

# Newspaper Clips

June 12, 2012

Millennium Post ND 12-Jun-12 p4

## IIT-D goes the Kanpur way

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** As the government moves ahead with its plan for common engineering entrance test exam, Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi is toeing the line of IIT-Kanpur. It has decided to hold its own entrance test after rejecting HRD minister Kapil Sibal's 'One Test One Nation' proposal.

A member of IIT Delhi, who wished not to be named, said other IITs might also follow the Kanpur example.

'This is a common sentiment, and most IITs are against the new pattern,' the member said. 'This was virtually forced on the senates by the IIT council,' he added.

In a clear revolt against the Human Resource Development ministry's move, IIT Kanpur decided to hold its own entrance test from 2013.

Upset with the ministry's decision to merge IIT Joint entrance exam (IIT-JEE) with the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE), the 210-member senate of IIT Kanpur passed a resolution rejecting the new format.

Even though there is no official reaction from the HRD ministry, a senior official said the senate could not overrule the IIT council. IIT Delhi Alumni Association (IITDAA), which has been spearheading the battle against the new format, met to decide on the future strategy. 'What IIT Kanpur did is the right thing. The senates have been overruled in taking the decision,' IITDAA president Somnath Bharti said.

He questioned the government decision, saying it would adversely affect the quality of the IITs.

# आईआईटी फैकल्टी की पीएम से मुलाकात आज

हरिभूमि ब्यूरो. नई दिल्ली

अगले वर्ष 2013 से इंजीनियरिंग के लिए आईआईटी और केंद्रीय सहायता प्राप्त तकनीकी संस्थानों में आयोजित की जाने वाली संयुक्त एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा के मसले पर 'द आल इंडिया आईआईटी फैकल्टी फेडरेशन' मंगलवार को प्रधानमंत्री डॉ. मनमोहन सिंह से मुलाकात कर इस मामले में हस्तक्षेप की मांग कर सकती है।

■ कॉमन एंट्रेंस टेस्ट को लेकर विवाद बढ़ा

दरअसल कॉमन एंट्रेंस टेस्ट के मसले पर केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने 28 मई को देश के सामने एक टेस्ट, एक नेशन का विचार सामने रखा था। लेकिन इसके तुरंत बाद सात प्रमुख पुराने आईआईटी संस्थानों की

► शेष पेज 10 पर

## आईआईटी...

और से इसका विरोध किया गया। एचआरडी मंत्रालय की ओर से इस पर बातचीत का एक लंबा दौर चला। अंत में सरकार ने सभी पक्षों की सहमति के साथ अगले वर्ष 2013 से कॉमन एंट्रेंस टेस्ट के जरिए परीक्षा कराने का एलान किया। लेकिन हाल में आईआईटी कानपुर, दिल्ली और बॉम्बे की सीनेट में परीक्षा का विरोध शुरू हुआ।

# IIT faculty & alumni await PMO response

Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** As the government remains silent on the controversy over the common entrance test for admission to undergraduate engineering courses, the All-India IIT Faculty Federation and the IIT-Delhi Alumni Association hope for an early response from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to their request for an appointment.

"We are in touch with the Prime Minister's Office to seek an audience with him in order to apprise him of the situation that has arisen out of the Human Resource Development Ministry's announcement on May 28 of the new joint entrance examination," Somnath Bharti, president of the Alumni Association, told *The Hindu*.

The association had got off a request to the PMO on June 6 but is yet to get an appointment. It has been asked to wait, presumably, until Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal returns home from the U.S. on June 14.

He has a family engagement for a couple of days

thereafter, before he resumes work.

Meanwhile, the faculty members of various IITs are busy holding informal consultations among themselves on the future course of action. The Senate of the IIT-Kanpur has already decided to hold a separate test in 2013 and set up a committee to work out the modalities. However, it has offered to coordinate with the other IITs in the conduct of the examination.

The Alumni Association has announced that it would challenge the Centre's decision through a public interest litigation petition, to be filed later this week.

## Director criticised

The IIT-Kharagpur's faculty has also come out against the Director for supporting the common entrance test, pointing out that the Senate had never agreed to the new format.

There is also talk that the Senates of the IIT-Delhi and the IIT-Bombay could also announce a separate admission process, but a final decision is expected only by month-end.

# POURING DISSENT ON SINGLE TEST

## HRD Min to take final call after States' reply

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■  
NEW DELHI

The HRD Ministry is watching cautiously the rebellion by a group of IITs against the single-test format. The Ministry in all likelihood will wait till June 30, the day when the States have to give their consent for participation in the Centre's one-nation-one-test proposals.

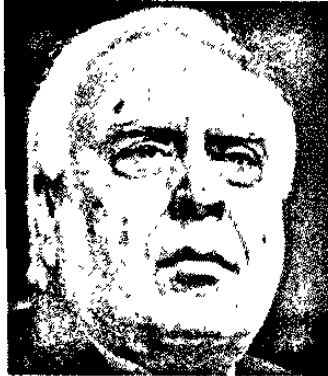
Indicating that the HRD will go ahead with the new format of JEE for 2013, sources said the "prototype" test can be conducted involving prestigious IITs, the NITs, IIITs and the Centrally-funded technical institutes.

On the Senates' claims of powers vested with the IITs under various sections of IIT Act 1961, sources said the institutes on their own cannot conduct any kind of exams.

A senior HRD Ministry official said that conducting the JEE jointly by all the IITs is beyond the purview of the Senate of a single IIT. IIT Act provided under Section 33 (1) reads: "It shall be the general duty of the Council to co-ordinate the activities of all the institutes."

"This makes it amply clear that in order to coordinate the activities of JEE, the Council of IITs has constituted Joint Admission Board (JAB)," the official said.

Further, banking on the provisions of a particular Section which empowers the authority to the Chairman of the Board of Governors of Council, the official said while the Senate is empowered to make Ordinances, the Board has the



power to modify or cancel the Ordinances made by the Senate.

"A cumulative reading and harmonious construction of the various Sections of the Act would reveal that the Board has implicit power of superintendence over the Senate. The Senate is neither autonomous nor has unfettered rights even in the matters of academic concerns of the institute. It is the Council of IITs, rather than the Senate, who is empowered to set the admission standards and other academic matters related thereto. This has been aptly accepted by the Senate of IIT Kanpur by framing the Ordinances and like provisions subsist in other IITs," the official added.

Meanwhile, after the All India IIT Faculty Association (AIITFF) and the IIT Alumni Association, the faculty at IIT-Kanpur too has requested intervention of the PM in the matter concerning lakhs of students. Sources said that following various pleas against HRD Minister Kapil Sibal, the PM has summoned Sibal in this regard. Senate of the IIT-Kanpur has rejected the Centre's one-nation-one-test proposal and decided to

conduct its own entrance exam from next year. Delhi and Bombay IITs are likely to follow the suit within a few days.

"We are constantly in touch with PMO in regard to the appointment with the PM. We have been asked to wait," IIT-Delhi Alumni president Somnath Bharti said.

For his part, a day after he came under attack for supporting Centre's proposal, IIT-Kharagpur Director Damodar Acharya on Monday justified his stand saying that the new format would help students from rural areas to study in the prestigious institutions. He also said the new JEE system, would help reduce the importance of coaching.

Acharya had come under attack from AIITFF on Sunday for saying that IIT-Kharagpur does not have any objection to the Centre's move to conduct a common entrance exam.

In its statement, the AIITFF had said that it was "shocked to learn that the Director, IIT-Kharagapur has made public statements which are in contradiction to the resolutions made by the Senate of IIT-Kharagpur."

The AIITFF has also written a letter to the PM criticising the Ministry's recent announcements regarding undergraduate admissions in the IITs.

The federation in a memorandum demanded the autonomy of the IIT should be preserved not only as per the provisions of the Acts but beyond.

"There is no intent to impact on the IIT system autonomy....The exam that is being contemplated is to be set by the IIT itself," Sibal said.

# Centre weighs legal strength of IITs' stand

## Senates Not Autonomous, Say HRD Officials

Himanshi Dhawan | TNN

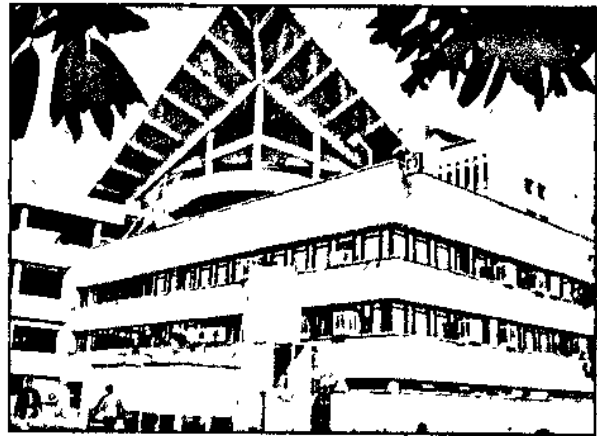
**New Delhi:** In a bid to thwart the growing opinion against the common entrance test (CET) within the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the government is examining the legal strength of the position taken by the IIT Senates. So far, the human resource development (HRD) ministry has adopted a wait-and-watch policy even as senates of IIT Kanpur and Kharagpur rejected the government's decision to participate in the CET.

Sources in the HRD ministry said that according to the IIT Act, the Senates are neither autonomous nor do they have unfettered rights in the matters of academic concerns of the institute. "It is the IIT Council, rather than the senate, who is empowered to set the admission standards and other related academic matters," a source pointed out.

The decision taken by the IIT Kanpur will have to get the nod of its board of governors in keeping with the IIT Act. According to section 13 of the Act, the Board of Governors (BoG) has the right to review the acts made by the senate, by another clause modify and cancel ordinances.

While Section 15 of the IIT Act gives control and general regulation responsibility for maintenance of "standards of instruction, education and examination in the Institute" to the senate, sources said that the function of the Senate did not include 'admission standards', which is in the exclusive domain of the IIT Council.

The ministry has been caught in a bind. While endorsed by the IIT Council, the "one nation, one test" issue has been close to HRD minister Kapil Sibal's heart. Sources said that the ministry would have to take a political decision on postponing the exams to 2014 or will face the risk of alienating the powerful faculty lobby. "While



CHAOS CONTINUES

### Fate of 325 IIT aspirants unsure

Over 300 IIT aspirants short-listed under the 4.5% quota for socially and educationally backward minorities will have to wait till Wednesday to know their fate. IIT JEE organizing committee said that the first list of seats allotted will be made public on June 14, and the committee will wait for instructions from the government till June 13<sup>th</sup> evening. Sources said that the SC's directive not to order a stay immediately had dimmed hopes that the minority sub-quota will be implemented this year.

the BoG can overrule the senates, it will put the faculty on a path of direct confrontation with the administration and management which is best avoided," a source said. Meanwhile, IITD Alumni Association and All India IIT Faculty Federation — the two organizations opposing the government's move most vehemently — have sought a meeting with the PM to apprise him of the situation that has arisen out of the ministry's announcement of new JEE on May 28.

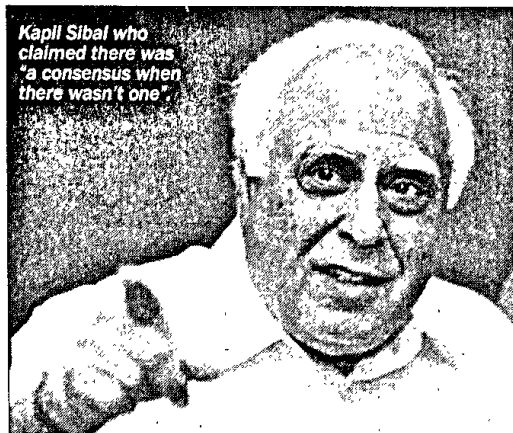
# A war of wills and words

**Will the new entrance format dilute Brand IIT, asks debameeta bhattacharya**

**WITH** the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, having rejected Union human resource development minister Kapil Sibal's "one nation, one test" proposal of 28 May and its 210-member senate deciding on 8 June to conduct its own entrance test for undergraduate programmes from next year, the war of wills and words seems all set to divide the academic playing field. The IIT, Kanpur, senate slammed Sibal's proposed Common Entrance Test saying the "decision was academically and methodically unsound and in violation of the IIT Act" and authorised its chairman to constitute a committee with the help of the dean of academic affairs for conducting "JEE 2013 by IIT, Kanpur".

Its students have also strongly condemned the proposed test. Supporting the resolution, the All India IIT Faculty Federation has said IIT, Kanpur, will coordinate with other IITs who chose to join their admission process. The federation has written to the Prime Minister's Office, asking for Manmohan Singh's intervention. Sibal presented a complete different picture, claiming that a majority of IIT senates — Guwahati, Kharagpur, Madras and Roorkee — had supported the final formulation along with Bombay. Institutes supporting the decision claim the new format will not affect Brand IIT.

