

Newspaper Clips

June 14, 2012

Asian Age ND 14/06/2012

P-5

IIT faculty may meet PM Friday

**AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 13**

With the Centre's "one-nation one-test" proposal for admission to Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and other Central engineering institutes remaining unresolved, members of the All-India IIT Faculty Federation (AIITFF) are likely to meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday.

"The Prime Minister's Office has responded to our request. We will meet PMO officials tomorrow and the Prime Minister on Friday," sources in the AIITFF said.

The meeting assumes significance after human resources development minister Kapil Sibal virtually ruled out going back on the Centre's new plan on the common entrance test. Opposing the Centre's new format, the AIITFF had written to the Prime Minister on May 31 saying that "each IIT is an individual and independent academic entity and should reserve its right to follow its own norms with regards to admissions and other academic matter".

The Delhi Alumni Association, which has also been on a warpath with the human resources development ministry and has threatened to file a PIL against the plan, has welcomed it as a "very positive development".

The association has also expressed hope that something would come out in the meeting to protect the IITs' independent academic entity.

The association has also sought a separate audience with the Prime Minister. Seeking the Prime Minister's intervention, they had said that the IIT system should be preserved not only as per the provisions of the acts, but beyond.

As per the plan, all Central government engineering institutes will implement a weightage system of 40/30/30 (Class 12, JEE main and JEE advanced, respectively). The IITs have been provided a two-year period for accepting this formula and will review the new system in 2015. In the case of IITs, the Class 12 board results and the JEE main test will be given 50 per cent weightage each.

Single test: PM to meet IIT federation tomorrow

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI**

In a development that may add a further twist in the IIT controversy, the leaders of the All India IIT Faculty Federation (AIITFF) will meet PM Manmohan Singh on Friday.

PMO officials have, however, invited the federation members on Thursday to brief them on the subject before meeting the PM on Friday at his residence.

The faculty members and the alumni association, who too have sought time from the PM, have been protesting against the Centre's move to change the JEE format for IITs.

The meeting assumes significance in the wake of HRD Minister Kapil Sibal virtually ruling out going back on the Centre's new proposal. Opposing the Centre's new format, the AIITFF had written to the Prime Minister on May 31 saying that "each IIT is an individual and independent academic entity and should reserve its right to follow its own norms with regards



AUTOCRATIC SIBAL

to admissions and other academic matter".

Delhi IIT Alumni Association, which has threatened to move court against the Centre's proposal, said that it is a "very positive development" and expressed hope that something would come out in the meeting to protect the IITs' independent academic entity. They have also sought a separate audience with the Prime Minister.

The IIT Alumni Association, which too has sought an appointment with the PM, however, expressed

resentment over not being granted time so far. "The PM should with utmost sincerity find some time and meet us so that we can put forth our view point. This is a matter concerning lakhs of engineering aspirants and nonetheless their families. We are just looking forward to an amicable solution," said Somnath Bharti, President of IIT Delhi Alumni Association.

Sources in PMO said that the meet between the alumni association and the PM may be delayed further since the PM is shortly leaving on foreign tour for about a week. HRD Minister Kapil Sibal is already in the United States.

The Government had on May 28 announced that from 2013, aspiring candidates for 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. Sibal had claimed that it was approved without dissent at a council consisting of the IITs, the IIITs and the NITs.

IIT faculty members pin hopes on PM for JEE gripe

By **Ritika Chopra**
In New Delhi

THE agitation against the new format of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) has finally reached the Prime Minister's door.

Responding to a request by faculty members of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), PM Manmohan Singh has agreed to meet them on Friday at his residence.

But before that, the delegation of professors will meet the PM's adviser TKA Nair on the issue at 4 pm on Thursday.

"A delegation of about four to five members of the faculty federation will meet the PM on Friday. We will seek his intervention in this matter," an All India IIT Faculty Federation (AIITFF) member said.

The AIITFF had written two letters to the PM's office. In the last letter, sent on May 31, the faculty members had cited Articles 28 (a) and 29 (1) of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 to point out that as far as the decision on admis-

PM Manmohan Singh

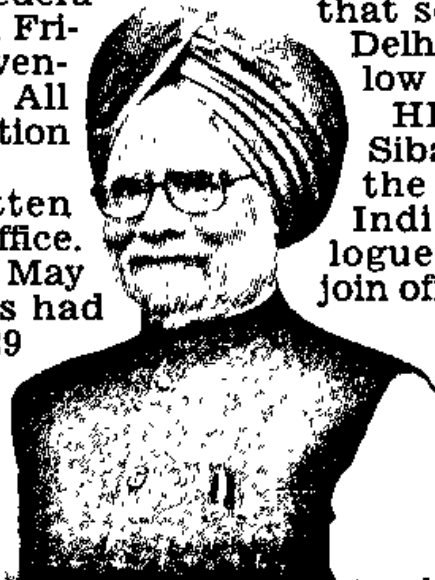
sion standards is concerned, the IIT senate's word was supreme, an argument strongly refuted by the HRD Ministry.

