

Newspaper Clips

July 12, 2013

Times Of India ND 12/07/2013 P-6

JEE 'marks swap' triggers protest

Radhika Das &
Kritika Gupta | TNN

New Delhi: The confusion over the normalization process for admission to National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and other central government technical education-

Sanjay Sekhri



FURORE OVER FORMULA

al institutes led to a protest at the CBSE office in Preet Vihar on Thursday morning. About sixty candidates gathered outside the office—the board conducted the Joint Entrance Examination Main in April.

The new process—decided after the exam had been conducted—is being described as one of “swapping marks” by candidates who have had their ranks altered drastically under the new system. “I scored 228 in the JEE

Main and was expecting my rank to be around 7,000,” said Ritwik who has just graduated from Sardar Patel Vidyalaya. “Now, due to the introduction of normalization, my rank is around 21,000. My career is at stake. I won’t get into any good college or be able to opt for a course of my choice,” he added.

According to the protesters, CBSE joint secretary S P Rana met a few people to inform them that the board has only conducted the exam and the formula for normalization has been devised by the vice-chancellor of BITS Pilani. With the change in ranks brought about by the formula—the number of students writing a particular board exam also matters—the candidates have to change their courses along with colleges. Candidates from outside Delhi participated in the protest as well. Arth, from Jaipur, managed a score of 218 and was hoping to study in Delhi. Now he’s not so sure. The protesters later headed towards the apex court and were given a hearing date in August.

Indian Express ND 12/07/2013 P-12

Apex court refuses to interfere in JEE process

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 11

THE Supreme Court Thursday declined to interfere now with the new “normalisation” policy to prepare the merit list for admission to centrally-funded engineering colleges, based on Class XII board marks and Joint Entrance Exam (JEE).

A Bench of Justices H L Dattu and Dipak Misra, however, agreed to hear the plea of a group of parents of engineering aspirants and sought the Centre’s response on the new policy. The new mechanism takes into account a candi-

date’s performance in Class XII exams and the corresponding score in JEE.

The Bench said it was leaving open the basic question whether SC could entertain a petition challenging the education policy of the central government in a writ petition. “This is the first hurdle you (petitioner) will have to cross,” said the Bench.

Around 25,000 students are selected every year for all the 30 National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology and other top tech schools, except the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

Deccan Herald ND 12/07/2013 P-8

SC refuses to interfere in admission policy of NITs, others

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to interfere with the government policy for deciding the merit list of students seeking admission to B.Tech/BE courses in centrally-funded National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and other institutions, based on marks obtained in 12th board exam and Joint Entrance Exam (JEE).

A bench of Justices H L Dattu and Dipak Misra, however, agreed to hear the plea of parents of engineering aspirants, against the new "normalisation" policy determined by the NITs council recently.

The court said that it would

deal with the merit of the case only after being satisfied that the new education policy violated fundamental rights of students.

Seeks Centre's response

Even though, the bench noted, that similar pleas were made in different High Courts, they decided to seek response from the Centre on the writ petition. Around 25,000 students are selected every year for the 30 NITs, Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) and other top technology schools, besides the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

DH News Service

IIT, NIT admissions in a tangle

CSAB system rejected by IITs for this year; SC refuses interim order

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

Compounding the Centre's woes amid the prevailing confusion over admissions in Centrally-funded technical institutes (CFTIs), IITs have refused to fall in line with the HRD Ministry's order for a joint Central seat allocation board (CSAB), 2013.

The Ministry had aimed to set up to fill up all seats from this session, as till last year, 500 seats remained vacant on an average.

In the meantime, the Supreme Court on Thursday refused to pass the interim order on a plea challenging the new normalisation policy. The plea challenges the policy for deciding merit list for admission in Government-funded engineering colleges based on class XII board marks and Joint Entrance Exam (JEE).