But the confusion is set to deepen ahead of IIT senate meetings tentatively scheduled for the third week of June for Delhi and July for Bombay. IIT, Roorkee, director Pradipta Banerji said he and others were concerned about the impact of the ongoing confusion on aspiring candidates. "This uncertainty is extremely unfair to the students who will be sitting for the exam in 2013," he said. The IIT Delhi alumni, which had threatened to sue Sibal, is set to file a Public Interest Litigation this week. Somanth Bharti, head of the alumni body, says, "The PIL seeks to



restore the autonomy of the IITs. The IIT, Delhi, senate is due to meet on 21 June and is likely to endorse the IIT, Kanpur, decision. This would make it the second senate body to take the bold step. Professor Sanjeev Sanghi, president of the IIT, Delhi, Faculty Forum said, "There is a strong possibility of the IIT, Delhi, senate going with the decision of the Kanpur senate."

The proposal to hold a common test under the new format was cleared at a meeting of the Councils of Indian Institutes of Technology, National Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Information Technology that Sibal chaired on 28 May. Though there has been no official word from the ministry on Kanpur's decision, a senior official said its senate could not overrule the IIT council.

The Common Entrance Test would have two steps — a "main" and an "advanced" stage. The results of the Class XII Board exams would also play a role in deciding whether a student got into an engineering college. Engineering colleges would use a 40:30:30 formula — with Class XII results counting for 40 per cent and the two stages of the entrance exam counting for 30 per cent apiece. Some IIT officials objected to this one-size-fits-all formula and won the right to form their own criteria. Starting next year, most IITs will give equal weightage (50 per cent each) to Class XII

results and to the performance of candidates in the main exam. Thereafter, 50,000 shortlisted students will move on to the advanced exam.

So, will the government's decision uplift the standard and quality of IITs or will it affect individual political careers and even students whose reaction to this decision is gradually changing from confusion to disgust? The situation has taken a turn for the worse in the last two weeks, with the focus actually shifting from the

Kharagpur's director Professor Damodar Acharya said, "So far as IIT, Kharagpur, is concerned, the issue was discussed and what emerged was that the Joint Entrance Exam main and advance, the way they are to be conducted, was not very different. Academic control must be with IITs, that is what we said."

Having said that, he has been slammed by the All India IIT Faculty Federation, which says it was "shocked to learn that the director, IIT, Kharagpur, has made public statements which are in contradiction to the resolutions made by the senate of IIT, Kharagpur". It said the senate's resolutions did not recommend inclusion of Class XII Board marks and the conduct of JEE by a third party. The senate, it added, "categorically said that till 2014 no change should be made and the status quo be maintained".

The issue of the new entrance format has



**Somanth Bharti, head of the IIT, Delhi, alumni which has threatened to sue Sibal.**

main issue of whether the new entrance format will dilute the brand to a power struggle between the Sibal ministry and IIT senates.

Amidst this confusion, students' feel that instead of giving IITs more facilities to facilitate international competition, the government is playing spoilsport. A senior faculty member said it might be too late for students aiming for engineering next year to reorient themselves; and if this new format was a disaster it would cause students undue stress.

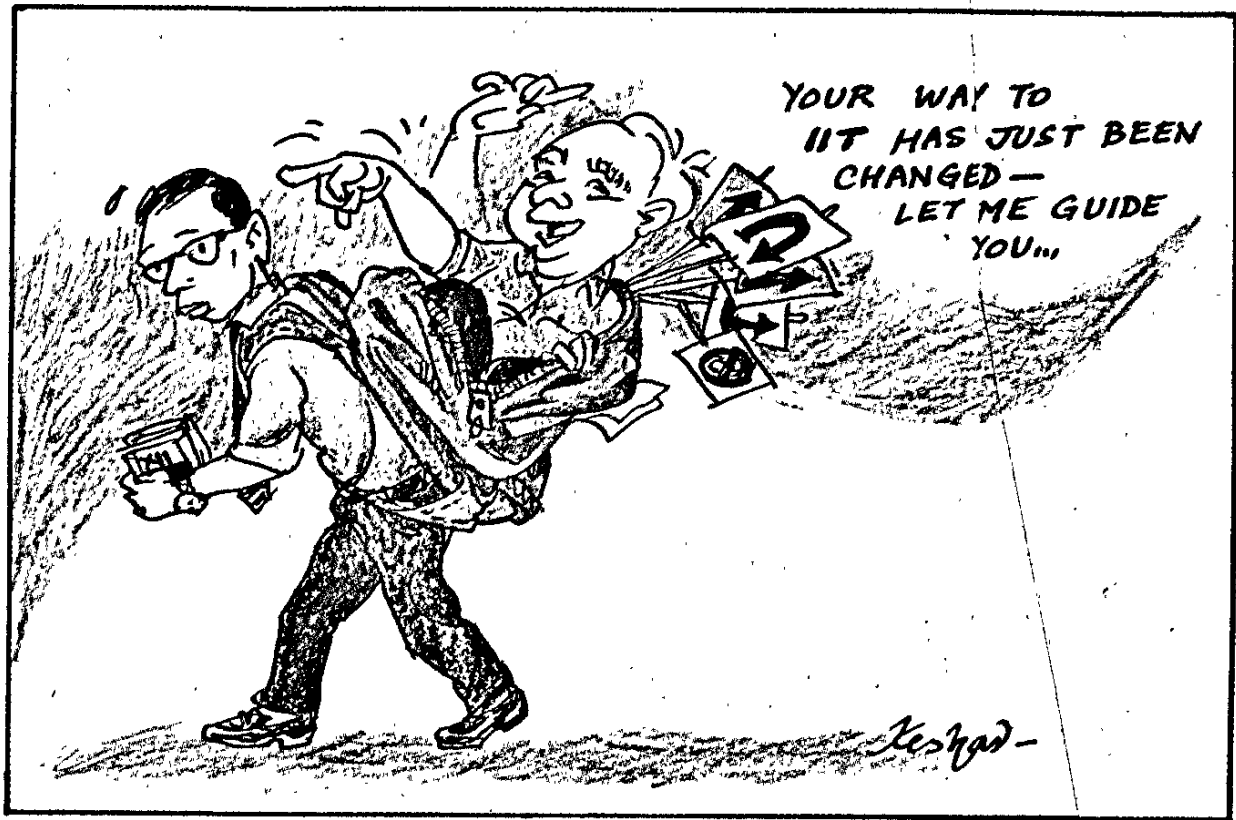
A day after IIT, Kanpur's decision, IIT,



**Infosys co-founder Mohandas Pai says the government should not interfere with academic content.**

many divided. Infosys co-founder and now chairman of Manipal Education Services Pvt Ltd, Mohandas Pai, says, "The IITs should have greater autonomy and the government should not interfere with the academic content of the institution." But he believes the IITs need to be expanded in order to enable the enrolment of more students. He also says more time needs to be spent on evolving a consensus on the issue of the new format. "The minister said there is a consensus but there isn't one. So he should meet everyone concerned in the next one month and then arrive at one," he says.

CARTOONSCAPE



perplexing ("NCERT textbook gives due recognition to Dravidian movement: Yogendra Yadav," June 10). While it is true that the different elements related to a topic should not be viewed in isolation, it is also important that each element (the cartoon in this case) must invariably serve the purpose of enlightening and educating a student. Is presenting cartoons of this character an essential and indispensable means of promoting critical pedagogy? Students do not, and cannot be expected to have, the maturity to comprehend the cartoonist's intellectual understanding of an event. He might have been "fair and non-partisan," but does that mean the work that has flowed from him is eternally relevant, much less important, for educational purposes? Mr. Yadav says, "indeed, these textbooks carry comments which mock at the textbook itself." Surely, there must be a better way of critical pedagogy to engender critical and inquisitive faculties in children.

**Vishali V.,**  
Kurnool

I wish to join issue with letter writer Mr. Ramakrishnasayee ("Letters to the Editor," June 11) that the anti-Hindi agitation has deprived Tamils the opportunity of learning Hindi.

The agitation was not against anyone learning Hindi of their own will; it was against the Central government's move to make its learning compulsory in schools. Why should the majority be forced to learn a language just because a minority wanted to learn that language to seek job opportunities in north India that they were gradually losing in Tamil Nadu? Those who wanted to learn Hindi always had other avenues like the Hindi Prachar Sabha and other private institutions. These centres were not forced to shut down. Contrary to Mr. Ramakrishnasayee's claim, the anti-Hindi agitation was the most glorious chapter in the recent history of Tamils when they showed some determination and a backbone to fight for something they believed in.

**S. Kathiresan,**  
Chennai

### Slum rehabilitation

For several decades, slums have constituted an integral part of not only Mumbai but other cities too (editorial, June 11). The difference is that what happens in Mumbai gets highlighted while those in other cities are ignored.

It is ironic that the Maharashtra government can pool funds to build prestigious projects without sparing a thought for improving the standards of slum-dwellers. Out of the box solutions must be thought of. Can a margin of profits to the BCCI be earmarked for slum development?

**Balasubramaniam Pavani,**  
Secunderabad

As the limitations of the State machinery stand exposed, the time is ripe to go in for joint ventures with private builders, subject to the condition that there will be transparency. Slum rehabilitation work in India's commercial capital should become the model for the rest of the country.

**K.D. Viswanaathan,**  
Coimbatore

### No maintenance?

This refers to the report "Woman pilot makes emergency landing" (June 11). The alacrity with which Air India's Captain Urmila Yadav acted to save the lives of passengers and the crew members on her flight in such a nerve-wracking situation deserves encomiums.

But it is unfathomable as to how one of the nose wheels of the aircraft was lost. Is there no foolproof mechanism to check whether all vital equipment of an aircraft is working satisfactorily before the flight?

**H.P. Murali,**  
Bangalore

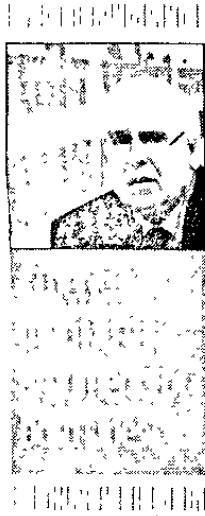
How can a tyre fall off in mid-air? The DGCA must ensure that aircraft maintenance is observed by all air operator. In difficult and far-flung terrain with inclement weather like in the North-east, and where there may not be a large maintenance base, there must be greater observation of such crucial procedures.

**Daniel Varghese,**  
Thiruvananthapuram

## Evolve consensus

**H**uman resource development minister Kapil Sibal's announcement of a plan for a 'one nation-one test' to determine entrance to the country's leading engineering colleges has stirred a hornet's nest. It has come under criticism from some of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). Under Sibal's plan, students aspiring to join one of the IITs, the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) or the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) will have to take a common exam. The exam will involve two steps – main and advanced, both of which will be held on the same day. It also envisages factoring in the student's Class XII scores. The plan is well-intentioned. It aims at reducing student stress by sparing aspirants the ordeal of taking different entrance exams for different institutes. By giving weightage to Class XII scores it ensures that a student who doesn't do too well in the entrance test can still hope to get in on the strength of his school performance.

Critics of the plan say that contrary to the minister's claim, the proposed entrance test will add to students' stress as their fate will hinge on one exam. If s/he doesn't do well in that exam his chances for entrance in all the institutes is closed. Besides, it would be difficult to normalise scores from India's diverse board exams; students who take board exams that have tough exams and scoring systems would be at a disadvantage. The main pique of the critics is that the proposed system will compromise on the quality of students coming into the IITs, undermining the premier institutes' brand value.



Sibal says that the decision was reached after a consensus was evolved. All the IITs were on board the decision, he claims. The fierce criticism that greeted the plan indicates that no consensus was evolved. In fact it seems the consultation was inadequate. Hence the feeling among the IITs' faculty

and administration that the decision is being thrust on them and their autonomy is being undermined. There is talk of taking the matter to the court. Instead, the matter can be resolved through discussion. There is merit in the arguments of both sides. The government should initiate a fresh consultation on the matter. A public debate on the issue is important as the government must hear the views of not just the experts but of students who are at the heart of the debate.



# New exam: since 2010, IIT Senates kept objecting but HRD ignored

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 11

THE controversy over the proposed new entrance exam to the Indian Institutes of Technology may seem to have suddenly boiled over with IIT Kanpur's boycott, but a scrutiny of records shows that senior faculty from the IITs had raised several questions about the new exam's timing and content as early as in 2010.