"Such a strong posture of the government is not conducive to the growth of the institutes and in fact grossly erodes their academic autonomy. It may have serious effects on the IIT system," the letter stated.

The revolt against the new format of the JEE, announced on May 28, has been getting out of hand ever since the senate of IIT-Kanpur took the decision to disassociate itself from JEE and hold its own entrance test next year. Since then, rumours are rife that senates of the IITs in Delhi and Bombay may follow suit.

HRD Minister Kapil Sibal, who is currently in the US to attend the India-US education dialogue, is only expected to join office on Monday.

"We hope that the PM will put in a word on our behalf and open the channel of communication with the ministry again," the AIITFF member added.



IIT faculty to meet PM today

manish k singhal

NEW DELHI, 13 JUNE: The All India Faculty Federation of IITs is going to meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the issue of the Common Entrance Test (CET) for admission to IITs that was recently proposed by the ministry of human resource development (MHRD).

The faculty has requested the PM to intervene as they feel the autonomy of the central universities will be affected by the proposal. Sources in the Prime Minister's Office said the IIT faculty members are likely to meet the Prime Minister at 4 p. m. today.

Mr A K Mittal, general secretary, All India Faculty Federation of IITs said, "We are going to meet the PM today to take up the issue of CET with him. We are hopeful that he would intervene in the matter." Sources said around 10 members of the IIT Faculty Federation

Once we go to the courts, all such futile attempts to make fake statements will collapse and the people trying to misguide the media would be exposed

would be part of the delegation.

With several IITs raising their voice against the proposed common entrance test, officials in the HRD ministry said the HRD minister, Mr Kapil Sibal, has clarified that the test was in favour of students.

Mr Mittal criticised media reports that have stated that the IIT senate does not have any powers to conduct entrance examinations. He said under Section 28 of The Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, an ordinance has to be promulgated for the admission of students to

such institutes and Section 29 stated that the senate is empowered to make the ordinances.

"Once we go to the courts, all such futile attempts to make fake statements will collapse and the people trying to misguide media would be exposed," said Mr Mittal.

While Mr Sibal said the decision on the CET was taken after getting the consent of directors of different IITs, the faculty members said that they were not taken into confidence.

IIT Kanpur has already declared that it will conduct its own entrance examination, and IITs Delhi and Mumbai are also likely to follow suit.

The Faculty Forum has opined that the Combined Entrance Test of IITs, NITs and AIEEE would create extra pressure on the students and they would be more dependent on the study centre mafia.

IIT faculty to meet PMO officials today

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 13
IIT faculty, agitating over the current structure of common engineering entrance test (CET) proposed from 2013, will meet top officials in the Prime Minister's Office tomorrow.

The All-India IIT Faculty Federation (AIIITFF), which had petitioned the PM against the Human Resources Development Ministry's alleged arbitrary stand on pushing the common engineering entrance test, confirmed to The Tribune today that they had been invited by the Prime Minister's Office for talks tomorrow. The meeting with PM Manmohan Singh is expected on Friday.

The meeting comes 10 days after Human Resources Development Minister Kapil Sibal announced go-ahead on the new common engineering entrance test from April 2013.

The minister said on June 5 that the Central Board of Secondary Education will conduct the new test and IITs will set papers.

Christened Joint Entrance Exam, the common engineering entrance test will have two components — Main and Advanced, both multiple choice questions based and its merit list will factor in Class XII marks, normalised through a formula which Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, has developed but not validated.

The All-India IIT Faculty Federation said they will submit a dossier to the Prime Minister's Office highlighting that the Human Resources Development Ministry had disregarded the majority views of IIT Senates (faculty bodies) on significant aspects of the new test.

Mail Today, ND

14/06/2012 P-12

IITians in PMO

THE spirit of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) being demonstrated in the current agitation against the new format of the joint entrance examination (JEE) also seems to be quite strong in the Prime Minister's Office.

According to faculty members of the IITs, the meeting with the Prime Minister on Friday could not have been arranged without the help and support from the IIT alumni in the PMO.

