

# IIT Bombay Seeks Change in Test Formula

### IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur may back the proposal to reduce students from JEE Main to 50,000

**OUR POLITICAL BUREAU  
NEW DELHI**

If human resource development minister Kapil Sibal thought that he had managed to put the IIT common entrance examination debacle behind him, then he is mistaken. The compromise over the IIT admission test hammered out late last month has run in to trouble. The Senate of the IIT Bombay now wants fewer students from the JEE Main. Instead of the proposed 1,50,000 students it has suggested to absorb 50,000. It is expected that the Senates of IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur will echo the modification suggested by their colleagues in IIT Bombay.

In the formula hammered out at the special meeting of the IIT Council on June 27, it was agreed that only the top 1.5 lakh students, across all categories, in the JEE

Main will be eligible to appear for the JEE Advanced. Admission to the IITs will be based on the category wise—general, OBC, SC and ST—ranking of performance in the JEE Advanced. Students shortlisted on the basis of performance in the JEE Advanced must be among the top 20 percentile in the applicable category—general, OBC, SC and ST—in their respective boards.

IIT Bombay wants the pool of students shortlisted from the JEE Main to be reduced to 50,000. It has argued that there are only 9,640 seats in the IITs. Therefore it doesn't make sense to shortlist more than 50,000 students. This would give them a ratio of 10 students per seat. A larger number of students for the JEE Advanced would only serve to put pressure on the IIT's entrance examination machinery.

Another reason behind keeping the number of shortlisted students down to 50,000 is the nature of the JEE Advanced examination.

**IIT Bombay argues that since there are only 9,640 seats in the IITs, it doesn't make any sense to shortlist more than 50,000 students**

The IITs have been actively considering moving to a subjective test, as against the objective multiple choice kind of test. While there are differences among the IITs over whether the subjective test should be the paper and pencil variety or machine readable, there is little disagreement over the fact that the current objective type of test is not acceptable. A higher number of students, such as the 1,50,000 suggested in the compromise formula would make

this shift difficult.

The IIT system will be wholly responsible for the JEE Advanced examination. Performance in the JEE Advanced would determine the student's chances of getting admission to the IITs. Under the new formula, it is only the IITs that will consider performance in the JEE Advanced. For admission to all other centrally funded institutes, including the National Institutes of Technology, IITs, the JEE Advanced has no role to play. This is also the case with state engineering institutions and deemed universities, which want to join in the common entrance examination.

Earlier, the Senate of IIT Madras ratified the compromise formula completely. The IIT Kanpur Senate is slated to meet on Saturday and IIT Delhi soon after. Both are expected to suggest a modification on the lines of IIT Bombay.

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# IIT-B accepts new entrance format

### But recommends 50,000 students for JEE Advanced; IIT-Kanpur to decide on July 28

MIHIKA BASU

MUMBAI, JULY 25

**T**HE new test for admission to the IITs has received the stamp of approval from IIT-Bombay senate, but with a rider. In a special senate meeting on Wednesday, members approved the implementation of the compromise formula for admission to the IITs from 2013, but recommended that instead of 1.5 lakh students, JEE Main should be used to screen 50,000 students for

JEE Advanced.

The senate of IIT-Madras has already approved the new format.

The JEE compromise formula will be deliberated upon by IIT-Kanpur at a meeting on July 28. The meeting could be crucial since IIT-Kanpur senate led the protest against the HRD Ministry's original Common Entrance Test format and had announced holding a separate JEE.

According to the compromise formula, which was approved by the IIT Council

on June 27, class 12 marks will be used as a cut-off to screen students for admission to the IITs.

Aspirants will have to give JEE Main and it will be used to screen the top 1.5 lakh candidates who will appear for JEE Advanced.

The JEE Advanced, to be conducted and managed by the IITs, will be held after JEE Main test and there will be a gap between the two exams.

Admissions to the IITs will be based on all-India rank in JEE Advanced and

will be subject to the condition that such candidates are in the top 20 percentile of successful candidates of their class 12 boards.

However, IIT-Bombay senate said that since JEE Advanced is exclusively for IIT admissions, the number of candidates giving this exam needs to be brought down to 50,000.

"We have accepted the June 27 decision of the IIT Council, but have recommended that number of students who will appear for JEE Advanced should be

limited to five times the number of seats available across the IITs and that roughly comes to 45,000-50,000," said K Narasimhan, president of All India IIT Faculty Federation and IIT-Bombay senate member.