But first discussions with the faculty were held as late as in April-May this year, after which the HRD ministry peremptorily brushed aside these objections.

In 2010, the HRD ministry constituted the Damodar Acharya committee — Acharya, director of IIT Kharagpur, overruled his Senate to back the exam — to propose a common engineering exam with weight to Class XII board scores.

■ **JULY 9, 2010:** IIT Kanpur faculty rejected this committee's report saying it was short on detail and didn't consult specialists and stakeholders.

■ **SEPT 2011:** A new committee, headed by T Ramasami, secretary, Department of Science & Technology, brought another proposal to the IIT Council meeting recommending weight to Class XII marks through a normalization process. Its recommendations were the basis of the new exam: a two-step JEE Main (for screening) and JEE Advanced (for the final IIT merit list) with 40% weight to Class XII scores at the screening stage.

■ Endorsed by the councils of IITs and NITs on November 14, 2011 and November 18, 2011 respectively and, in principle, by state education ministers on February 22, 2012, this proposal

# New exam: Since 2010, IIT Senates kept objecting

and that its role was strictly advisory.

■ **MARCH 12:** the HRD ministry set up a core committee to interact with older IITs to reach out to the IIT academic community.

■ **APRIL 11:** The first discussion with the All India IIT Faculty Federation was held and with IIT Senates from April 25 to May 5.

■ **APRIL 25:** IIT Guwahati Senate, broadly agreeing with the proposal, said that no changes to JEE should be brought in before 2014.

■ **MAY 2:** IIT Delhi Senate submitted that the Ramasami committee recommendations may not be sufficient to reduce stress on students and there was need to strengthen school education. It said that holding a new JEE in 2013 would be unfair to students.

■ IIT Roorkee Senate said

that the JEE Advanced should be a subjective exam.

■ **MAY 3:** IIT Kharagpur Senate said that a "minimum of two years lead time" was necessary to examine the effect of board performance on JEE ranking.

■ **MAY 5:** IIT Bombay Senate said that the changes in examination style should only be implemented from 2014 and that JEE Advanced should be subjective in nature. It also said that it was not feasible to give weight to school board scores as of now.

■ IIT Madras, largely in agreement with the government-backed proposal, said that JEE Advanced could see problems in numerical answers.

The IIT Council meeting on May 9 recorded these varied recommendations of IIT Senates and how they

wanted the changes to come into effect only in 2014. On May 14, AIITF wrote to Sibal requesting participation from Senates and AIITF at the Council meeting on the exam issue and argued that "the Senates' views should form the basis for the decisions pertaining to any academic matter, including the admission process".

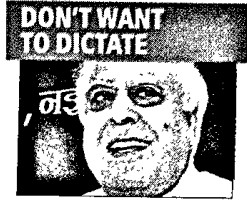
On May 25, AIITF met Sibal who told them that while Senate inputs would be taken, "(a) final decision will be taken only by the IIT Council which could be different from the IIT Senates' majority decisions".

The Federation then wrote to Sibal clearly saying that a 2013 test was not acceptable to all Senates and the plan to hold JEE Advanced as an objective type test was also against the ma-

majority decision of holding a subjective JEE Advanced. On May 28, however, Sibal chaired a Joint meeting of Councils of IIT, IIT and NIT and announced a new test format starting 2013.

For the record, Sibal last week said that the IIT Council had agreed to two points raised by the IIT Senates: ensuring that the test for admission to IITs is controlled by IITs alone and that school board weight should not decide the final merit list for IIT admissions.

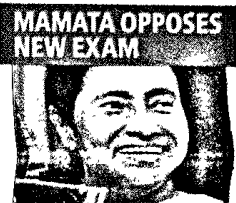
"The only area where there was variance was that the Senates wanted the new exam format to come into effect only in 2014 while the IIT Council said they were ready to hold it in 2013," the minister had said. Sibal is currently in Washington for the 3rd Indo-US Strategic Dialogue.



**DON'T WANT TO DICTATE**

No intent to impact on the IIT system autonomy... the exam... is to be set by the IIT itself. We have no desire to anyway directly or indirectly (infringe)...

KAPIL SIBAL, in Washington Monday



**MAMATA OPPOSES NEW EXAM**

WEST BENGAL has written to HRD that a common entrance test will put the state's IIT aspirants at a disadvantage. It has called for fresh discussions in 2015 after it "changes" its Class XII syllabus. "The new syllabus will help equip our students to perform better at IIT exams," said state Education Minister Bratya Basu. "The new syllabus is meant to bridge the gap our students have with those from some other states."

was also rejected by most IIT Senates.

■ **FEB 15, 2012:** IIT Kanpur Senate said the IIT Council's approval to the proposal was "disappointing"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Don't destroy IITs, improve other institutes

This refers to the editorial, "Politics in education" (June.11). The latest turn of events regarding the common entrance test for centrally-funded engineering colleges and the IITs, is indeed sad and unfortunate. Union Minister for Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal should call for another meeting with all stakeholders before implementing the critical decision of having a common entrance exam for all centrally funded engineering colleges and allowing for 50 per cent weightage to be given to marks scored by students in class XII.

Mr Sibal may have had several rounds of talks with the stakeholders, but the recent developments have shown that a number of them have not been on the same page as the Minister. In this situation, there is no point in furthering the divide and going ahead with the decision taken. With IIT-Kanpur deciding not to follow the Ministry's directive and IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi also not convinced by the Ministry's decision, a resolution on the contentious issue is far from achieved.

The IITs have made a name for themselves across the world and are considered one of the best engineering insti-



tutes in the world. It is best that we let the IITs function independently and don't tinker with their entrance process.

There is no doubt that the intentions of the HRD Minister are noble, but his decision is not pragmatic. Rather, Mr Sibal should find ways and means to improve the standards of education in the hundreds of other engineering colleges across the country, which are churning out students like goods in a fac-

tory. There is no thought given to the employability of the students passing out of these colleges.

On their part, the IITs must find ways to attract the best faculty and ensure that what they teach their students is in keeping with the needs of industry as well. They must also concentrate on the issue of higher research.

**Bal Govind  
Noida**

# Sibal pops rider to rein in defiant IITs

By Mail Today Bureau In New Delhi

THE senate of IIT Kanpur may have taken the decision to disassociate itself from the new format of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and conduct its own test next year. But according to sources in the human resource development (HRD) ministry, the IIT Act does not permit them to do so.

"Function of the senate is subject to the provisions of the IIT Act. Section 33 of the Act clearly states that the council has the duty to co-ordinate the activities of all the IITs and advise on matters relating to admission standards. The word 'advise' in Section 33(2) (a) does not leave any option with the individual IIT, but to accept it unreservedly," said an HRD official who did not wish to be identified.

"So conducting the Joint

Entrance Examination (JEE) jointly by all the IITs is beyond the purview of the senate," the official added.

The strong defence from the ministry officials comes in the wake of a blow delivered by the IIT-Kanpur senate, which on

Friday rejected the IIT council's decision to introduce a new format of the JEE from next year.

According to the senate members, the HRD ministry is imposing the new change through IIT directors who have ignored faculty views. The senates of IIT

Delhi and Bombay are also expected to follow suit.

The new format of the JEE was announced on May 28. Sibal, after chairing a joint meeting of the IIT and NIT council, had announced that from the next year, the JEE will be valid for all

centrally funded technical institutions (CFTIs) such as the IITs, NITs and IISERs.

The IITs, however, were allowed to follow a different admission process, wherein the Class XII Board marks and the performance in the JEE-main test would only be considered for filtering the best candidates.

But on Saturday,

IIT-Kharagpur director Damodar Acharya said the institute had no problem with the new exam, leading to protests by faculty members, who on Sunday threatened to go on a hunger strike.

Acharya, however, justified his stand on Monday saying the new format would help students from rural areas study in the prestigious institutions.

Meanwhile, IIT Delhi Alumni Association and All India IIT Faculty Federation — the two influential organisations opposing the government's move — have sought an audience with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to discuss the issue.

(With agency inputs)



The IIT-Kanpur (left) senate has rejected HRD minister Kapil Sibal's one nation one test policy.

**'The word advise in Section 33 (2)(a) does not leave any option with the individual IIT but to accept it unreservedly.'**

## *Listen to them*

Faculty have questioned the new test. They are key to Brand IIT, HRD should not brush them away

**U**NION HRD Minister Kapil Sibal's move to reform the selection process to the IITs is foundering for the very same reason that his predecessor Murli Manohar Joshi's diktat to lower IIM fees had become controversial. Autonomous centres of excellence dislike having innovations thrust upon them. The directors of the Guwahati and Kharagpur IITs have fallen in line, while the IIT Kharagpur senate has opposed the ministry's move. IIT Kanpur will hold its own entrance test and the All India IIT Faculty Federation has thrown down the gauntlet. The HRD ministry should have initiated change through transparent consultations that included all stakeholders, even prominent alumni. It did nothing, though it knew that all the IIT senates had raised objections.

Transparency was necessary because the new selection system departs sharply from tradition by taking into account Class XII marks. The ministry's stated motive is to strike at the "coaching culture" surrounding the IIT entrance test. There is an unexplained paradox here since the ministry has jettisoned marks in Class X. Besides, it is weighted against rural and poor students, who may languish in school for lack of facilities but do

very well in entrance tests with the help of coaching. The ministry has taken this route to favour students who perform consistently well, but has it examined any data correlating Class XII marks, entrance test scores and professional performance of alumni?

Bold experiments require groundwork and consensus-building among stakeholders, which is not something that can be done in a hurry. Now, Kapil Sibal will have to build a post-dated consensus. His government is ready and willing to roll over backwards to accommodate critics on all issues, from corruption to classic cartoons. It should now listen to the IIT senates. The IIT selection process has always been reliable, but to keep it that way, these centres of national importance must remain its owners, and not the ministry. It is the senates' academics who have made the entrance test a level-playing field and built the IIT brand for half a century. They have kept the selection process so patently fair that even the disadvantaged have the confidence to shoot for it. The ministry cannot possibly deliver results without having the teachers on board as process owners. So it needs to listen to them — and address their questions.

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11 JUN, 2012, 10.35PM IST, IANS

## What's the hurry to bring common entrance test: IIT faculty

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NEW DELHI: Upset over the common entrance test (CET) to [Indian Institutes of Technology](#) proposed by the human resource development ministry, the national body of IIT faculty on Monday questioned why the government was in such a hurry to start the new format.

"They have not done their homework, they are still not able to get the marks from all boards and normalise it. If they cannot do it now, how will they do it next year," IIT Faculty Federation President Sanjeev Sanghi told reporters.

"It does not reduce multiplicity of the exams, it does not do away with coaching," he said.

"We want to ask what is the hurry with 2013?"

Sanghi, who heads the national body of [IIT teachers](#) which is leading the battle against the new format along with IIT alumni associations, said representatives from all Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are attempting to meet the prime minister and take up the issue with him.

On a day when professors from IIT Kanpur wrote to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Sanghi said the senate of all IITs were against the new format.

"All of us will meet the prime minister," he said.

The developments come after IIT Kanpur announced Friday that it will hold a separate entrance test for admissions from 2013, rebelling against the joint entrance test. Senates of other IITs, prominently IITs at Delhi, Kharagpur and Bombay have also expressed their protest against the new format.

However, Director of IIT Delhi R.K. Shevgaonkar, IIT Bombay Director Devang Khakhar, along with IIT-Kharagpur's Damodar Acharya, and IIT Guwahati director Gautam Barua were reported to be supporting the new format.

"We stand by our decision to go through the [CET](#) route from next year onwards and there is no deviation from the same," Shevgaonkar was quoted in a report.

Sanghi, however, said: "Directors cannot overrule the senate."

According to sources, the minutes of meeting of the senate of IIT Kharagpur showed the senate was against the new format. Similar was the case with IIT Guwahati.

In case of IIT Delhi also, the senate and professors are against the new format, however, a dissent was not recorded by the director in the meeting with the HRD minister, says a faculty member.

"Why is it so that while the senates are against this format, the directors did not register their dissent," a professor of IIT Delhi questioned.

# The class in Class XII

**F**IRST it was IIT Kanpur, then it was IIT Delhi. There are indications that other IITs will also chart their own course and go in for separate entrance examinations, putting a question mark on the single engineering entrance test proposed by the ministry of human resource development.

IIT-JEE has always been one of the biggest attractions for students — irrespective of region, financial status and the schools they study in. Guided by nothing but merit, it gave the students equal opportunity. In a diverse country like India, with huge disparities in school education in urban and rural areas as well as private and government institutions, this has been one examination that stood the test of time. IIT-JEE has been both a dream and a great leveller.