Incidentally, both private secretaries to the PM have studied at IIT. Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi is an ex-student of IIT Kanpur and Jaideep Sarkar graduated from IIT Kharagpur.

Makeover of JEE – will it work?

Fixing what is not broken may actually increase the burden on students

DHARAM VIR



Recently the IIT council decided to have one common engineering test for all centrally funded technical institutions. This has been endorsed by the Central Advisory Board of Education. This is purported to replace the 50 year old system of the IITs' joint entrance examination (JEE) and the decade old all India engineering entrance examination (AIEEE). The new test (JEE) would be conducted in two stages, main and advanced. A salient feature of the new selection system, effective from 2013, would be substantial weightage to the performance in XII level board examinations while preparing the merit list. The objective of the drastic policy change is to wrench the focus back from coaching classes to class room teaching which, as we all know, has taken a back seat over a period of time.

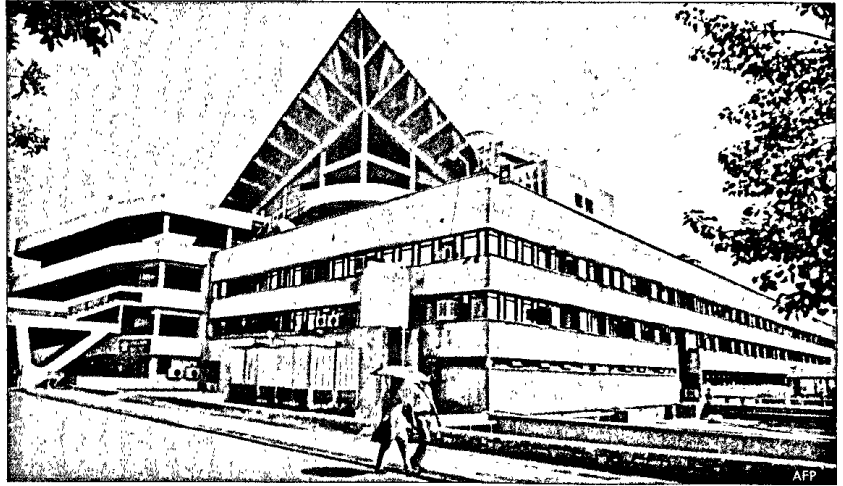
The first merit list would be prepared with equal weightage to JEE (main) and marks in XII board examinations normalised on percentile basis. Normalisation among the plethora of state boards would be made on percentile basis. On the basis of this, a fixed number of candidates (five times the number of seats available or on the basis of a pre-fixed cut off) would be shortlisted to appear in the JEE Advanced test. Admission to the IITs alone would be made on the basis of merit in the advanced test. Admission to all other centrally funded institutes (NITs, IIITs etc.), would be made on the basis of a merit list prepared with 40 per cent weightage to board

plus 30 per cent each to JEE main and advanced. JEE Main would be a multiple choice objective type paper, whereas the nature and modalities of the JEE advanced would be determined by joint admission board of IITs (JAB). It would have complete control on JEE advanced. The CBSE shall provide administrative support in conducting the examination. The states have a choice to accept this scheme or not, for admission to their engineering colleges.

The decision of the ministry of HRD has led to widespread discussion across the country, eliciting strong views for and against. The moot question is whether the solution would help in realising the objective or the remedy would be worse than the disease. A few days ago, the IIT Kanpur senate has rejected the decision of the HRD Ministry and decided to conduct its own tests or along with other IITs who may join.

Normalisation of the Boards' marks on percentile basis is a good concept, but should be introduced where the system of evaluation, the curricula and the quality of schools affiliated with the boards are more or less uniform. But this is not the situation. Except in a few pockets, good students try to take admission in well performing private schools, mainly affiliated to CBSE. Under these circumstances, normalisation on percentile basis would mean comparing apples with oranges. It would be desirable to make a prior detailed analysis of marks obtained in the Boards by students admitted in recent years in IITs, NITs and IIITs using the data already with them. A simpler option for IITs is to raise the cut-off mark in the Board examination from 60 per cent to say 75 per cent.

There is another kind of pressure on a student brought about by a single entrance test. A small innocu-



ous incident resulting in bad performance would ruin the year.