A Bench of Justices HL Dattu and Dipak Misra, said it would hear the petition on merit only after being satisfied that the education policy violates fundamental rights of students. The Bench, however, agreed to hear out parents of engineering aspirants.

SCORING LOW ON CLARITY

- Supreme Court has refused to pass an interim order on a plea challenging the new normalisation policy
- Plea challenges the policy for deciding merit list for admission in Government-funded engineering colleges based on Class XII board marks and JEE
- Bench of Justices HL Dattu and Dipak Misra, said it would hear the petition on merit only after being satisfied that education policy violates fundamental rights of students
- Idea behind CSAB and the new seat allocation system was that the central pooling system would have a fair idea of the remaining vacant seats once the candidate with multiple options expresses his/her desire to take admission at a particular place
- An IIT-Delhi professor said CSAB 2013 could not be implemented due to delay in declaration of scores and counselling process. By the time the decision was taken by the HRD Ministry, counselling for IITs was underway and the process for admission to NITs was initiated

In different PILs, the Delhi High Court is also likely to take up the matter on Friday even as Andhra Pradesh High Court has already asked IIT not to fill four seats challenged by petitioners on grounds of "erratic" system of normalisation of marks.

The CSAB issue was clarified by IIT Delhi JEE (Advanced) website on Thursday, stating that after MHRD orders and subsequent publishing of matter in print media, it was decided that for 2013, seat allotment in IITs and NITs will be independently done and not according to the CSAB 2013 system.

"This will supersede any

other information on this matter published earlier either in the print media or on websites of JEE (Main) or JEE (Advanced)," says the order.

The Pioneer had, this week, carried a report about the Ministry's decision to offer seats through allocation processes of JEE (Advanced) 2013 and CSAB 2013, which will go through a central & joint seat acceptance process (CJSAP).

An IIT-Delhi professor, requesting anonymity since the matter is sub-judice, said CSAB 2013 could not be implemented due to delay in declaration of scores and counselling process. By the time the decision was taken by the HRD Ministry,

counselling for IITs was underway and the process for admission to NITs was initiated.

The idea behind the new seat allocation system was that the central pooling system would have a fair idea of the remaining vacant seats once the candidate with multiple options expresses his/her desire to take admission at a particular place.

The JSAC 2013 was supposed to be chaired by Professor GB Reddy from IIT-Delhi, with director of NIT-Rourkela Professor SK Sarangi, organising chairman of JEE (Advanced) 2013 Prof HC Gupta and CBSE chairman Vineet Joshi as members, among others.

Amar Ujala ND 12/07/2013 P-10

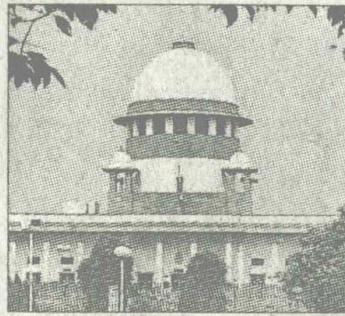
जेईई, 12वीं के अंकों से ही बनेगी मेरिट

शीर्ष कोर्ट का अंतरिम आदेश जारी करने से इंकार, लेकिन याचिका पर सुनवाई करेगी अदालत

● अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सरकार से वित्त प्राप्त करने वाले इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में प्रवेश के लिए लाई गई नई नीति को चुनौती देने वाली याचिका पर अंतरिम आदेश जारी करने से बृहस्पतिवार को इंकार कर दिया। अब प्रवेश पाने वाले छात्रों की मेरिट लिस्ट इस नीति के तहत ही तैयार की जाएगी, जो 12वीं बोर्ड के अंकों और संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जेईई) पर आधारित होगी।

जस्टिस एचएल दत्त और जस्टिस दीपक मिश्रा की पीठ ने हालांकि इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में आवेदन करने वाले छात्रों के परिजनों की याचिका पर सुनवाई की अनुमति प्रदान कर दी, जिन्होंने नई सामान्यकरण नीति को चुनौती दी



● इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में प्रवेश की नई नीति को सर्वोच्च अदालत में दी गई है चुनौती

है। पीठ ने कहा कि अदालत इस मामले में योग्यता के आधार पर सुनवाई करेगी। लेकिन उसे इस पर संतुष्ट किया जाए कि संबंधित शिक्षा नीति से छात्रों के मूल अधिकार का उल्लंघन हो रहा है। हालांकि इस साल छात्रों को उनके जेईई में

● चयन के लिए जेईई में मिले अंकों को 60 प्रतिशत वेटेज और बोर्ड परीक्षा में प्राप्त अंकों को 40 प्रतिशत वेटेज दिया जाएगा

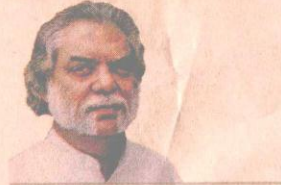
प्रदर्शन और कक्षा 12वीं के बोर्ड परीक्षाओं में मिले अंकों के आधार पर ही चुना जाएगा। चयन के लिए जेईई में मिले अंकों को 60 प्रतिशत वेटेज और बोर्ड परीक्षा में प्राप्त अंकों को 40 प्रतिशत वेटेज दिया जाएगा। करीब 25 हजार छात्रों को

प्रतिवर्ष देशभर के 30 प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों में प्रवेश के लिए चुना जाता है। इनमें भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) के अलावा भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान व अन्य शीर्ष प्रौद्योगिकी कॉलेज शामिल हैं। याचिकाकर्ता की ओर से पीठ के समक्ष पेश हुए वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता यूयू ललित ने ने तर्क दिया कि सामान्यकरण नीति के सिद्धांत पूरी तरह से विदेशी हैं।

उन्होंने अंतरिम आदेश जारी करने की मांग करते हुए याचिका को अनुमति प्रदान करने की गुजारिश की। तब पीठ ने ललित से कहा कि पहले उन्हें याचिका की योग्यता पर अगली सुनवाई में अदालत को अपने तर्कों से सहमत करना होगा। अदालत ने केंद्र को इस याचिका पर चार सप्ताह में जवाब दाखिल करने का निर्देश दिया है।

Why have some students rejected IIT?

The inference that the IIT brand name has been devalued is unfair; this could as well reflect a wider market for student choices



DINESH MOHAN

The results of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)-Advanced were declared last week. The successful applicants are eligible for admission to the seven older Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), eight IITs established recently, IIT (BHU) Varanasi and ISM-Dhanbad. A newspaper report says: "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."

This report and anecdotal information gives the impression that the "brand name" of IITs may be somewhat devalued. This is not entirely fair, as having the same name does not necessarily mean that all campuses will have the same quality of education. For example, the University of California has 10 different campuses but all of them do not have the same reputation as the one located at Berkeley. In our case, you really cannot expect the eight new IITs to have the same reputation, in a few years, as the older ones that have been around for more than five decades.

The fact is we neglected the establishment of quality public education institutions, both at the school and university level for over three decades. This is reflected by the fact that out of approximately 300,000 seats available in the engineering stream in the country, about 10,000 are in the IITs. Another 15,458 seats are available in National Institutes of Technology (NITs). Which means that less than 10 per cent of those aspiring to be engineers can do so at reasonable costs and get a decent education. Among the private institutions less than 10 per cent seem to be providing somewhat quality education.

Then why have some of the eligible students decided not to study at the IITs? There could be many reasons.



BUILDING BLOCK The mechanical engineering workshop at Indian Institute of Technology, Patna. The eight new IITs cannot be expected to have the same reputation, in a few years, as the older ones that have been around for more than five decades

Students have become acutely aware that all disciplines do not offer challenging or rewarding jobs after graduation (such as civil, production, textile, and many others). Therefore, some of them may prefer to go to an NIT closer to home that gives them an opportunity in a discipline of their choice. Studying at an IIT for undergraduate students can cost about ₹20,000 a month, not a small amount for a middle-class family. Some of those declining may have opted to spend less by studying at a local NIT instead of a new IIT and save on hostel expenses.