No wonder, when HRD Minister Kapil Sibal talked of reforms, on the pretext of reducing the students' dependence on coaching institutes and ensuring greater emphasis on school education, serious doubts were expressed at the very outset. Nobody can dispute the fact that the dependence on coaching institutes should come down and that students should have more faith in their schools, as was the case till a couple of decades ago when coaching institutes were few and far between. After all, who would want to spend lakhs of rupees on coaching alone? For the poor and the middle class, it is a huge drain, but they are left with a Hobson's choice due to the pathetic state of government schools, especially secondary and higher secondary schools. The schools often do not have proper infrastructure and capable teachers. The result is abysmal attendance, even as elite private schools witness an unprecedented rush for admission.

Since government schools, which cater to the bulk of the students, are not quality-conscious, students invariably look for alternatives and land up in mushrooming coaching institutes, which have courses to suit one's pocket, if not



IIT-JEE offered a level playing field for students. The 'reforms' could skew it

**ANAND KUMAR**

necessarily aptitude. They come in all hues — from top-notch ones with heavy fees to modest ones offering tuition at relatively lower fees. Rich or poor, students come there with the dream of making it to an IIT, and their parents sacrifice their comforts and even basic needs in the hope of a better tomorrow for the children.

Had the school system been good enough and ensured uniform quality in education, this problem would not have emerged.

There was a time when students got admission in engineering colleges for a capitation fee of Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh. Now, the cost of coaching alone costs more, plus there is the cost of living in big cities where such institutes proliferate.

For the poor, opportunities

**The need is to first work at the grassroots and strengthen the school system. Reforms can never succeed if started at the top.**

matter the most. There is a growing awareness among them about the opportunities that education brings in. This is reflected in more and more students from underprivileged families sitting for IIT-JEE and making it, thanks to their hard work, determination to excel and, of course, the opportunity to do so.

The HRD ministry's move seems to be a dampener for students, especially the underprivileged ones from rural areas. With barely nine months left for the 2013 test, students don't know what to expect. With most IITs pulling out of the government scheme of joint entrance test, the government is likely to start another round of consultations to bring everyone on a common plat-

form. Until that happens, the students, for whom the entire setup is meant and for whose benefit the authorities seem to be doing all this, will be the biggest losers. They have become victims of the government's bid to rush with its "experiment" with an established system, without doing its homework well.

The first and foremost thing the ministry should have done was to take the IITs into confidence, because these are autonomous institutions that the nation takes pride in. Some incongruities may creep into any system over time, but that does not necessarily require large-scale surgery. A single exam can be good enough. After the Supreme Court ruling in the Simran Jain case, there was one exam for medical entrance. The IIMs too have one exam. For engineering

also, there can be one, but it should remain only one.

What the HRD ministry has done shows the disconnect between India and Bharat. An education system cannot be for a small section of elites who can afford quality education. The need is to first work at the grassroots and strengthen the school system, invest in quality teachers to attract students and usher in examination reforms. Reforms can never succeed if started at the top. They have to be gradual, done with meticulous planning and should start from the bottom.

The proposed joint entrance test includes an objective-type question paper called Main and Advanced to be held on the same day. Now nearly five lakh students

take IIT-JEE, and over 10 lakh take AIEEE. Under the new reforms, all the students will have to take both the tests, irrespective of whether one wants to go for IIT or not. It means students will have to prepare with equal intensity for three exams — one for Class 12, as it will have weightage, then JEE-Main and finally JEE-Advanced. All this will lead to extreme pressure on the students.

In a country where there has been so much debate on reducing the burden of examination on students — and in pursuit of which the government did away with Class X boards and changed the marking system to a grading system — the new move will suddenly bring the students face to face with the hottest competition and at various levels. This translates into more burden on students and they are sure to fall deeper into the trap of coaching institutes.

If the government wants to have one test for the entire country, it should go ahead and have just one exam. The idea should be to make it simple. The top performers get IITs, then the IIITs and NITs and so on. This will also help develop a grading of institutions and help students make a choice.

The questions should be set by experts from IIT, AIEEE and CBSE. And they need to set questions that don't drive students to coaching institutes. Conceptual questions of Class XII level will be enough to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Until now, the questions asked in IIT-JEE are not of Class 12 level, but much above that. There is a huge difference between the school curriculum and what's asked of students in IIT-JEE. The students have no choice but to go to coaching institutes, as the schools are ill-equipped to prepare them for the exam. The thrust should be on minimising the rural-urban divide by providing a level-playing field.

*The writer is founder, Super 30, Patna  
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# Time for IITs to discard the JEE

The present selection system has failed to bring in students who are genuinely interested in path-breaking engineering work

Dinesh Mohan

Last week I came across a remarkable report on international education tests conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The Pisa 2009 tests indicate that China has an education system that is overtaking those of many Western countries and that Shanghai was on top of the international education rankings for schools. Andreas Schleicher, responsible for the highly-influential Pisa tests, claimed that the results showed the "resilience" of pupils despite tough backgrounds, and the "high levels of equity" between rich and poor pupils. He believes that it's a philosophical difference — expecting all pupils to make the grade, rather than a "sorting mechanism" to find a chosen few — and, that anyone can create an education system where a few at the top succeed; the real challenge is to push through the entire cohort.

This forced me to focus on the imbrolio regarding the entrance test for undergraduate admissions to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT). The Ministry of Human Resource Development believes the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) conducted by the IITs should be discontinued and replaced by a common entrance test conducted by an independent agency. The marks obtained in this test should be combined with weighted results of high school board exams to determine a student's percentile ranking in the country. These rankings could then be used for admission to all engineering colleges including IITs. It is claimed that this new procedure will give weightage to students' performance in school (ignored at present) and reduce stress by not forcing them to take multiple examinations as they are forced to do at present. At first glance, perfectly logical and reasonable.

However, many faculty members of the IITs are upset that the government is interfering in academic matters and compromising the autonomy of these institutions. The Senate of IIT Kanpur has already passed a resolution that they will not abide by the directions of the MHRD and that the institute will conduct its own entrance exam in 2013. Senates of some other IITs may pass similar resolutions, though it appears that IIT Kharagpur, Madras and Guwahati will not. Faculty Forums of the dissenting IITs and some alumni groups have expressed views similar to those from IIT Kanpur. The attendances at meetings where these dissenting resolutions have been passed have been a small proportion of faculty strength of these institutions. It is clear that views are divided among the IIT faculty members across the country. It would be worthwhile to expand the terms of the debate and arrive at a consensus that includes the best interests of students and of society at large in preserving the academic standards of IITs.

## A system that works

IITs have a formidable reputation in the country and abroad for producing outstanding graduates over the last five decades. The reasons for this includes the selection of high performing students through the JEE, which the IITs have run without blemish. This has happened because those running the system take pride in their work as loyal members of the IIT system. IITs have also developed reasonably democratic sys-



**HIGH-PRESSURE HALL:** Aspirants coming out of an IIT-JEE examination venue in Hyderabad.  
— PHOTO: NAGARA GOPAL

tems for academic functioning and selection of course content, fair and open systems for grading and evaluation, and student management. Faculty selection and promotion processes are also reasonable considering the environment we have to operate in.

However, the glass is only three-quarters full. It is important that we now focus on why it is one-quarter empty. Mr. Schleicher has a point in that "anyone can create an education system where a few at the top succeed". The success of our B.Tech products is partly due to the selection process. Unfortunately, many IIT faculty members and alumni base their entire pride and self worth on this "success". The fact is that if we admit only those from the top few per cent of a national exam, they will do well no matter how the test is conducted.

It is time to consider what kind of students we want from among those who are excellent in mathematics and the sciences. Anyone teaching in IITs is aware that many of our undergraduate students are just not interested in engineering. A small proportion of them know they will never take up an engineering career even before they enter IIT. They just want an IIT 'stamp' and opt for these institutions because of parental pressure or a lack of excellent institutions offering liberal arts or science education. A significant proportion of students develop a dislike for quantitative and laboratory work after entering IITs. They just do not have the aptitude for engineering work. This latter group is sending a strong signal that the current JEE is not adequate to select the right students for an elite engineering education.

There are other reasons why the IIT entrance procedure needs a major revamp. The present selection system depends on machismo in physics, chemistry and mathematics — ideally suited for coaching classes, condemning

young boys and girls to a concentration camp atmosphere for two years or so. This is the period these youngsters should spend exploring their interest and aptitudes but are prevented from doing so. This straitjacketing is probably filtering out the innovative and curious ones who hate such narrow perspectives, ensuring that IITs are denied some young Indians who might be truly interested in path breaking work. It is time for a rethink on the objective of the selection procedure for IITs.

## Real contributors

Another unfortunate aspect of the JEE debate is that it obfuscates the real issue facing IITs. The future of IITs does not depend on the selection process of undergraduates. No matter what process is adopted they will do well. Within a decade IITs will have little to show for as academic institutions unless policymakers and faculty members start taking pride in the M.Tech and PhD programmes. It is worth remembering that B.Techs comprise less than half of IIT graduates every year. The majority are M.Tech and PhD degree holders. They make a huge contribution to technological development in India in the public and private sector. It is this group that needs constant improvement, encouragement and recognition. This will not happen unless IITs transform from mid-20th century, narrow-visioned technical institutions to modern, multi-disciplinary research universities.

This can be done, as is evident from the Chinese experience. The prestigious Global Research University Profiles publishes a ranking of the top 500 World-Class Universities (Shanghai rankings) by their research output every year. In the 2011 list only three made it from India — Indian Institute of Science (300-400), and IITs at Delhi and Kharagpur (400-500). Those from China totalled

35, Brazil seven, South Africa three, Saudi Arabia two, and Iran one. They also list the top 100 for engineering. From India only Indian Institute of Science made the grade, but there were eight from China! Obviously, we have a lot of catching up to do. Just ensuring the purity of JEE will not do it.

But there is an impasse at hand and it must be resolved amicably. Those protesting from the IITs have a point — that they must have a role in selecting their students. Any university should, as long as it is done within the concepts of fair play, social justice and societal obligations. An ideal entrance procedure should include high school performance, marks in a common all-India quantitative entrance examination and, if desired, any institution should be able to set their own entrance test/criteria also.

If an institution wants to conduct its own test it must be very different from the current JEE and not require students to prepare too much. It must test aptitude and not just mathematical prowess as that would already have been tested by the common all-India test. It would have to be free from language and class biases.

Devising such a test would need collaboration with national and international education and testing experts and will take time, but it would free IIT faculty from wasting their time on the JEE and focus on what will actually benefit their institutions. It should be possible to design IIT specific aptitude test procedures within the next year. If the IITs agree to such a change in entrance procedures the MHRD should agree to introduce the new system in 2014. If not, the current proposal of MHRD should stay. As for the JEE, it needs to go.

(Dinesh Mohan is the Volvo Chair Professor Emeritus, Transport Research and Injury Prevention Programme, WHO Collaborating Centre, IIT Delhi)

## No intent to infringe on IITs' autonomy: Sibal

**WASHINGTON:** Rejecting criticism and virtually ruling out going back on the new proposal, Union Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal said here on Monday the government had no intent of impinging on the autonomy of the IITs.

Defending the decision to have a nationwide common entrance test, which is being opposed by IIT Kanpur among others, Mr. Sibal said this had been taken in accordance with the IIT Act passed by Parliament. This was a unanimous decision of the IIT Council, he added.

"There is no intent to impact on the IIT system autonomy.... the exam that is being contemplated is to be set by the IIT itself," Mr. Sibal told journalists here when asked to comment on the controversy back home.

He is leading a high-power Indian delegation to co-chair the India-U.S. education dialogue with the Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton.

Mr. Sibal had on May 28 announced that from 2013,

aspiring candidates for the IITs and other Central institutes like NITs and IIITs will have to sit under a new format of common entrance test, which will also take the plus-two board results into consideration.

He had claimed that it was approved without dissent at a council consisting of the IITs, the IIITs and the NITs.

The Senate of the IIT-Kanpur has rejected the Centre's 'one-nation one-test' proposal and decided to conduct its own entrance exam from next year.

Mr. Sibal said that on his return, he would study the decisions being taken by the IIT Kanpur.

"This has nothing to do with the government," he said, noting that the decision has been taken in accordance with the IIT Act. This would have no impact on the quality of the education in IITs.

He was responding to questions after delivering his speech 'Education: U.S-India Collaboration' at an event organised jointly by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.



# Sibal denies bid to impinge on IIT autonomy

## HRD minister says Centre will look into IIT-Kanpur's decision on holding its own exams

WASHINGTON: Rejecting criticism and virtually ruling out going back on the new proposal, the Union Human Resources Development Minister, Kapil Sibal, on Monday said the government had no intent to impinge on the autonomy of the IITs.