Managerial aspects of conducting a test on such a huge scale across the country are as important as its conceptual framework. The proposed scheme revolves around the timely declaration of the Board results. Assuming they are all available by mid June, the merit list based on JEE main and board marks would be ready by late June. By today's reckoning, about 5 lacs may take the advanced test. When would their answer sheets be evaluated; after the declaration of the result of JEE main or the board examinations? In the first case, it would mean evaluating all those who appear in the advanced, resulting in waste of enormous resources. If done after Board results, it means delay in preparing merit for the IITs, NITs and IIITs. This would also have a cascading effect on admission to other engineering colleges, which may spill over into August and September. Besides, a significant number

of students who do not get good ranks, take admission in UG science courses, affecting universities and colleges. Looking at the enormity of managerial issues and manpower involved, it is much simpler to work without cut-offs in board marks with or without normalisation and let the IITs conduct the advanced test for the candidates shortlisted on the basis of the JEE main.

The decision of IIT Kanpur senate to go ahead and make admission of its own, rejecting the proposed JEE, has raised a vital issue, ie, who is competent to take decision on the admission system. The legal aspect of the admission system was not seriously examined as none expected that the IITs' highly acclaimed JEE would ever be questioned. In fact, a more serious question that has now been raised is how autonomous the IITs are. The culture of coaching and lack of seriousness of class room teaching is not confined to the engineering aspirants. The same situation exists in respect of medical courses.

Entrance tests are also being held for several prestigious law degrees such as offered by the National Law universities. The list is increasing.

The JEE has worked since 1961. The IIT alumni have done extremely well worldwide and made India proud. Why tinker with the system that has worked so well and delivered? There are several other challenges that the IITs face. Some of the new IITs are struggling to acquire shape. Time has come to consolidate the system on the basis of their strengths and by removing their weaknesses so that they can compete globally. The proposed changes in the JEE are unlikely to bear the desired fruits. Instead, they are likely to give a fillip to coaching industry and increase burden on students and their parents. School education needs a holistic approach and its reform should be the prime area of focus for the states and the central government.

Dharam Vir is former chief secretary, Haryana

THE AGE DEBATE

Class 12 marks should count in IIT entrance examination

Temples of discontent

Half a century after it was introduced, IIT's joint entrance exam (JEE) continues to be a tough examination, eliminating almost 98 per cent of the applicants. More institutions have started various forms of entrance exams. We now have a situation where a student has to appear for 20-25 entrance tests, of varying difficulty, to secure a seat in a respectable institution.

In this scheme of things, the performance in schools at any level does not figure in determining the all-important rank of the student. Consequently, students depend on other means of preparation to crack the entrance examinations although the level of these examinations was deemed to be that of higher secondary.

For IIT-JEE, in many cases, preparations go on for three or four years, often resulting in students neglecting study in higher classes. Principals of reputed schools complain that their bright students do not attend school as they are busy preparing for entrance examinations. If good performance in school does not matter in admission to professional institutions, why should a student take the school and its examination seriously?

While an excellent academic record at school is no guarantee for admission to IIT, very rarely do their entrance examinations

test a student's understanding of the fundamentals. Any student who spends years solving problems in PCM (physics, chemistry, mathematics) can answer questions either by pattern recognition or eliminating the wrong answers and get into prestigious institutions. This comes at the cost of a ruined childhood, wrong value systems, utter neglect of the study of languages and the social sciences and with no time left to nurture creative instincts or sporting talents. Realising the folly of this system, many states are returning to performance in school as the sole criterion, or one of the criteria, for admission in regional engineering colleges.

An IIT study conducted on five batches of students with the data of school results (Class 10 and 12), JEE rank and performance in the institutions represented by cumulative grade point average found that students with very good academic records in schools continued to do well in the IITs. Though this conclusion was based on students in the

IITs, it cannot be different in any other setting.

Entrance exams, especially the JEE, are very unfair to girl students. When girls perform well in schools (invariably in all states), why are they not doing well in the JEE? The sex ratio at IITs is heavily skewed in favour of boys.

If it is felt that all is not well with teaching and evaluation in schools, the educated should take responsibility for correcting the situation, instead of writing it off.

It is high time school education and overall growth of students was given importance, and it is against this background that one should view the decision of the IIT council to consider Class 12 marks. IITs and other professional colleges giving credence to performance at school for admission is a recognition to the education system in our schools. This will have a cascading effect on our school education system.

The writer is a professor, department of ocean engineering, IIT Madras



School education is vital

V.G. Idichandy

It is high time school education and growth of students was given importance, and it is against this background that one should view IIT council's decision



Let IITs have their own exams

Jayaprakash A. Gandhi

I think the government should give the IITs a free hand to conduct their own entrance examination, and one more exam for other colleges

The huge variation in standards of school leaving exams necessitates the holding of entrance tests for quality institutions of higher learning. While ICSE and CBSE test students thoroughly, the same cannot be said of some of the state board exams that are of doubtful quality and whose marks cannot be equated with those of the best school-leaving examinations, like the CBSE. This is the reason why entrance tests have to be held.