Sources said an official communication is expected next week and could be sent to the Joint Admission Board. While the JAB will decide the format of JEE Advanced, several IIT senates have recommended a subjective test. **WITH ENS DELHI**

## JEE: IIT BOMBAY APPROVES 20 PERCENTILE FORMULA

Vanita Srivastava

vanita.srivastava@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** IIT Bombay on Wednesday approved, in principle, the 20 percentile formula for the IIT JEE 2013 which was announced by the IIT Council on June 27.

After wide-ranging discussions on different aspects, the senate, however, made a recommendation that the number of students selected for the advanced exam should be around five times the number of IIT seats.

The council had proposed that 1.5 lakh students be screened for the advanced exam. The IIT Bombay senate suggested that around 50,000 students should be filtered for the advanced exam.

"There was a lot of debate on why 1.5 lakh students be screened for the advanced exam. Now that NITs are not part of the advanced exam, we suggested that the number should be less, essentially five times the number of seats, which comes around 50,000," said Prof Narasimhan, president of All India IIT Faculty Federation.

Faced with protest from the faculty on the proposal in which weightage was given to board exam marks, the Joint Admission Board of IIT had proposed a compromise formula in which only the top 20 percentile of board candidates could be eligible for IIT exam next year. The proposal was later accepted by the council.

But the proposal had to be approved by the senates of older IITs too. IIT Madras was the first to accept the new pattern. IIT Kanpur is meeting on July 28 to discuss it.

The new pattern will have two segments — JEE (main) and JEE (advanced). The JEE (main) will be a screening exam and will filter the top 1.5 lakh candidates for the JEE (advanced). The JEE (advanced), which will be conducted by the IITs, will be held four-five weeks after the JEE (main).

## Govt Considers Offering Engg Courses Via Distance Mode

OUR POLITICAL BUREAU

NEW DELHI

Keen to ensure that by 2020 at least 30 out of every 100 person in the age group of 17 to 22 receive higher education, the government has turned its attention to sprucing up and increasing offering in the open and distance learning sector. This includes providing engineering courses through this route, making open and distance learning degrees equivalent to conventional university degrees and setting up an independent regulatory regime.

A government-appointed committee, headed by founder-director of the National Law School of India, Madhava Menon, has suggested that technical courses like engineering be offered through the open and distance mode.

The technical education regulator, All India Council for Technical Education, however is of the view that distance education programmes in engineering should not be offered till standards have been formulated. Keeping engineering outside the ambit of open and distance education has meant that enrolment in technical and professional courses, which is restricted to management and computer application, in the distance mode is less than 10%.

Aware of the fact that fiscal constraints will make the expansion of the conventional route for engineering education slow, the human resource development ministry had asked the AICTE to set up a committee to formulate standards and work out a mechanism for offering engineering education in the distance mode.

Earlier this month, AICTE set up a committee headed by IIT Kanpur director SG Dhande to suggest how courses in technical streams, mainly B.Tech programmes, could be offered in the open and distance learning mode. The committee will submit its report in three months. The committee will consider if information communication technology (ICT), which has increased access to education in recent years, could be a tool in teaching engineering through the distance mode.

Earlier another committee, headed by IIT Kanpur chairman M Anandkrishnan, had looked into the possibility of offering engineering courses through the open and distance learning route. The Anandkrishnan Committee felt that engineering courses could be offered through the distance learning mode provided students had access to adequate facilities for practical training. This was essential as virtual labs cannot replace actual labs and many experiments cannot be conducted in virtual labs.

## **STATUS OF THE NEW PROPOSAL**

The new proposal has to be debated and ratified by the senates of the seven old IITs. The IITs at Kharagpur, Guwahati and Roorkee and Delhi are yet to fix on a date for their senate meeting. IIT Kanpur has scheduled its senate meeting on Saturday. IIT-Madras accepted the reforms in principle at a meeting earlier this month. After all the senates have discussed the proposal, it will be sent back to the Council.

# 'Design your own degrees' at Delhi University

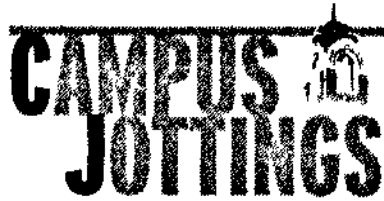
Delhi University has started admissions for its B.Tech. humanities degree in which students are allowed to "design their own degrees". A number of core courses will be offered at the Cluster Innovation Centre from August onward. Additionally, a student has the option of attending classes of various colleges offering courses like journalism, education, historical tourism, counselling and art and design.

The student must already be enrolled in Delhi University to be eligible to apply. Around 40 seats are available and the entrance test is scheduled for August 5. More information is available on [www.cic.du.ac.in](http://www.cic.du.ac.in) or [www.du.ac.in](http://www.du.ac.in)

The University will also hold face-to face allotment of seats for Scheduled Caste candidates from Friday to Sunday.