Defending the decision to have one nationwide common entrance test, which is being opposed by IIT Kanpur among others, Sibal said this has been taken in accordance with the IIT Act passed by Parliament. He said it was a unanimous de-

cision of the IIT council. "There is no intent to impact on the IIT system autonomy...the exam that is being contemplated is to be set by the IIT itself," Sibal told reporters here when asked to comment on the controversy back home.

"We have no desire to any way directly or indirectly...To protect the autonomy of IIT," Sibal said and argued that the decision of the IIT council is in tune with the international practices.

Sibal is leading a high-powered Indian delegation to co-chair the India-US education



Kapil Sibal

dialogue with the Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. The minister had on May 28 announced that from 2013, aspiring candidates for IITs and other Central institutes like NITs and IITs will have to sit under a new

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the IIT Act. This would have no impact on the quality of the education in IITs. The minister was responding to questions after delivering his speech 'Education: US-India Collaboration' at an event organised jointly by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a prestigious American think-tank based in Washington and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

In his remarks, the minister said India, having a young and dynamic population, is facing enormous challenge in the higher education sector, and in

order to provide college education to all the country in the coming years as many as 800 new universities and 40,000 to 50,000 new colleges. "It is not an easy task. It is a monumental task. But there are enormous opportunities there."

"We need to look at solutions which are out of the box, which are Froogle innovations," Sibal said, adding that how to ensure that enough people go to college is one big challenge. The country, he said, needs another 800 universities, and between 40,000 to 50,000 colleges, a goal he said is tough to achieve.

Sibal argued that the same quality of education can be provided with the communication revolution taking place.

"I think, globally we have to thank the way we think," he said. "Time has come for educational institutions to think differently," he added. Responding to questions, Sibal said not much foreign investment is coming in the country's education sector. This is quite surprising. "I still can't fathom," he said. India would be setting about 100 community colleges in India from 2013 with the help of the United States. PTI

HT, Chandigarh

### WHERE IITs STAND

- IIT-Kanpur announces its own entrance exam in 2013
- IIT-Kharagpur teachers plan hunger strike
- IIT-Delhi to hold emergency senate meeting after June 18
- IIT-Mumbai to call emergency senate meeting by June-end
- All IIT Teachers' Federation seeks PM's intervention

## **Sibal says IIT autonomy intact, rules out rollback of common test**

Human resource development minister Kapil Sibal on Monday virtually ruled out going back on the controversial proposal for a nationwide common entrance test for Indian Institutes of Technologies (IITs).

The 'one nation, one test' proposal was a unanimous decision of the IIT Council taken in accordance with the IIT Act passed by Parliament, he told reporters in Washington when asked to comment on the controversy over the proposal, which has been opposed by IIT Kanpur among others.

Arguing that the decision of the IIT Council is in tune with the international practices, Sibal asserted: "There is no intent to impact on the IIT system autonomy. The exam that is being contemplated is to be set by the IIT itself."

The HRD ministry had last month announced the decision to merge IIT Joint Entrance Exam (IIT-JEE) with the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) from 2013.

However, IIT Kanpur Senate has passed a resolution rejecting the new format and decided to conduct its own entrance exam from next year.

Sibal, who is leading a high-powered Indian delegation to co-chair the India-US higher education dialogue with US secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, said he would study IIT Kanpur's decision on his return to India.

"This has nothing to do with the government," he said asserting it would have no impact on the quality of the education in IITs.

# Govt hits out at IITs, says senates not autonomous

ADITI TANDON/TNS

NEW DELHI, JUNE 11

The ongoing confrontation between the Government and IITs over the proposed common engineering entrance test (CET) from 2013 grew deeper today with HRD Ministry hitting back at the rebelling institutes to say that the IIT Council was supreme under the law and IIT Senates were not autonomous in admission-related matters.

Ministry sources hinted that IIT Kanpur Senate's May 8 resolution rejecting the Council's May 28 decision on CET and resolving to hold a separate test was unlawful. IIT Delhi, Kharagpur, and Bombay Senates are expected to go the Kanpur way in their respective meetings that are awaited.

But the Ministry today cited the IIT Act of 1961 to say that the IIT Senates were "neither autonomous nor had absolute rights in academic matters, and that the IIT Council was exclusively empowered to set admission standards."

As per the law, IIT Senates can frame admission-related Ordinances but Board of Governors of each IIT can cancel or modify these, officials said, forewarning IIT Senates against rejecting the CET which was the Council's decision and thus supreme and binding in Ministry's understanding. "A cumulative reading and harmonious construction of various Sections of the Act reveals that the BOG of each IIT has power of superin-

## IIT-KANPUR'S TAKE

■ Senates can change the Ordinances under law. IIT Kanpur Senate is waiting for other Senates to decide on CET. If they agree, all Senates will change the existing Ordinances to state that students will be chosen through a new test

■ BOG can cancel Senate's ordinance. IIT Council not involved anywhere

## SIBAL ON AUTONOMY

Washington: Virtually ruling out going back on the new proposal, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal on Monday said the government has no intention to interfere with the autonomy of the IITs. "There is no intention to interfere...the exam that is being contemplated is to be set by the IIT itself," Sibal said. — PTI



tendence over its Senate. The Senate is neither autonomous nor has unfettered rights even in the matters of academic concerns of the Institute. It is the IIT Council, rather than the Senate, which is empowered to set admission standards. Senate of IIT Kanpur has accepted this by framing its Ordinances so have other IITs," HRD officials said.

They questioned IIT faculty's "academic autonomy" claim saying the Act didn't even task the Senates with setting admission standards.

Continued on page 11

## Govt hits out at IITs

From page 1

"Senate functions don't include the area of academic standards. That's the exclusive domain of IIT Council whose duty is to coordinate the activities of all IITs and advise them on admission standards. Even if the Council advice is disregarded (as IIT Kanpur did), Council's duties continue," officials said. The Act envisages three statutory bodies for IITs — IIT Council (which makes policies and has all IIT Directors among members), IIT BOG (supervises each IIT and has institute and industry representatives) and IIT Senate (IIT faculty body). Each IIT has a BOG and Senate; Council is common to all and is chaired by the incumbent HRD Minister, Kapil Sibal presently.

On the Council, Section 33 of the Act says, "IIT Council shall advise IITs on duration of courses, admission standards and other academic matters."

On Senates, Section 15 says, "IIT Senate shall have the control, and be responsible for maintenance of standards of education and examination in the IIT."

# IIT-Kharagpur teachers to seek Mamata's help

'New format will undermine merit, dilute academic standards of IITs'

Shiv Sahay Singh

**KOLKATA:** Faculty members of the Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur have decided to seek West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's intervention to put on hold the proposal of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development for a common entrance test for undergraduate engineering courses across the country.

"We will bring it to the notice of the Chief Minister how the common entrance examination will undermine merit and dilute the academic standards of the IITs. The teachers will urge Ms. Banerjee to communicate her views to the Union Ministry in this re-

gard," said a senior faculty member of the IIT.

The proposed common entrance test has created divisions between the administration and faculty members of IIT-Kharagpur. While the Institute's Director Prof. Damodar Acharya has welcomed the proposal, representatives of the IIT-Kharagpur Teachers' Association have opposed it.

## May agitate

"The faculty members of the Institute will do everything possible through democratic means to oppose the common entrance test," said a faculty member.

Referring to the protests in the past when the IIT teach-

ers went on a hunger strike over implementation of the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission, he said that the teachers' association is contemplating similar protest on the issue.

"The faculty members never agreed that the Institute should admit students on the basis of a common entrance test from 2013," he said, adding that the views of a majority of teachers had not been incorporated into the resolution of the IIT Senate.

"IIT-Kharagpur is willing to expand the ambit of IIT-JEE to other institutions," said the resolution taken by a special Senate meeting on May 2.

Earlier also, representa-

tives of the teachers' association had expressed their apprehension about the common entrance examination to Ms. Banerjee.

In a letter addressed to her in April, the association had argued how the students from the State will find it difficult to get into IITs once the performance of the school board is considered.

"We could not agree to the proposal to consider marks obtained in the Higher Secondary Board Examination for the JEE selection process since we felt that it is very difficult to attain even 60 percent marks in our State Board Examination (10+2) compared to many other States," the letter said.

SINGLE ENTRANCE EXAM ROW

# Bengal CM gets a call from IIT-Kgp

**Mou Chakraborty**

■ Mou.Chakraborty@hindustantimes.com

**KOLKATA:** The teachers' association of IIT-Kharagpur will write to chief minister Mamata Banerjee, seeking her intervention to stop the Centre's attempts at introducing a single entrance examination for all the engineering colleges in the country from 2013.

"This attempt of doing away with the IIT-JEE will ruin the entire IIT system. The teachers' association is now left with no other option than to take every possible avenue which can stop

this move of the human resources development ministry. The association has decided to write to chief minister Mamata Banerjee and seek her intervention," a faculty member of the IIT-Kgp said.

"Let the teachers write to us and, then, we'll decide," West Bengal's education minister, Bratya Bas, said.

The All-India IIT Teachers' Federation has welcomed the move. "She has a very strong personality and plays an important part in national politics. If IIT-Kgp teachers can make her understand the problem, we can expect her to take up the



■ **Mamata Banerjee: Saviour?**

matter with the Centre," Atul Mittal, general secretary of the federation, said.

On June 6, when Union minister for human resources Kapil Sibal called all the state governments, seeking their opinion on the matter, Bengal had raised

objections. "We've registered our objections over the new system proposed at the meeting held in Delhi recently. There's a gap between the syllabus of our state board and that of the CBSE. We've asked for at least three years time so that we can implement our new, revised syllabus and reduce the gap," Basu said.

IIT-Kgp teachers said they feared that Bengal students would be the worst-hit if board marks were added for selection in the JEE, since it's difficult to get even 60% in Bengal board exams, compared to many other boards," an IIT-Kgp teacher said.

## IIT-KGP PROFS LOOK TO GET DIDI ON THEIR SIDE

**Mou Chakraborty**

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**KOLKATA:** The teachers' association of IIT-Kharagpur has decided to take its fight against the Centre's single entrance test move to West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee.

"The association has decided to write to the CM and seek her intervention," said a faculty member of IIT-KGP. "Introducing the single entrance test for all the engineering colleges in the country from 2013 will ruin the entire IIT system."

The state appeared ready to give the teachers a patient hearing. "Let the teachers write to us. Then we will decide," West Bengal education minister Bratya Basu said on Monday.

Bengal has already objected to the HRD ministry's single test formula, which recommends giving weight to marks secured in Class 12 board examinations. Securing high marks in the Bengal board examination is perceived to be more difficult in comparison to other boards.

The All India IIT Faculty Federation welcomed the IIT-KGP's decision to write to Banerjee. "She plays an important part in national politics. If IIT-KGP teachers can make her understand the problem, we can expect her to take up the matter with the Centre," said Atul Mittal, general secretary of the federation.

The teachers of IIT-KGP had tried to get in touch with the CM in April to discuss the issue, but had received no response.

## IIT-KHARAGPUR DIRECTOR STICKS TO HIS STAND

**New Delhi, June 11:** A day after he came under attack for supporting Centre's "one-nation one-test" proposal, IIT-Kharagpur director Damodar Acharya on Monday justified his stand saying that the new format would help students from rural areas to study in the prestigious institutions.

He also said the new Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) system, proposed by HRD minister Kapil Sibal, would help reduce the importance of coaching.

"The proposed new JEE system would help students from rural areas and girls as with their effort and performance in school they will get a chance to enter into professional education," Mr Acharya said in response to a question over the controversy.

"The importance on coaching will reduce. Eight consultations with stakeholders including the Chairman of the School Boards and technical education experts across the country by my team clearly see merit in the proposed system and particularly merit in giving importance to the school performance," he said. — PTI



# IIT-B SENATE YET TO MEET ON JEE REFORMS ISSUE

**HT Correspondent**

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**MUMBAI:** It is still unclear when the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) senate will hold its special meeting to discuss the latest developments in the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) issue, as the institute's director is out of town.

Many of the IITs are up in arms after the Centre proposed to introduce a single entrance exam for all engineering colleges in the country from 2013.

IIT-B faculty members had planned to meet the director, Devang Khakhar, on Monday, to fix a date for the meeting, but said they would have to wait at least another day. "We are expecting him to be in on Tuesday," said a faculty member.

The senate meeting is unlikely to take place for another week at least, because many members are still on leave. The new term begins on July 1.