The JEE that the IITs conduct does not ignore school grades, as some suggest. It insists that a student must have 60 per cent marks at school in order to be eligible to take the JEE. What the IITs may consider doing is to raise this to 80 per cent if a student wishes to enter the IIT system as an undergraduate through an all-India common entrance test. For all other engineering colleges and institutes, the qualifying requirement may be set at 60 per cent. This would mean that a student must have a minimum of 60 per

cent marks in order to join an engineering college in the country.

Those who have secured 80 per cent and above can appear for the main as well as the advanced test. The advanced test should not deal with subjects but a student's analytical and logical thinking. Many IIT professors say that at present a good number of students just write the JEE without having an aptitude for engineering. So, the advanced test should check basically for aptitude. It is the main paper that should test an applicant's knowledge of mathematics, physics and chemistry. If such a system is followed, then it is unnecessary to give weightage to school board marks in selections for the IITs or other institutions).

Before changes are made in the selection procedure, a student should know at least two years in advance, that is at the end of Class 10. Some of the court verdicts in admission-related cases have also made it clear that any change in the admission system should be notified much earlier. How can the

Union human resource and development ministry then think of bringing about a sudden change? The government's thinking is leading to unnecessary confusion. Students don't know whether they need to take a separate IIT entrance exam or two-entrance examinations.

I think the government should give the IITs a free hand to conduct their own entrance examination, and one more exam for other colleges. The IIT Kanpur senate has rightly pointed out that no weightage should be given to board exam marks while ranking students. The comments of IIT Delhi should be taken into account that the reforms suggested by the Ramasami Committee might not serve the purpose of relieving stress on students caused by multiple exams, and restoration of the sanctity of the school system.

IIT Delhi has also pointed out that students writing the Class 12 examination might not be prepared for the change in admission process to centrally-funded institutions, including IITs.

Class 12 marks should only be considered as an entry criterion and should not to be added to entrance examination marks. The HRD ministry should reconsider its decision in the interest of students.

The writer is a career consultant and analyst, Tamil Nadu

IITs not for social engineering



R. SRINIVASAN

RANDOM ACCESS

Imagine the furore if the Indian cricket team was to be picked on the basis of who can run 400 m the fastest!

An ability to sprint fast is undoubtedly required to play any competitive field sport, but that alone, as anyone with even nodding familiarity with the game will tell you, is not enough to turn one into a cricketer.

Yet, the Union Human Resources Development Minister, Mr Kapil Sibal's bullying persistence in ramming through his pet 'single entrance test' plan for all engineering and science courses in the country — including those offered by the elite Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) — is based on just such quixotic reasoning.

For a self-declared democrat and someone who is dependent on winning elections in order to hold the office which gives him the power to take such decisions — which necessarily implies at least a modicum of people skills — Mr Sibal has shown a remarkable ability to not listen to the public.

He has turned a blind eye to the logic advanced by those opposing the move and simply shut out the chorus of voices raised in opposition from stakeholders one would have thought had an equal, if not greater say in such a decision — the students themselves, their parents, the IIT faculty, the worthies who administer them, distinguished alumni and even industry, which ultimately employs the output of the IITs.

STILL MULTIPLE TESTS

On the face of it, the plan ticks all the right emotional boxes. Mr Sibal says the move is aimed at reducing the burden of multiple entrance tests on the student, something which no one has any quarrel with. Then

The IITs have won recognition through one of the most ruthlessly competitive selection systems. Fairness or unfairness has nothing to do with it.



The HRD Minister, Mr Kapil Sibal, is trying to replicate the US SAT without trying to understand the reality underlying the system.

come the twists in the tale.

The test will be one, but 50 per cent weight will be given to the 12th standard examinations. Which means that we already have multiple exams, not one. Then there will be a second test — an 'advanced' one — for entry into the IITs itself. Presumably, there might be similar advanced tests for those wanting to do science, say. So we have a multiplicity of tests.

There will be quite another test for those wanting to do medicine, for example, and yet another 'advanced' test for those wanting to do medicine in the IIT-equivalent medical institutes such as AIIMS or the PGMER in Chandigarh (since Mr Sibal's writ does not run in the Health Ministry, which administers the medical tests). There is yet another test for those wanting to do law, and so on.

