have uploaded the top 20 percentile cut-offs for those who appeared in the exam... We have clearly mentioned that for eligibility one has to be in top 20 percentile of the successful candidates," says Prof HC Gupta, organising chairperson, JEE (advanced).

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HC seeks Centre, CBSE replies on plea against JEE normalisation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought response from the Central Government and CBSE regarding the "normalisation procedure" for IIT-JEE (Mains) giving 40 per cent weightage to Class XII Board exams. The court issued the notice on an appeal challenging the single judge order that dismissed the plea earlier.

Contending that despite having scored excellent marks in IIT JEE entrance exam the policy denied admission to petitioner and IIT aspirant Arnav Ohri, the petitioner moved an application seeking a stay on "the online registration of students till the final adjudication of the petition" and direction to the JEE Apex Board and JEE Interface Group to "prepare a rank list based only on the JEE marks this year."

This application, against the "normalisation" policy, was dismissed by Justice VK Jain on July 3, saying that "the petitioner participated in the examination procedure knowing very well that 40 per cent weightage will be given to Class XII examination. Hence it may not be open to the petitioner to question the said policy."

Challenging the single judge order, the petitioner, through advocate Aritra Das, appealed to the division bench of Acting Chief Justice BD Ahmed and Justice Vibhu Bakhru who have issued notices to the Human Resource Development Ministry, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), IIT Apex Board and JEE Interface and posted the matter to July 12.

The normalisation procedure, introduced by HRD Minister Kapil Sibal, gives 40 per cent weightage to Class XII Board marks while deciding the All India Rank for admissions in top engineering colleges, including the National Institute of Technologies (NIT). The result for the IIT JEE (Mains) was announced and the counseling is scheduled to end on July 15.

The petition urges that the Government, while adopting the procedure, "has ignored the vital fact that students appear from several boards in India like the CBSE, ICSE, and State Boards like Bihar Board, UP Board and others, which have different curriculums, system of examinations and marking schemes. Therefore, giving 40 per cent weightage to the XII Board exams is arbitrary and unconstitutional."

Counsel for the petitioner urged that while formulating such a policy the HRD Ministry ignored the fact that it's not just the CBSE but there are other boards functioning across the country.

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HRD Min puts measure in place to erase confusion

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

With normalisation of marks for BTech admissions in Centrally-Funded Technical Institutes (CFTIs) running into trouble with a couple of PILs in Delhi and Andhra Pradesh High Courts, the HRD Ministry has taken a preemptive measure.

The Ministry has decided that the candidates who are offered seats through seat allocation processes of JEE (Advanced) 2013 and Central Seat Allocation Board (CSAB) 2013 will go through a Central and Joint Seat Acceptance Process (CJSAP).

The HRD Ministry sources said that under this scheme, the JEE (Advanced) 2013 and CSAB 2013 will have their independent processes of taking choices from the candidates for the seats and doing the seat allocation as per the established norms.
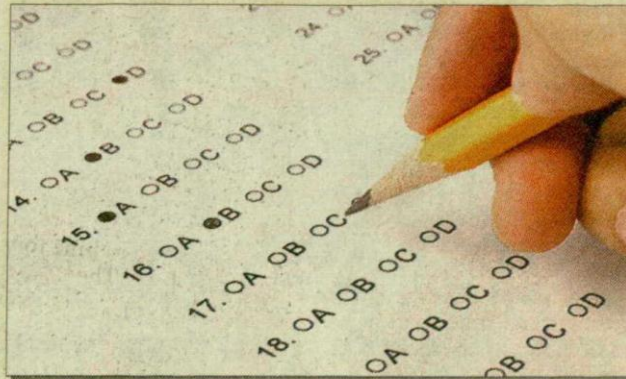
"The candidates who are offered seats through JEE (Advanced) 2013 or through CSAB 2013 will be shown the results of the seat allocation through a joint portal which will be coordinated by Joint Seat Acceptance Committee 2013," said a HRD Ministry official. IIT-Delhi will serve as Secretariat for the Joint Seat Acceptance Committee (JSAC).

JSAC will be responsible for defining the procedure for the Joint Seat Acceptance; maintenance of the website for Joint Seat Acceptance Process; accepting the seat allocated by CSAB and JEE (Advanced) to the candidates and displaying the results through common website and identifying the candidates who are offered a seat only by one of the boards or by both.

"The basic idea is that no seats remain vacant in any of CFTIs. If a candidate is provided two seats, there is an

BTECH ADMISSIONS

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immediate online update to the respective boards as which seat the candidate has retained and returned thus passing on to others seeking admission. The JEE (Advanced) 2013 and CSAB 2013 will be responsible for the decision on the eligibility of the candidates, and thus upgrading the seat acceptance status on the common website," added the official.