A significant proportion of the students entering IITs know from day one that they are not interested in an engineering career, but do so under parental and societal pressure or a lack of choices for obtaining decent education. If there was a good supply of excellent liberal arts and science colleges with hostel facilities, applications to IITs may drop by a third. It is possible that some

of those declining an admission to IIT have gained admission to good law schools, design schools or science colleges that have made a name for themselves in recent years.

Lastly, there would be a group of young men and women who would prefer to spend much more money and go to an institution in the US, Australia, Singapore or the UK, even a second-rate one, than take admission in a discipline and IIT location they don't like. Therefore, the fact that many applicants have opted out of the IIT system may be a good sign, showing that we have more choices and the system is maturing. It certainly does not reflect on the standing of IITs as academic institutions in India. Some newspaper reports have suggested that the applicants may not want to enter the new IITs because they may be inferior to the old ones. Such comments are not entirely true. Admission data show that many students with high ranks in the

JEE are selecting newer IITs over the older ones. The reasons are not entirely clear, but it seems that discipline and location may be playing an important role.

The insinuation that the IITs may have deteriorated in academic excellence is absolutely unfounded. As far as research output is concerned, the academic quality of faculty members at all the IITs has improved considerably over the past two decades. Now, the older IITs get significantly more research and consultancy contracts than they did a decade ago and postgraduate students comprise about 60 per cent of our production. Some of the newer IITs are also making brave efforts to modernise curricula and break out of older ways of academic functioning.

I am not really worried about some students opting out of the IIT system. Given the anti-intellectual character of the Indian decision-makers (politicians, bureaucrats and business peo-

ple) over the past few decades, the IIT system has survived reasonably well and brought us where we are. The future is going to be more challenging. The IIT system itself will have to shed its silo mentality and embrace new disciplines, encourage lateral entry at senior levels, and become much more interdisciplinary in nature. No major centre of learning has maintained its standing without doing this. The IIT system will also need an enabling environment that makes it possible for them to thrive academically. Potential teachers need to get a free education right through primary school to PhD. Products of IITs need to find jobs that require the use of their technical education and challenge their brains. This will need some doing.

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बिज़नेस स्टैंडर्ड वर्ष 6 अंक 125 खाली पड़ी सीटें

हाल में आई खबरों के मुताबिक 769 विद्यार्थियों ने कठिन संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण करने के बावजूद भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) में दाखिला नहीं लेने का फैसला किया। इसका आवश्यक तौर पर यह अर्थ नहीं है कि उक्त सीटें खाली रह जाएंगी, क्योंकि बुधवार को ही दूसरे दौर

के आवंटन की प्रक्रिया भी आरंभ हो गई। इसके बावजूद उन छात्रों की संख्या में तेजी से बढ़ोतरी हुई है जो आईआईटी में दाखिला नहीं लेना चाहते हैं। आश्चर्य नहीं कि यह रवैया नए बने आईआईटी में ज्यादा है। सरकार ने वर्ष 2009 में पटना, जोधपुर, भुवनेश्वर, हैदराबाद, गांधीनगर, इंदौर, मंडी

और रोड़ में आठ नए आईआईटी कैंपस शुरू किए थे।

एक ओर यह इस बात का स्पष्ट संकेत है कि कॉलेजों का बाजार सही तरीके से काम कर रहा है। लेकिन फिर भी खड़गपुर, दिल्ली, मुंबई, चेन्नई, कानपुर और अब वाराणसी तथा रुड़की स्थित पुराने आईआईटी कैंपस तथा नए कैंपसों के बीच भारी अंतर मौजूद है। अनेक छात्र संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण करने में कामयाब रहे लेकिन वे अपनी पसंद का आईआईटी नहीं मिलने पर अन्य इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज मसलन राजस्थान के पिलानी स्थित बिड़ला इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी एंड साइंस अथवा किसी अन्य राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान में दाखिला