On Monday, non-profit group Forum For Fairness in Education said it would file a public interest litigation in the Bombay HC against the Centre's decision. "There are a lot of technical difficulties and dangerous errors in the proposal," said Jayant Jain, president of the forum. "If they are not corrected then it will lead to chaos and destruction of the future of thousands of students."

It is also learnt that the teachers' association of IIT Kharagpur will soon write to West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee seeking her intervention to thwart the Centre's proposal.

# SC demands quota papers by Tuesday

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court's refusal to stay the Andhra HC verdict on the 4.5% minority sub-quota, combined with the remarks it expressed about the way the Union government went about creating it, leaves the fate of 325 students aspiring to join IITs under the sub-quota on the tenterhooks.

The court said: "It is a sensitive issue (sub-quota) and this is not the manner in which it should have been handled. We are very unhappy over the way the 4.5% sub-quota is carved out. No material was produced before the high court. No material is produced before us and you have not consulted the statutory bodies."

A bench of Justices K S Radhakrishnan and J S Khehar said plea for interim stay of the HC judgment would be considered on Wednesday, if the government produced documents to make good the basis of its December 22, 2011, decision to create 4.5% sub-quota for the Muslims.

Although minority communities, especially the Muslims, had asked for the sub-quota for long, it was eventually implemented on the eve of the UP polls, triggering accusations about political considerations being the main driver.

In the court, Attorney General G E Vahanvati said the government had ample documents to justify the necessity of 4.5% quota for the Muslim groups who because of their extreme backwardness were finding it difficult to compete with other OBCs in the Central List. He

said the Muslim groups were included in the OBC list since 1993 and the AP HC misread this core fact to fault the Centre's decision.

The bench said if the government had the documents why were they not produced either before the HC then or before the apex court now. It also asked why the government did not consult statutory bodies like National Commission for Backward Classes and National Commission for Minorities.

"The HC repeatedly said no material was produced. How can you blame the HC? Has the matter been referred to NCBC or NCM? Why it was not referred," it asked. Vahanvati said as per the law laid down by the SC, it was not necessary to consult the statutory bodies on the issue of carving out sub-quota for most backward among the backward classes.

The bench asked: "So, you can issue any number of office memorandum carving out further sub-quotas? It was such an important decision to carve out 4.5% from the 27% reservation for OBCs, yet the government did not think it fit to refer it to statutory bodies. Tomorrow, can the government carve out another 4.5% sub-quota?"

The bench wanted to know whether allowing implementation of the minority sub-quota would affect other groups within the 27% OBC reservations. The AG said it would affect them marginally and wanted to explain the calculations. But, the bench asked the AG to file the documents by Tuesday and posted the HRD ministry's appeal for further hearing on Wednesday.



# Justify minority quota in OBC, SC tells govt

## 4.5% ■ Refuses to stay Andhra HC order quashing quota

EXPRESS NEW SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 11

**I**N A setback to the Centre, the Supreme Court today refused to stay the Andhra Pradesh High Court order quashing 4.5 per cent reservation for minorities within the 27 per cent OBC quota in central educational institutions like the IITs and IIMs.

Upset with the union government's claim that the high court had wrongly assumed that the sub-quota of 4.5 per cent comprised socially and educationally backward class Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians, the bench asked Attorney General Goolam E Vahanvati on what basis the Centre had determined the figure of 4.5 per cent.

The Bench observed that it was natural for the HC to ask questions on which the Centre was complaining. "While you are not producing any material on the basis of which it (sub-quota) was done, you are now blaming the HC," it said.

Despite the AG's plea that the future of 325 young boys and girls who had been shortlisted in JEE 2012 under the 4.5 per cent minority

Saying it was "unhappy" that the Centre had filed an appeal without any supporting documents, the bench of Justices K S Radhakrishnan and J S Khehar said: "Without placing documents, how can you find fault with the high court (order)?"

The AG, incidentally, acknowledged in court that the Centre had failed to argue the case properly in the HC. The apex court asked the Centre to produce the material by tomorrow, and adjourned the hearing to June 13.

In its petition, the Centre argued that the HC judgment was erroneous since as per the revised central list of 1993, only two Muslim communities are included as being socially and educationally

backward, implying that the same rule may have been applied for other communities. The Centre said that the HC also wrongly assumed that the sub-quota is for all minorities referred to in the judgment.

It also said that the HC erred in not taking into consideration the fact that there is no constitutional bar on the classification of backward classes into backward classes and more backward classes for the purposes of Article 16(4) of the Constitution. The HC also failed to appreciate that the basis of calculation of 4.5 per cent was the Mandal Commission report, which had estimated OBCs at 52 per cent of the total population, the Centre said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## 'Justify minority quota in OBC'

quota for the 15 IITs was at stake — counselling for IITs is already on — the Bench refused to give a stay order. Unless the government produced the material justifying the sub-quota, it wouldn't pass an interim order, the Bench said.

To a question from the Bench if the 4.5 per cent sub-quota would affect the share of other categories

that benefit from the 27 per cent OBC reservation, the AG replied in the affirmative. "Today, you are carving out 4.5 per cent for one section. Tomorrow, you will add 4.5 per cent to another. How can you break up the 27 per cent? What was the exercise that you did before doing this?" the Bench asked.

The Bench also ob-

served that while deciding to carve out 4.5 per cent sub-quota from the OBC quota, the Central government had ignored statutory bodies such as the National Commission for Backward Classes and National Commission for Minorities.

To this Vahanvati replied that as per settled law, consultation with statutory bodies was not required to decide such a matter.

# Fate of over 300 shortlisted students hang in balance

**HT Correspondent**

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**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court's refusal to stay the Andhra Pradesh high court's May 28 order will affect a total of 325 students shortlisted in IIT-JEE 2012 under sub-quota category.

This year, the IITs had allowed a 4.5% sub-quota within the 27% seats reserved for other backward classes (OBC) — the non-creamy layer — OBC (NCL).

The 4.5% sub-quota reserved for minorities in IIT selection was on May 28 merged in the OBC category after the judgment of the Andhra Pradesh high court squashed the sub-quota provision.

## THE MERGER OF SUB-QUOTA IN THE OBC CATEGORY COULD INDIRECTLY BENEFIT THE OBC STUDENTS

“Those shortlisted in the minority sub-quota have been merged in the OBC category. Under such a case, it is possible that someone who gets a rank over 3000 may not get a good branch or something not of his choice. We had therefore advised these students to widen their choice for courses so that a seat in IIT is ensured,” said Dr GB Reddy, organising chairperson, IIT-JEE 2012.

Sources said the merger of sub-quota category in the OBC category, could indirectly benefit candidates of OBC category.

There were a total of 445 seats for sub-quota category but only 325 candidates could be shortlisted.

As many as 2,613 seats were reserved for OBCs.

Nearly 500,000 candidates had appeared for the IIT-JEE this year.

The results were announced on May 18. Counselling for shortlisted candidates had closed on June 10. A shortlisted candidate rued over the development and said: “I was celebrating when my result came. Today, I have no hope.”

# अल्पसंख्यक आरक्षण पर केंद्र को सुप्रीम कोर्ट की फटकार, पूछा- क्या है 4.5% कोटे का आधार

● अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। अल्पसंख्यक आरक्षण के मुद्दे पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को केंद्र सरकार को कड़ी फटकार लगाई। सर्वोच्च अदालत ने कहा कि सरकार इतने गंभीर मसले पर इतनी लापरवाही कैसे कर सकती है। किस आधार पर ओबीसी को मिलने वाले 27 फीसदी कोटे को विभाजित कर सरकार ने अल्पसंख्यकों को 4.5 फीसदी सब कोटा दिया। कल को ऐसे ही और भी कोटा तय कर देंगे। हाईकोर्ट के आदेश पर रोक लगाना तो दूर केंद्र की ओर से दायर याचिका पर असंतुष्ट शीर्ष अदालत ने मामले पर नोटिस जारी करने से भी इनकार कर दिया और सरकार को मंगलवार को इससे संबंधित सभी दस्तावेज दाखिल करने का निर्देश दिया।

जस्टिस केएस राधाकृष्णन और जस्टिस जेएस खेहर ने मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय को आड़े हाथों लेते हुए कहा कि 28 मई के हाईकोर्ट के आदेश के खिलाफ शीर्ष अदालत में यह याचिका उन दस्तावेज के बगैर ही दायर कर दी गई जो अल्पसंख्यकों

- आंध्र प्रदेश हाईकोर्ट के फैसले पर रोक लगाने से इनकार
- अदालत ने कोटा संबंधी दस्तावेज दाखिल करने को कहा



को कोटा देने के प्रावधान को न्यायोचित ठहरा सकें।

शीर्ष अदालत ने हाईकोर्ट के आदेश पर रोक लगाने की मांग तुकराते हुए कहा कि रोक तब तक नहीं लगाई जाएगी, जब तक सरकार सब कोटा देने से पहले की गई विस्तृत कार्यवाही

## कैसे बांट दिया ओबीसी का 27 फीसदी कोटा

कोर्ट ने पूछा कि केंद्र सरकार ने किस आधार पर ओबीसी को मिलने वाला 27 प्रतिशत कोटा विभाजित किया। यह बहुत ही गंभीर मुद्दा है, आपने 27 प्रतिशत कोटा से सब कोटा निकाला है। कल को आप और भी कोटा तय करेंगे।

## क्या था मामला

आंध्र प्रदेश हाईकोर्ट ने 28 मई के फैसले में मुसलमानों को 4.5% आरक्षण दिए जाने के प्रावधान को रद्द कर दिया था। हाईकोर्ट ने कहा कि यह सब कोटा सिर्फ धार्मिक आधार पर है। इसका और कोई तार्किक आधार नहीं है।

से संबंधित दस्तावेज और आंकड़े पेश नहीं करेगी।

पीठ ने सरकार की ओर से पेश अटॉर्नी जनरल जीई वाहनवती से कहा कि वह याचिका के समर्थन में सभी दस्तावेज मंगलवार तक अदालत में पेश करें। अदालत ने मामले की

## हाईकोर्ट को क्यों नहीं किया संतुष्ट...

अटॉर्नी जनरल ने कहा कि वह अदालत को संतुष्ट कर देंगे कि किस आधार पर 4.5 प्रतिशत कोटा दिया गया। नाराज पीठ ने इस पर कहा कि आप हाईकोर्ट को भी संतुष्ट कर सकते थे, उन्हें क्यों नहीं किया।

## कांग्रेस चुप, भाजपा ने किया स्वागत

कोटा मामले में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के रुख को लेकर कांग्रेस ने जहां कुछ भी कहने से इनकार कर दिया। वहीं भाजपा ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट के कदम का स्वागत किया है।

सुनवाई बुधवार तक के लिए टाल दी। इससे पहले वाहनवती ने कोटा का लाभ पाकर आईआईटी प्रवेश परीक्षा में सफल होने वाले 325 छात्रों के भविष्य का भी हवाला दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि आईआईटी में अभी

# सरकार ने बताई आईआईटी सीनेट की सीमाएं

कानून की व्याख्या कर बताया, आईआईटी  
काउंसिल का लिया फैसला सर्वोच्च

● बृजेश सिंह

नई दिल्ली। इंजीनियरिंग की सिंगल प्रवेश परीक्षा पर विरोध को खारिज करते हुए सरकार ने कहा है कि आईआईटी काउंसिल का फैसला सर्वोच्च है। वह किसी भी आईआईटी सीनेट के फैसले को संशोधित या रद्द भी कर सकती है। आईआईटी कानपुर की सीनेट के सिंगल प्रवेश परीक्षा को लागू करने से इनकार करने के फैसले के बाद मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल के खेमे से आईआईटी एक्ट 1961 का हवाला देते हुए यह जानकारी दी गई है।

गौरतलब है कि आईआईटी काउंसिल ने देश में इंजीनियरिंग के लिए सिंगल प्रवेश परीक्षा कराने का फैसला लिया है। सिब्बल इस काउंसिल के चेयरमैन हैं। काउंसिल के इस फैसले पर कुछ आईआईटी में नाराजगी है। वे इसे आईआईटी की स्वायत्तता तथा एक्सीलेंसी के लिए सही नहीं मान रहे हैं। कानपुर आईआईटी तो पिछले हफ्ते सीनेट की बैठक में अलग से प्रवेश परीक्षा कराने का फैसला कर चुका है। आईआईटी दिल्ली भी सिंगल प्रवेश परीक्षा के खिलाफ एकजुट हो रहा है।