Candidates who have scored between 55 per cent and 64.99 per cent and could not collect provisional admission slips or were not allotted any course or college or could not take admissions for any other reason have been advised to attend.

The University has said that once the seats have been



filled, the allotment will stop. If there are still any seats left after the allotment session, a notice to the effect will be uploaded on the University's website on Sunday by 6 p.m.

Apeejay Stya University, Gurgaon, has invited applications for its B.Tech. course in Electronics and Communication Engineering. This programme, along with other B.Tech. programmes, will be offered at the School of Engineering and Technology. Scholarships and financial aid are also available. The course is for four years. Application forms are available online, or at the university campus and all Apeejay schools and higher education institutions across the country. More details are available at [www.apeejay.edu](http://www.apeejay.edu)

Manav Rachna International University, Faridabad, has opened admissions for its Bachelor of Science in Hotel Management at its faculty of applied sciences. It is a full-

time three-year course divided into six semesters and includes practical training. A minimum score of 55 per cent in Class X examinations is the eligibility criterion. The course costs Rs.98,500 per annum, including a refundable caution deposit of Rs.5,000. There are 40 seats available and admissions will remain open until the seats are filled. More information is available at <http://www.mriu.edu.in/index.php/faculty-of-applied-sciences-programmes/bachelor-of-science-hotel-management>.

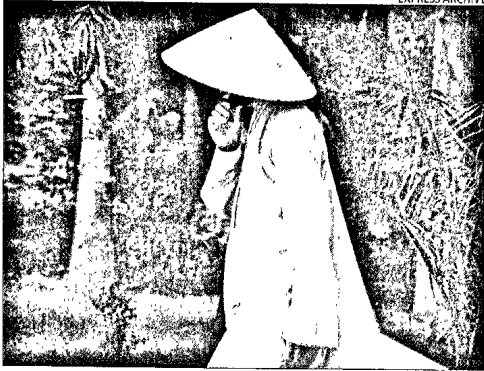
Asia Pacific Institute of Management, Delhi, has invited applications for admission to its post-graduate diploma programme in management with specialisations in marketing, international business, banking and financial services. A bachelor's degree with a minimum 50 per cent score is required to apply. Selection is based on CAT/MAT/XAT scores, past academic record, work experience, group discussions and a personal interview. The last date for applying is August 3.

— Vijetha S.N

**CITY ANCHOR** NEARLY 40 PER CENT OF THEM FAIL IN EXAMS; UNIVERSITY MULLS MECHANISM TO HELP THEM

# Language a barrier, DU foreign students get mentors

EXPRESS ARCHIVE



Foreign students find it tough to follow lectures in English

ADITI VATSA

NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE DELHI University (DU) colleges attract almost 400 foreign students every year, but nearly 40 per cent of them fail in the exams because they are unable to overcome the "language barrier".

Veena Mishra, Dean of International Relations at the university, said: "Almost 40 per cent of them fail. Language is a major barrier. Foreign students from Korea, Tibet and Bhutan find it difficult to follow what is being taught in class."

As a result, a lot of re-admissions in the same class take place

every year.

To help them tide over their problems, 20 colleges have appointed mentors and counsellors. Dr Rakesh Parasher, a mentor in Kirorimal College, said: "Students from Mauritius, Korea and Tibet find it extremely hard to cope with the situation. There should be some language course to help them follow the lectures."

"I recommend that orientation sessions should be conducted for foreign students at colleges. The students should be made aware of helpline numbers and groups in case of emergency," Parasher said.

Existing measures such as involving foreign students in col-

lege activities weren't enough," he said.

Tibetan girl Tenzin Norzom illustrated the predicament of the foreigners studying in DU.

"I studied English (Honours) in Miranda House. Though the teachers were very supportive, we had trouble following the accent. We couldn't take down notes during lectures. This got reflected in the marksheet. One of my friends failed to clear the exam because of this problem," she said, while looking for somebody who could help her with the registration papers for MA (English).

University officials admitted that they were aware of the problems and have adopted measures

to help these students. "We will introduce a mechanism under which foreign students will be able to take an English proficiency test, comprising three categories (basic, intermediate and advanced). The student can assess the level of his or her English through this test," Mishra said.

"Depending on the result, the student can opt for a course to improve his or her language skills. Though the university's Institute of Lifelong Learning (ILLL) has an 80-hour English proficiency programme for reserved category students, putting in place such a course for foreign students will take some time," she said.