लेना बेहतर समझेंगे। हालांकि यह कुछ चिंता का विषय है कि नए आईआईटी की स्थापना के पांच साल बाद भी दोनों के बीच अंतर इतना ज्यादा है। यह बात पूरी तरह चकित करने वाली नहीं है। नए संस्थानों के लिए अच्छे शिक्षक तलाशना चुनौती बना हुआ है। उनका परिसर अभी तक अधूरा है और कर्मचारियों को अन्य आईआईटी के उलट रिहाइश का विकल्प भी नहीं है। इन तमाम बातों के बीच आखिर सरकार इनको आईआईटी कहती ही क्यों है? ध्यान देने वाली बात यह है कि उस वक्त भी आईआईटी परिषद ने बड़े पैमाने पर ऐसे विस्तार के विरुद्ध चेतावनी दी थी।

ऐसे में यह कहा जा सकता है कि सरकार

की मुख्य चिंता आईआईटी के ब्रांड नाम को बचाना नहीं बल्कि इंजीनियरिंग में दाखिले के लिए सीट बढ़ाना होना चाहिए। उसके बाद बाजार और गुणवत्ता को लेकर लोगों की धारणा बाकी का काम कर देगी। यह बात ध्यान देने योग्य है कि इंजीनियरिंग के छात्र अपने कॉलेज की गुणवत्ता को लेकर सजग हो गए हैं। महाराष्ट्र में जहां ढीले नियम कायदों के चलते इंजीनियरिंग सीटों में जबरदस्त इजाफा हो गया है, वहां अनेक कॉलेजों के स्थानीय बाहुबलियों से रिश्ते हैं। इन कॉलेजों में इस साल 50,000 सीटें खाली रहें क्योंकि छात्रों को शिक्षण की गुणवत्ता की चिंता है। चाहे जो भी हो पुराने आईआईटी में शिक्षकों की संख्या को कतई मानक नहीं

बनाया जाना चाहिए। कुछ अध्ययनों पर भरोसा करें तो स्नातक और स्नातकोत्तर दोनों स्तरों पर छात्रों की गणना की जाए तो पुराने आईआईटी में छात्र-शिक्षक अनुपात लगभग 8 है। प्रत्येक शिक्षक के बिम्बे आए इन छात्रों में से स्नातक और स्नातकोत्तर दोनों स्तरों पर 1.2 छात्र ही उत्तीर्ण होते हैं। तुलनात्मक दृष्टि से देखा जाए तो अमेरिका के शीर्ष सरकारी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज में यह औसत स्नातक स्तर पर 3.5 और स्नातकोत्तर स्तर पर 1.4 है। लेकिन असल मुद्दा यह है कि छात्र अब आईआईटी की ओर भाग नहीं रहे हैं। उनके पास और भी विकल्प हैं। इसके अलावा विभिन्न संस्थानों की गुणवत्ता में भी अंतर है।



Former president APJ Abdul Kalam gives away the degree certificates to the graduating students.



Girls wore either sari or salwar-kurta while the boys wore either dhoti-kurta or pyjama-kurta.

IIT-BHU STUDENTS TURN ETHNIC FOR GRAD CEREMONY

THE FIRST convocation of IIT-BHU, held on Wednesday, may set a trend for such functions in the future.

Doing away with the colonial black gown and hat, the new technocrat boys were in white *dhoti-kurta* or *pyjama-kurta* and girls in white sari or *salwar-kurta*, when they appeared

By **Piyush Srivastava** in Lucknow

before former President and chief guest APJ Abdul Kalam. Kalam was surprised by the sight but later congratulated them on their decision.