इस बीच, आईआईटी सीनेट की सीमाएं बताने के लिए मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने आईआईटी एक्ट में काउंसिल के अधिकारों की व्याख्या मीडिया में जारी की है। इसमें कहा गया है कि आईआईटी एक्ट के सेक्शन 13 के अनुसार काउंसिल को सीनेट के फैसलों व कार्यों के परीक्षण का अधिकार है। सेक्शन 15 में सीनेट के जो कार्य दायित्व बताए गए हैं उसमें पठन पाठन व परीक्षा के स्टैंडर्ड को बनाए रखना महत्वपूर्ण है। लेकिन छात्रों के संस्थान में प्रवेश का दायित्व उसे नहीं दिया गया है। यह अधिकार काउंसिल के ही पास



● कहा, सीनेट के फैसले को रद्द या संशोधित भी कर सकती है काउंसिल

सिंगल प्रवेश परीक्षा का फैसला वापस लेने से सिब्बल का इनकार

खाशिंगटन। इंजीनियरिंग में सिंगल प्रवेश परीक्षा को लेकर हो रहे जोरदार विरोध को केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने खारिज कर दिया है। सिब्बल ने इशारों में यह भी साफ कर दिया कि वह अपना फैसला वापस नहीं लेने वाले। उन्होंने कहा कि सिंगल प्रवेश परीक्षा का फैसला आईआईटी काउंसिल में सर्वसम्मति से लिया गया। सिब्बल ने कहा कि सरकार की आईआईटी की स्वायत्तता में दखल देने की कोई मंशा नहीं है। एजेंसी

है। मंत्रालय की ओर से जारी एक संबंधी व्याख्या में यह भी कहा गया है कि सेक्शन 28 तथा 29 के अनुसार सीनेट द्वारा बनाए गए नियम यद्यपि तत्काल प्रभाव से लागू माने जाते हैं लेकिन उसे काउंसिल की अगली बैठक में स्वीकृति के लिए पेश करना होता है। काउंसिल को यह अधिकार है कि वह सीनेट के बनाए गए नियमों में संशोधन कर दे अथवा पूरी तरह खारिज कर दे।

# प्रवेश परीक्षा सीनेट के अधिकार में नहीं: केंद्र

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

आईआईटी कानपुर की सीनेट के फैसले पर पलटवार करते हुए केंद्र सरकार ने कहा कि भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान अधिनियम के तहत सीनेट को आईआईटी की प्रवेश परीक्षा के नियम-कायदे तय करने का अधिकार ही नहीं है। यह अधिकार आईआईटी काउंसिल का है। सीनेट के पास अकेले कोई फैसला लेने का अधिकार नहीं है। उसके फैसलों को आईआईटी बोर्ड संशोधित या खारिज करने का अधिकार रखता है।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के अनुसार प्रवेश परीक्षा के बारे में आईआईटी काउंसिल ही सलाह दे सकती है जिसे सभी सातों आईआईटी के लिए मानना अनिवार्य है। किसी एक आईआईटी के लिए इसके इतर दूसरा विकल्प मान्य नहीं है। कपिल सिब्बल हालांकि इन दिनों अमेरिका में हैं। लेकिन इस बीच मंत्रालय की तरफ से कहा गया



## आमने-सामने

- आईआईटी कानपुर की सीनेट के फैसले पर केंद्र का कड़ा रुख
- कहा, काउंसिल की सलाह सभी सातों आईआईटी के लिए मानना अनिवार्य

है कि सीनेट प्रवेश परीक्षा पर फैसला लेने में सक्षम नहीं है। मंत्रालय के रुख से साफ है कि वह आईआईटी कानपुर की सीनेट के फैसले को तरजीह देने के मूड में नहीं है। इससे साफ है कि आने वाले दिनों में यह विवाद सीनेट बनाम आईआईटी काउंसिल के अधिकारों का बन जाएगा।

- अदालत में विवाद का फैसला: पेज-15

**संपादकीय**  
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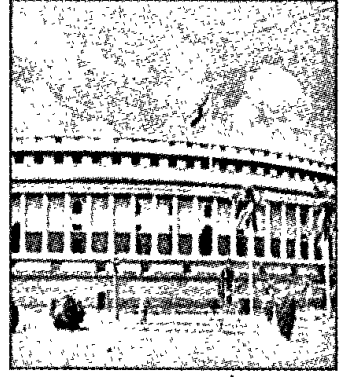
**इसकी क्या गारंटी है कि कल को सरकार किसी और वर्ग को खुश करने के लिए ओबीसी के बचे 22.5 फीसदी का बंटवारा भी न कर दे!**

## कोटे के भीतर कोटे की राजनीति

**उ**त्तर प्रदेश सहित पांच राज्यों के विधानसभा चुनावों के समय केंद्र सरकार ने जिस हड़बड़ी में शासनादेश के जरिये अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग यानी ओबीसी के 27 फीसदी आरक्षण के भीतर पिछड़े अल्पसंख्यकों को 4.5 फीसदी आरक्षण देने का फैसला किया था, उससे उसकी नीयत में खोट नजर आया था। और अब सर्वोच्च अदालत ने आंध्र प्रदेश उच्च न्यायालय के फैसले पर स्थगन देने से इनकार किया है, तो आरक्षण की राजनीति की ही शिनाख्त हो रही है। यह समझने की जरूरत है कि आरक्षण की सांविधानिक व्यवस्था और इसकी आड़ में होने वाली

राजनीति, ये दोनों भिन्न चीजें हैं। आरक्षण के जरिये समाज के उपेक्षित वर्ग को मुख्यधारा से जोड़ने में निश्चित ही मदद मिली है, पर प्रकारांतर से राजनीतिक दलों और सरकारों ने आरक्षण को अपने राजनीतिक हित साधने का जरिया भी बना लिया। जबकि किसी उपेक्षित वर्ग के उत्थान के लिए आरक्षण सिर्फ एक जरिया है और वह भी समुचित अवसर उपलब्ध कराए बिना संभव नहीं है। हाल ही में संपन्न आईआईटी की तकरीबन दस हजार सीटों के लिए प्रवेश परीक्षा में पांच लाख से ज्यादा विद्यार्थियों ने हिस्सा लिया था, और साढ़े चार फीसदी आरक्षण से इसमें अल्पसंख्यक वर्गों के मुश्किल से

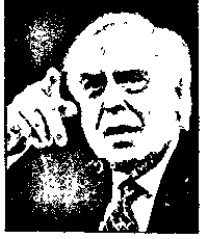
325 बच्चों को ही लाभ मिल सकता है। यही हाल नौकरियों का है। फिर यह नहीं भूलना चाहिए कि यह आरक्षण सिर्फ सरकारी नौकरियों और केंद्रीय शिक्षण संस्थानों तक ही सीमित है। दरअसल जस्टिस राजेंद्र सच्चर और जस्टिस रंगनाथ मिश्र की अगुआई वाले आयोगों ने भी मुसलिम समुदाय की गरीबी और असुरक्षा को दूर करने के लिए आरक्षण के साथ ही उन्हें आर्थिक मदद सहित कई अन्य सिफारिशें भी की थीं, जिन पर बात नहीं होती। न्यायालय ने केंद्र के इस कदम को सांविधानिक सीमाओं को लांघने के प्रयास के तौर पर तो देखा ही है, उसका साफ



कहना है कि यह आरक्षण धार्मिक आधार पर दिया गया है, जिसकी इजाजत संविधान नहीं देता। सरकार व्यापक सर्वे के आधार पर फैसला लेने की बात करती है, मगर उसने अपने दावे के पक्ष में ऐसा कोई दस्तावेज भी पेश नहीं किया। फिर इसकी क्या गारंटी है कि कल को वह किसी और वर्ग को खुश करने के लिए ओबीसी के बचे 22.5 फीसदी का बंटवारा भी न कर दे!

# एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा से पीछे नहीं हटेगा केंद्र

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : केंद्र सरकार ने तमाम विरोधों के बावजूद इंजीनियरिंग की एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा से पीछे हटने से इन्कार कर दिया है।



केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन व विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने कहा कि सरकार प्रवेश परीक्षा के नए प्रस्ताव के जरिये आइआईटी की स्वायत्तता को कम नहीं कर रही है। प्रस्ताव के विरोध को

देखते हुए सरकार ने आइआईटी के कानूनी प्रावधानों को खंगालना शुरू कर दिया है।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक, मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने आइआईटी कानून के उन प्रावधानों का परीक्षण शुरू कर दिया है, जो सीनेट के कार्यकलापों के खिलाफ जाते हैं। बताते हैं कि आइआईटी एक्ट-1961 के प्रावधानों के तहत

• आइआईटी के कानूनी प्रावधानों का सहारा लेगी सरकार

• नई व्यवस्था से कम नहीं होगी आइआईटी की स्वायत्तता : सिब्बल

सीनेट के कार्यकलापों में भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों की प्रवेश प्रक्रिया के मानक तय करना शामिल नहीं है। वह, सिर्फ अकादमिक मामलों में ही अपनी राय रख सकता है। सीनेट कोई भी प्रस्ताव पारित करता है तो उसे जल्द से जल्द आइआईटी बोर्ड के सामने प्रस्तुत करना होगा। बोर्ड चाहे तो उसमें संशोधन कर सकता है या फिर उसे रद्द कर सकता है। लिहाजा ऐसा नहीं माना जाना चाहिए कि सीनेट का कोई फैसला बदला नहीं जा सकता या उसे कुछ भी करने की स्वायत्तता है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल अभी विदेश दौरे पर हैं। सूत्रों की मानें तो

उनके मंत्रालय के अधिकारी आइआईटी कानपुर की सीनेट द्वारा उठाए गए बिंदुओं का जवाब भी ढूंढ चुके हैं। जरूरी हुआ तो सरकार उसके आधार पर आगे कदम उठाएगी। आइआईटी कानपुर की सीनेट ने सभी केंद्रीय इंजीनियरिंग शिक्षण संस्थानों में एकल संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा के प्रस्ताव को खारिज कर दिया है। कुछ दूसरे आइआईटी भी उसकी राह पर जा सकते हैं। आइआईटी फैकल्टी फेडरेशन भी एकल संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा का विरोध कर रहा है।

इस बीच, आइआईटी खडगपुर के निदेशक दामोदर आचार्य ने सिब्बल के प्रस्ताव को सही ठहराते हुए कहा कि इससे ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के छात्रों को प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों में पहुंचने का मौका मिलेगा। वहीं, आइआईटी मद्रास के निदेशक भास्कर राममूर्ति ने नई व्यवस्था का समर्थन करते हुए अगले शैक्षणिक सत्र से लागू करने के लिए तैयार होने की बात कही है।

## परीक्षा का उलझता मसला

इंजीनियरिंग शिक्षण संस्थानों की प्रवेश परीक्षा को लेकर केंद्र सरकार और कुछ भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान यानी आइआइटी जिस तरह आमने-सामने आ गए हैं उससे यही साबित हो रहा है कि समस्या का समाधान करने के बजाय उसे उलझाने की कोशिश हो रही है। इस मामले में सबसे विचित्र यह है कि सभी आइआइटी एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा के समर्थन अथवा विरोध पर एकमत भी नहीं हैं। जहां कुछ आइआइटी एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा के प्रस्ताव से मोटे तौर पर सहमत नजर आ रहे हैं वहीं कुछ ने एक तरह से केंद्र सरकार को चुनौती देते हुए अपनी परीक्षा खुद कराने का निर्णय ले लिया है। आइआइटी कानपुर ने जिस तरह अपनी प्रवेश परीक्षा खुद कराने का निर्णय लेने के साथ इस परीक्षा की तैयारी के लिए नौ सदस्यीय कमेटी भी गठित कर दी उससे तो ऐसा लगता है कि इस मुद्दे को बातचीत के जरिये हल करने की गुंजाइश भी नहीं छोड़ी जा रही है। यह किसी पहली से कम नहीं कि जो व्यवस्था कुछ आइआइटी को उपयुक्त नजर आ रही है उसे अन्य सिरे से खारिज क्यों कर रहे हैं? क्या यह उचित नहीं होगा कि केंद्र सरकार, आइआइटी एवं अन्य इंजीनियरिंग संस्थान एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा पर नए सिरे से विचार करें? यह विचार-विमर्श इसलिए आवश्यक है, क्योंकि उसके कुछ प्रावधान जहां आइआइटी को रास नहीं आ रहे हैं वहीं कुछ छात्रों का अहित करने वाले दिख रहे हैं। उदाहरण स्वरूप एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा का यह प्रावधान उन राज्यों के 12वीं कक्षा के छात्रों पर भारी पड़ सकता है जहां की बोर्ड परीक्षा में 75-80 प्रतिशत नंबर लाना टेढ़ी खीर है। इस संदर्भ में इसकी भी अनदेखी नहीं की जा सकती कि कुछ बोर्डों की परीक्षाओं में बड़ी संख्या में छात्र इतने प्रतिशत अंक अर्जित कर लेते हैं। आखिर इन स्थितियों में 12वीं की परीक्षा के अंकों को इंजीनियरिंग की एकल परीक्षा में महत्व देने का क्या मतलब?