The JSAC 2013 will be chaired by Prof GB Reddy from IIT-Delhi and Prof SK Sarangi, Director NIT-Rourkela, Prof HC Gupta, Organising Chairman, JEE (Advanced) 2013, and Vineet Joshi, Chairman CBSE among others as members.

Meanwhile in a related development the Andhra Pradesh High Court has directed IIT not to fill four seats which were offered to

four AP students who were later denied on the ground of poor percentile upon. Justice Ramesh Ranganathan termed the actions of the authorities as violation of Article 14 of constitution while dealing with the writ petition filed by Anudeep Pendyala and three others.

PIL contended that they appeared in the JEE (Advanced) -2013 after qualifying in JEE (Mains) and secured good ranks in the Advanced. But even after getting call letters from IIT Chennai, they were in a state of shock to know that admissions were being denied on ground of low percentile. Another similar matter is lined up in the Delhi High Court and the matter is likely to be taken by the Chief Justice's court on Thursday.

Political & Business Daily ND 10-Jul-13

P-9

Govt to restructure syllabus for IITs to enhanced skills: Reddy

NEW DELHI: The Government is working on restructuring syllabus for engineering colleges so that engineering aspirants are able to develop modern technological skills together with theoretical knowledge, union minister for science & technology and earth sciences, S Jaipal Reddy said at an Assocham function here on Tuesday.

"It is not that students are lacking skills but our syllabus is defective in a way, as such we are trying to restructure the syllabus so that along with theoretical knowledge the engineering and science students are able to develop modern technological skills," Reddy said.

Opening the second National Innovation Summit Cum Awards organised by Assocham he said, "In our policy environment education is not focused on applications and heavily relies upon understanding and imparting knowledge rather than skills to apply." — **PBD**

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Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Minister, Jaipal Redday, Assocham president Rajkumar Dhoot, past president Anil Agarwal, Foundation for Innovation & Technology, IIT Delhi MD Anil Wali pose for a photo with awardees during the Assocham second National Innovation Summit cum Awards Ceremony 2013, in New Delhi —PTI photo

Times of India ND 10-Jul-13   P-6

MHRD seeks DU reply on admissions mess

Manash Pratim Gohain & Shreya Roy Chowdhury | TNN

New Delhi: The ministry of human resource development on Tuesday sought the response of the Delhi University administration over alleged denial of admission to eligible candidates.

While DU has set up an inquiry to probe allegations of denial of admission to students meeting the cutoff criterion, colleges maintain that the chaos is the result of faulty admission policy and students being misled by change in names of six courses to include the word, BTech. Students, meanwhile, allege that the inquiry is an eyewash.

Colleges worst-hit are Maharaja Agrasen, Swami Shraddhanand, College of Vocational Studies, Shyam Lal Anand, Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma and Sri Aurobindo- —reportedly because of either the BTech courses or new launches. Gargi College admitted well over 250 students, five times more than the sanctioned strength for the new launch, economics, at a cutoff of 93% for general category students.

Maharaja Agrasen College, which had to call police to control the situation following unprecedented rush for BTech in computer science, has decided not to admit more students to the course.

"We stopped admissions at 1 pm as per the schedule. The problem lies in the admission policy. The cutoff formula is

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guesswork. Students were not allowed the option of choosing the college. More importantly, the nomenclature change has misled them. BTech computer science is the same as BSc computer science with the same faculty. It is not equiva-

lent to an engineering course offered by the IITs or an engineering college. We admitted students at 67% till July 15 last year and this year we have more than 120 students for 60 seats at 90%," Sunil Sondhi, principal of the college, said.

For the 2013-14 round of admissions, applicants were not asked to indicate their choice of colleges at the pre-admission registration stage. Colleges launching courses couldn't use a fixed number of applicants to decide cut-off marks. In most cases where there has been over-admission, college authorities have misjudged the level of interest and set the cutoffs low.

Harvard to launch gender justice bid

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: Harvard University's Gender Violence Project, established in the wake of the December 16 Delhi gangrape case and the call for action to stop violence against women, will kick off with the 'Gender Justice and Criminal Law Reform Conference' in Delhi on Friday. The aim of the project is to create a sustained relationship among regional partners in order to explore effective legal, educational and social approaches towards promoting gender equality.

The conference will be the first step in sharing ideas with a group of stakeholders from the public and private sectors, focussing on three key areas—law and its enforcement, building good practices and curricular innovation.

HGVP is a joint effort by the Harvard South Asia Institute, Harvard Law School, François-Xavier Bagnoud Centre for Health and Human Rights at Harvard and regional experts working in the area of gender violence prevention and intervention programmes.

Chief guests at the conference include members of the JS Verma Committee——retired judge Leila Seth and former solicitor-general Gopal Subramanian. The keynote address will be delivered by former attorney general Soli J Sorabjee.