It is not inconceivable that the same student might want to take a

shot at all three. At 17 or 18 — the age when students complete their 12th standard — they are still largely unformed buds, with their true potential yet to be explored, leave alone exploited. And given the reality of the lack of quality higher education opportunities in the country, vis-à-vis the quantity of students aspiring for such education, wanting to have chance at one or the other is but natural. So, one exam for engineering is not going to reduce the burden by much.

The real agenda, it appears, is to cloak the degraded and devalued state education board scores with the legitimacy of academic excellence furnished by the IITs. This is akin to killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

The IITs are in a position to be exploited for such purposes precisely because they have managed to sustain an island of excellence amid an ocean of mediocrity.

SCHOOL-LEAVING EXAMS

This is not to say that the current system of selecting candidates for IITs is perfect. Far from it. There have been growing murmurs from the IIT faculty itself about the quality of students filtering through the system. A thriving industry has sprung up in coaching and training aspirants to crack the IIT entrance. So you have a growing number of students who have managed to score outstandingly in the entrance exam — by simply familiarising themselves with the pattern of questions — and yet flounder in actual coursework.

There is also considerable ground for questioning the existing board level examination system in the 12th standard. They have become mere tests of rote learning and memory power, prone to manipulation, illogical marking and political and other interference.

But two wrongs cannot be made

into a right by steamrolling a new exam. Mr Sibal's dream is to have a system of collegiate education similar to the US. But the solution is not to introduce a SAT analogue in India and ignore the reality of the system underlying it.

There is also the question of the de-branding of the IITs. The IIT, it can be reasonably argued, is the one sole government-created, government-owned brand which has managed to win global recognition and accolades for quality, consistency and excellence. Hardly anything else sporting a 'Made in India' label can have the kind of automatic access which an IIT degree gives its holder.

SOFT POWER

The kind of 'soft power' wielded by IITs extends far beyond the realms of academia. IITs have contributed the cream of managerial talent to India Inc. There is hardly any BSE 100 company which does not boast of IITians in positions of power. More than any other collegiate group, IIT grads have helped script the India success story. Indeed, many distinguished alumni are heading, or have helmed, giant transnational corporations and have, directly or indirectly, helped focus attention on the potential of India and Indians.

That kind of recognition and access was hard won, earned on the back of one of the most ruthlessly competitive selection systems. To now dilute the essence of that system is shooting oneself in the foot. Fairness or unfairness has nothing to do with it. The IITs are about excellence, not social engineering.

School exams are used as a qualifier, even in the US, which Mr Sibal so clearly wants to eliminate. Other systems which have produced excellence — our medical colleges, the IIMs, even the hallowed Indian Administrative Service — use the school or college exam results as a pre-qualifier and rely on their own system to pick the right candidate. Why can't the IITs be allowed to do so as well? Why try to fix something which isn't broken?

Flutter over 'one-nation one-test' proposal

SIR, ~ The Union HRD minister Kapil Sibal has proposed a nationwide common entrance test for the IITs and other engineering colleges. He claims that the decision has been approved by the IIT councils. In his reckoning, the common entrance test will benefit the students and the autonomy of the IITs will not be denuded.

Quite the contrary has been the reaction of the institutes. The senate of IIT Kanpur has rejected the Centre's 'one-nation one-test' proposal. It has decided to conduct its own entrance test from 2013. The IIT Delhi Alumni Association intends to discuss the matter with the Prime Minister.

The IITs, particularly the ones at Kharagpur, Kanpur and Mumbai, have raised the quality of technical education in keeping with global standards. These institutes have helped project India in the field of science and technology. The government must not tamper with their functioning. The other centres of excellence such as the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, or the Indian Statistical Institute should also be free from political interference. It is these institutions and not politicians that will glorify our country. As often as not, political meddling has influenced the constitution of faculties. Instead of a nationwide common entrance test, Mr Sibal should organise a nationwide discussion among educators, policy-makers and IIT alumni over this sensitive issue. It would be worthwhile if the Centre helps check the brain drain.

yours, etc., **subrata kumar chaudhuri, kolkata, 13 June.**

The Haldia victory

SIR, ~ In the recently held civic elections, the Trinamul Congress won in Nalhati and Panskura and wrested Dhupguri

and Durgapur from the Left. The election to the Haldia municipality was a prestige issue for the ruling party. Subhendu Adhikari, the party's MP, strained every nerve to wrest Haldia from the Left, but in vain.

Trinamul has won in four of the six municipalities, but its performance is hardly convincing a year after coming to power in the State. The CPI-M has been able to shore up its image as its local strongman, Lakhisman Seth, is in jail. Further, most of his henchmen have switched over to the rival camp. Trinamul has also been trounced by the Congress in Cooper's Camp, Nadia.