There were 113 meritorious students from 2010, 2011 and 2012 batches who

received their gold medals from the former President. They were a total of 2,383 students including those who had taken admission in 2006-07 onwards who received their degrees on this occasion.

"It was an effort to break free from the shackles of colonial practices and

return to the our tradition. Nothing could be more appropriate than starting this practice from the holy city of Varanasi," professor Surendra Kumar, dean of IIT-BHU, said.

Rajeev Sangal, IIT-BHU director said the convocation for the 2013 will be held separately in October.

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Prez to visit State for IIT convocation



PBD BUREAU

BHUBANESWAR, JULY 11

PRESIDENT, Pranab Mukharjee, will come on a visit to the State in September to deliver keynote address at the convocation of Bhubaneswar IIT.

Speaking to media persons after meeting Chief Secretary, JK Mohapatra, this evening at secretariat, SK Rungta, the MD of Vedanta Aluminium and Chairman of the governing body of IIT, Bhubaneswar, said that he discussed with the chief secretary about the arrangements required for the visit of the President for the convocation.

Rungta made it clear that his meeting with chief secretary was completely a courtesy call after the latter assumed charge on July 1 and his discussion was concerned to the visit of the President only. However, industry watchers in the state read meaning into this visit which assumes significance in the wake of speculation of resumption of production from Vedanta's Lanjigarh refinery, which was shut down since December, 2012, for acute shortage of bauxite.

Hindustan Times ND 12/07/2013 P-12

It's time to say hello to Dr Cellphone

Mou Chakraborty

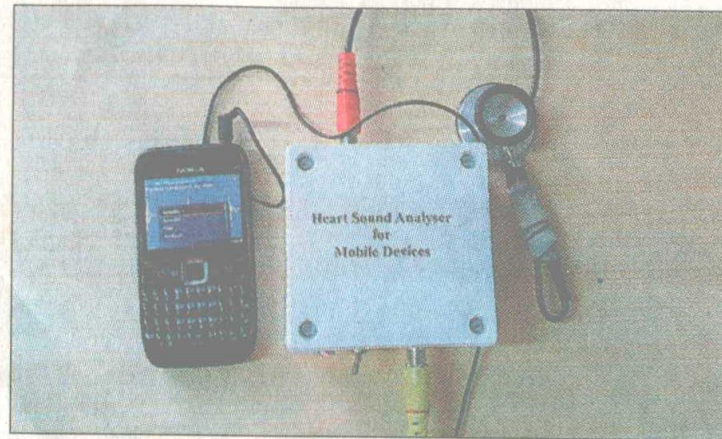
■ mou.chakraborty@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: An IIT professor and his student have come up with a combination of a smartphone application and a device which can record the user's heartbeat and pulse rate, do the ECG and also tell if one needs to consult a doctor.

All one has to do is download the application on the phone and buy the device, which comes with leads, a stethoscope and a small box.

A patient can attach the leads or the stethoscope to the box, depending on what he wants, and plug in the wire coming out of the box to the headphone port.

"The readings will be



■ A device that will enable cellphones to perform an ECG HT PHOTO

displayed on the phone screen and patients can then SMS, MMS or email them to their doctors," says Goutam Saha of IIT-Kharagpur's department of electronics and electrical communication,

who, along with his research student Ashok Mandal, has come up with this invention.

Saha and Mandal put in three years of rigorous research before they came up with the product.

"No special training is

needed to use the technology. There's an instruction leaflet and the user just has to follow it," Saha said.

According to the inventors, those using basic handsets can also use this facility. However, smartphone users will be able to get the readings quicker.

The application for the invention's intellectual property right, to be owned by IIT-Kharagpur, has been recently filed.

"The discussion with a medical-equipment manufacturing company based in US and Kolkata is on. It is interested in commercialising our cardiac analysis portfolio. We are planning to add diagnostic features after multi-centre trials," Saha said.