यदि आइआइटी इसी प्रावधान का विरोध कर रहे हैं तो उनकी आपत्ति समझ में आती है, लेकिन यदि वे महज इस आधार पर एकल परीक्षा में भागीदार बनने के लिए तैयार नहीं कि इससे उनकी विशिष्टता प्रभावित हो जाएगी तो इसका कोई विशेष अर्थ नहीं। निःसंदेह आइआइटी की विशिष्टता बनी रहनी चाहिए, लेकिन इसे बनाए रखने का एकमात्र उपाय एकल परीक्षा में भागीदार न बनना नहीं है। इसके लिए कुछ अन्य उपाय आसानी से किए जा सकते हैं। यह ऐसा मामला नहीं जिसमें विवाद के बिंदुओं के बीच कोई बीच का रास्ता न तलाशा जा सके, लेकिन ऐसा तभी संभव होगा जब अहं का परित्याग कर समस्या के समाधान को प्राथमिकता प्रदान की जाएगी। सैद्धांतिक तौर पर इसमें हर्ज नहीं कि देश के सभी इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों के लिए एक ही प्रवेश परीक्षा हो। आखिर जब अन्य देशों में ऐसा हो सकता है तो भारत में क्यों नहीं? इसका औचित्य समझना कठिन है कि छात्र भिन्न-भिन्न संस्थानों के लिए अलग परीक्षा दें। उनके लिए ऐसा करना न केवल श्रमसाध्य है, बल्कि आर्थिक रूप से बोझ बढ़ाने वाला भी है। चूंकि आइआइटी समेत अन्य इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों की परीक्षा में 15 लाख से अधिक छात्र शामिल होते हैं और वे पहले से ही इन परीक्षाओं की तैयारी शुरू कर देते हैं इसलिए एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा को लेकर संशय का जो माहौल बन गया है उसे यथाशीघ्र दूर किया जाना चाहिए।

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## सिब्ल के सभी कामों में विवाद क्यों?

केंद्र सरकार के कुछ मंत्री हैं, जिनका कोई काम स्वाभाविक तरीके से नहीं हो सकता। वे जिस काम में हाथ डालेंगे, उसमें विवाद होगा। पी चिदंबरम और कपिल सिब्ल का नाम इस लिहाज से खासतौर से लिया जा सकता है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्ल, जो भी काम शुरू करते हैं, वह अटक जाता है और उस पर राष्ट्रीय स्तर की बहस शुरू हो जाती है। ताजा मामला आईआईटी का है।

सिब्ल ने कहा कि अगर विरोध का एक भी स्वर होता तो वे आईआईटी की साझा प्रवेश परीक्षा का प्रस्ताव नहीं लाते। एक स्वर की क्या कहे दिल्ली, कानपुर, मुंबई के संस्थान और आईआईटी फेकल्टी परिषद ने इसका विरोध कर दिया है। रुड़की, खड़गपुर, गुवाहाटी के भरोसे सिब्ल इसे नहीं लागू



कर सकते। समर्थन से ज्यादा इसका विरोध हो रहा है। इससे पहले बिहार में केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय का प्रस्ताव आया तो सिब्ल मुख्यमंत्री नीतिश कुमार से

उलझ गए। विश्वविद्यालय मोतिहारी में बनेगा या गया में, इसका बड़ा विवाद चल रहा है।

इसी तरह उन्होंने उच्च शिक्षा के लिए एक परिषद बनाना का प्रस्ताव रखा तो स्वास्थ्य मंत्री गुलाम नबी आजाद से पंगा हो गया। शिक्षा का अधिकार कानून बना तो उसे सुप्रीम कोर्ट से लागू कराना पड़ा और अब भी उसके लिए धन की व्यवस्था को लेकर राज्यों के साथ विवाद चल रहा है। विपक्ष के साथ सहयोग बना कर जैसे-तेसे दो बिल पास हुए हैं और एक दर्जन अब भी लटकते हुए हैं। विपक्ष के एक नेता का कहना है कि असल में सिब्ल अभी तक सुप्रीम कोर्ट के वकील की इमेज से बाहर नहीं निकले हैं और अब भी सभी नेताओं को अपना क्लायंट समझते हैं। इस समझ के कारण सारा संकट है।

आईआईटी फैकल्टी एसोसिएशन ने किया दावा

# अदालत में होगा सिंगल टेस्ट विवाद का फैसला

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय के दावे के विपरीत आईआईटी फैकल्टी एसोसिएशन का कहना है कि आईआईटी अधिनियम में प्रवेश परीक्षा को लेकर कोई स्पष्ट प्रावधान नहीं है। सीनेट और सरकार मौजूदा प्रावधानों की अपने-अपने तरीके से व्याख्या कर रहे हैं। जिससे अंततः यह विवाद कोर्ट में पहुंचेगा।

सरकार के दावों पर आईआईटी दिल्ली के वरिष्ठ प्रोफेसर संजीव सांघवी ने कहा कि अधिनियम में इस बाबत स्थिति साफ नहीं है। सीनेट को परीक्षा के मानक तय करने का अधिकार है। इसमें प्रवेश परीक्षा भी शामिल मानी जानी चाहिए। हालांकि सरकार के मुताबिक इसका मतलब सेमेस्टर परीक्षाओं से है।

## अपने-अपने तर्क

- आईआईटी अधिनियम में प्रवेश परीक्षा को लेकर स्पष्ट प्रावधान नहीं
- सीनेट और सरकार मौजूदा प्रावधानों की मनमानी व्याख्या कर रहे हैं

सांघवी ने कहा कि काउंसिल को प्रवेश परीक्षा और अन्य मामलों में सिर्फ सलाह देने का अधिकार है। लेकिन सरकार का कहना है कि अधिनियम के तहत सलाह को मानना सभी आईआईटी के लिए अनिवार्य है।

आईआईटी कानपुर समेत सभी आईआईटी की सीनेट ने पूर्व में आर्डिनेंस जारी करके एक्ट की इस व्याख्या को माना कि एडमिशन टेस्ट में सलाह का कार्य काउंसिल के पास है।

## क्या है आईआईटी एक्ट 1961

- अनुच्छेद 13 (1) के तहत आईआईटी बोर्ड को सीनेट के कामकाज की समीक्षा करने का अधिकार है
- अनुच्छेद 15 के तहत सीनेट को आईआईटी के निर्देशों, शैक्षिक कार्य और परीक्षा के नियम तय करने का अधिकार है। लेकिन परीक्षा को लेकर स्पष्ट नहीं कहा गया है
- अनुच्छेद 29 के तहत सीनेट द्वारा पारित आर्डिनेंस को बोर्ड की बैठक में रखा जाएगा, जिसे बोर्ड स्वीकार और खारिज कर सकता है
- अनुच्छेद 33 के तहत काउंसिल की इयूटी सस्थान की सभी गतिविधियों में समन्वय रखना है। इसमें कोर्स, डिग्री, शैक्षिक गतिविधियां, शिक्षा के मानक, अन्य अकादमी मामले, प्रवेश परीक्षा आदि शामिल हैं।

# Building human capital

The government needs to make investment in education a priority, and also ensure a proportionate learning outcome

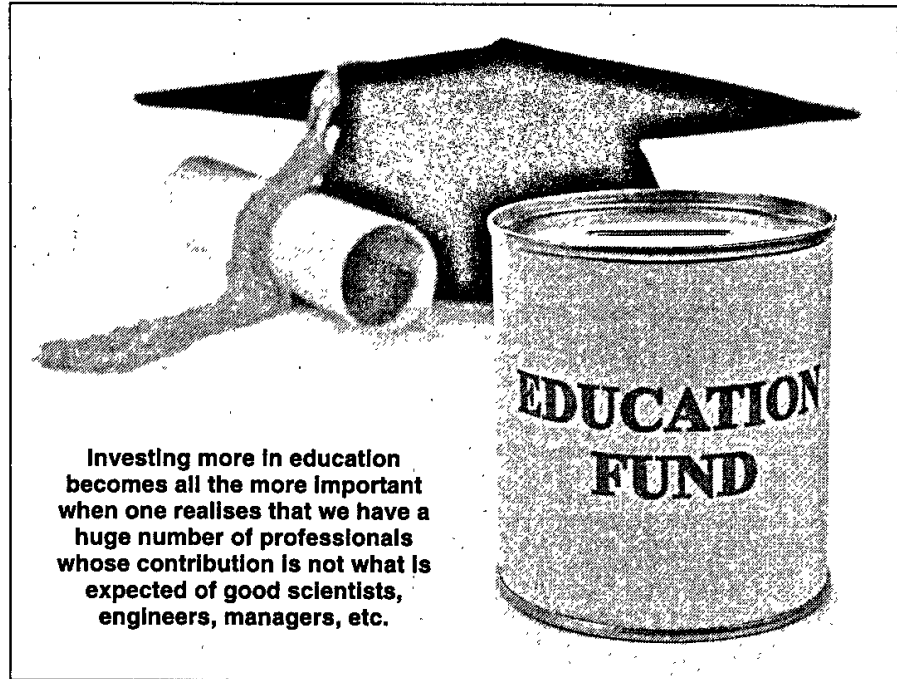
**D. S. CHEEMA**

**E**DUCATION is a solution to several problems India faces today, and these problems are bound to get aggravated over time. Not allotting the required funds for education, and not ensuring optimal use of such funds, indicates that our policymakers are not farsighted enough.

Some might argue that our large population is a major liability, but there is another side to the story — the same liability can be turned into a useful asset with suitable inputs. Today, our greatest asset is our human resource, especially the large number of youth. However, it is unfortunate that the majority of the youth are uneducated, unskilled, unemployed or under-employed even after 65 years of effort, and we are unable to exploit their full potential for nation-building. Had India given the required priority to primary and secondary education immediately after Independence, it would have arrested the population explosion more effectively, and thereby avoided many other problems flowing from high population.

Also, we have attached much greater importance to building physical capital, such as steel mills, dams, shopping malls, etc., than to building human capital. It is no one's case that these are not important; the important point is about the relative importance that is given to one over the other. Professor John K. Galbraith, a well-known economist and US Ambassador to India (1961-63), who was awarded the Padma Vibhushan by the Government of India in 2002, quotes Prof Theodore Schultz, a Nobel Prize-winner in Economics in 1979, that outlays on investment in education yield a higher return than on physical capital, "To look at education as a form of consumption is to risk assigning it unduly low priority."

Therefore, the Central government should allocate more funds for education in the Union Budget. One must remember that like any other investment, investment in education can also yield benefits over a period of time. The decision of investment of any type by individuals, groups or nations demands detailed planning based on cost-benefit analysis. Return on investment, in the case of education, would be in terms of better outcome for students. Unfortunately, in our system, more money



**Investing more in education becomes all the more important when one realises that we have a huge number of professionals whose contribution is not what is expected of good scientists, engineers, managers, etc.**

pumped in education does not get translated into better pass-outs from schools, colleges and professional institutions.

For instance, the budget for India's flagship scheme for primary education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, has touched Rs 21,000 crore in 2010-11 as compared to approximately Rs 7,000 crore in 2005-06. However, basic learning outcomes have become lower rather than going up, as would be expected. (Annual Status of Education Report: ASER 2011).

If the measurement of learning outcomes shows all is not well, something needs to be done to improve the system. But it is to be seen what can be done if it is because of the teacher being professionally dishonest. The fact which cannot be brushed under the carpet is that unlike the ancient times, teaching is now either a vocation or a profession. In such a scenario, attracting and retaining talented teachers is a big challenge. In fact, retention of talented teachers is a strategic tool to drive performance of educational institutions that provide a distinct

competitive advantage. The traditional view that a fat pay packet is essential to retain talent is no more valid. It is hoped that the government recognises this crisis in learning and will take urgent steps towards making expenditure on education more effective in terms of learning outcomes.

Investing more in education becomes all the more important when one realises that we have a huge number of professionals whose contribution is not what is expected of good scientists, engineers, managers, etc. Our future requirement is for a large number of such professionals who have the ability to compete with those in China, US and other developed countries. Investment in people must be done in a long-term perspective. A Chinese proverb, which lays emphasis on this aspect of human development, rightly says, "If you want prosperity for one year, grow grain. If you want prosperity for 10 years, grow trees. If you want prosperity for 100 years, grow people." How can any nation 'grow people' without investing in education?