If the 2011 Assembly election result is taken into consideration, there has been a marginal increase in the percentage of CPI-M votes. The party is trying to recover lost ground especially in rural Bengal. Although it is too early to speculate on a Phoenix-like rise of the CPI-M in Bengal, the victory in Haldia at this juncture is definitely a positive development.

yours, etc., **aranya sanyal, kolkata, 12 June.**

At Aaykar Bhavan

SIR, ~ According to a report in your paper, the Planning Commission has defended the expenditure on toilet renovation (7 June). As an employee of the income-tax department, I am aware of the bogus expenditure on routine maintenance and renovation of toilets, canteens, floors etc. in the department's nine buildings in Kolkata.

In 2006, the canteen and toilets of 3, Government Place were fully renovated with expensive tiles, marble floors, the latest toilet fittings and brand new furniture. Five years later, the canteen looks repulsive and the sewerage fittings are largely

out of order.

At Aaykar Bhavan (P-7, Chowringhee Square) the toilets on the first, second and third floors were renovated in 2008. In less than three years again, the fittings are out of order. The reception counter has been remodelled twice within a span of four years. Besides, the latest computers installed in the rooms of Indian Revenue Service officers are used for computer games, such as cards, video games, net surfing etc. Many of the officers are not computer-savvy despite being trained at the National Academy of Direct Taxes, Nagpur. Indeed, this was stated by a Chief Commissioner at a recent conference at Aaykar Bhavan.

yours, etc., **srikant kumar, aykar bhavan, kolkata, 8 June.**

Victory of tennis

SIR, ~ Rafael Nadal, the world's No. Two, once again proved that he is the king of clay when he clinched a record seventh French Open title, defeating the hitherto No. One, Novak Djokovic 6-4, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5. He has shattered the Serbian's dream of emulating Don Budge (1938) and Rod Laver (1962 and 1969) by holding all the Grand Slams. Though he lost the match, Novak Djokovic said that Nadal "is definitely the best player in history on this surface, and results are showing that he is one of the best players that ever played this game." Djokovic didn't blame the rain and the decision by tournament officials to delay the match a second time late last Sunday.

Actually it is not Nadal's victory or Djokovic's defeat; it has been the victory of tennis. It is the game that won the day.

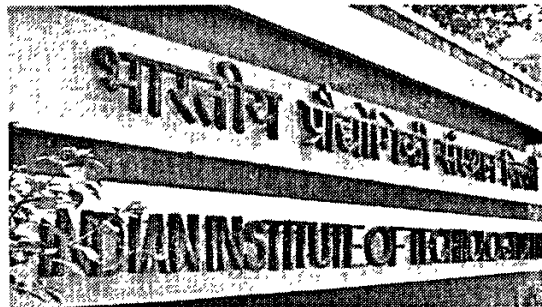
yours, etc., **bidyut kumar chatterjee, faridabad, 12 June.**

आईआईटी वाले जबरदस्ती तुरम खां

सवाल है कि अकादमिक संस्थानों के रूप में आईआईटी संस्थानों ने देश को अपना योगदान किस तरह दिया है? आईआईटी संस्थान स्नातकों की फौज तैयार कर वाहवाही लिए हुए हैं, मगर इनका देश के तकनीकी विकास और शोध में योगदान शर्मनाक है।

आईआईटी समेत दूसरे केंद्रीय संस्थानों में संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा के मुद्दे पर मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय और आईआईटी संस्थानों के आमने-सामने आने के बाद स्थितियां उलझती जा रही हैं और संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा के पर कोई आम राय बनती नहीं नजर आ रही। इस पूरे मामले पर विवाद बढ़ना तब शुरू हुआ था जब मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल के 2013 से एकल इंजीनियरिंग परीक्षा कराने के फैसले का विरोध करते हुए आईआईटी कानपुर की सीनेट ने अपनी अलग प्रवेश परीक्षा कराने का निर्णय लिया था। माना यह भी जा रहा है कि आईआईटी दिल्ली की सीनेट भी ऐसा ही कोई निर्णय जल्द ही ले सकती है।

हालांकि इस बीच सरकार के लिहाज से यह अच्छी खबर हो सकती है कि आई आईटी खडगपुर और आईआईटी गुवाहाटी ने एकल इंजीनियरिंग परीक्षा के प्रारूप का समर्थन किया है और आईआईटी खडगपुर के निदेशक दामोदर आचार्य ने तो इस प्रारूप के समर्थन में खुल कर बयान भी दिए हैं। दूसरी तरफ आल इंडिया आईआईटी फेकल्टी फेडरेशन ने उनके इस बयान की आलोचना कर



अपने मतभेद जाहिर कर दिए हैं।

गौर से देखा जाय तो इस मामले में एकल इंजीनियरिंग परीक्षा के प्रस्ताव पर पक्ष और विपक्ष के तर्कों की लंबी फेहरिस्त है, लेकिन ज्यादा अहम यह बात है कि आईआईटी के लिए होने वाली चयन प्रक्रिया का मूल्यांकन इस आधार पर किया जाए, जिससे छात्रों के व्यापक हित सुनिश्चित हो सकें। इन आधारों पर ही विवादित प्रारूप का भी मूल्यांकन होना चाहिए और उसके विरोध का भी। जहां तक वर्तमान प्रारूप के विरोध का सवाल है, तो यह बात बहुत स्पष्ट हो जाती है कि आईआईटी के अधिकांश शिक्षकों का विरोध इस बात से उजवा है कि नए प्रारूप से आईआईटी की विशिष्ट चयन प्रक्रिया प्रभावित होगी।

इस पूरी बहस में नए प्रारूप को हर तरह से जांचा परखा गया, लेकिन इस बात की चर्चा बहुत कम हो पाई कि अभी तक चली आ रही 'विशिष्ट चयन प्रक्रिया' की उपलब्धियां क्या रही हैं?

इसका एक बहुत स्वभाविक सा उत्तर आता है कि आईआईटी संस्थानों ने देश को बड़े स्तर अच्छी गुणवत्ता वाले स्नातकों की फौज दी है। इस तथ्य को रखते वक्त यह बात बहुत आसानी से भुला दी जाती है कि आईआईटी की स्थापना अकादमिक संस्थानों के रूप में हुई थी, जिसका मकसद शोधपरक कार्यों को बढ़ावा देने का था। सवाल यह है कि अकादमिक संस्थानों के रूप में आईआईटी संस्थानों ने देश को अपना योगदान किस तरह दिया है? वर्तमान

में सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्र में वे छात्र देश के तकनीकी विकास में सहयोग कर पा रहे हैं, जो स्नातक के बाद शोध कार्यों में शामिल हैं या उच्च शिक्षा हासिल कर रहे हैं। आईआईटी संस्थान स्नातकों की फौज तैयार कर वाहवाही तो लूट रहे हैं लेकिन तथ्य इस बात की पुष्टि करते हैं कि देश के तकनीकी विकास में योगदान के मामले में वह लगातार पिछड़ते गए हैं।

जाहिर तौर पर जिस विशिष्ट चयन प्रक्रिया का हवाला देकर आईआईटी संस्थान अपनी गुणवत्ता को साबित करने में लगे हैं, उसका यह निराशापूर्ण पक्ष है। दूसरा विरोध यह है कि नए प्रारूप को लागू कर किसी शैक्षणिक संस्थान से उसके चयन की आजादी को छीना जा रहा है। इस तर्क की अनदेखी नहीं की जा सकती, लेकिन संस्थानों के चयन की आजादी को सुनिश्चित करने के और भी वैकल्पिक तरीके हो सकते हैं। मसलन कोई भी संस्थान छात्रों से एटीट्यूड टेस्ट ले सकता है और इसकी एक निश्चित व्यवस्था बनाई जा सकती है। वर्तमान चयन प्रणाली को इन वजहों से बदलने की जरूरत है और नया प्रारूप कुछेक दिक्कतों के बावजूद इस दिशा में एक ठीक कदम मालूम होता है।

Sibal's two key plans run into roadblock

Common Test For IITs, Minority Sub-Quota Hit Hurdle

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Union human resource development minister Kapil Sibal appears to have hit a rough patch with two key plans — introduction of the common test for IITs and the implementation of the minority sub-quota in central educational institutions — running into opposition.

The minister is currently in Washington for the Indo-US higher education dialogue even as the All India IIT Faculty Federation (AIITFF), which is on the warpath over the Centre's 'one-nation one-test' proposal, is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday. "PMO's has responded to our request. We will meet PMO officials tomorrow (Thursday) and PM on Friday," a top official of AIITFF said.

The meeting assumes significance in the wake of Sibal virtually ruling out going



All India IIT Faculty Federation, which is on the warpath over the Centre's 'one-nation-one-test' proposal, is scheduled to meet the PM on Friday. The meeting assumes significance in the wake of HRD minister Kapil Sibal virtually ruling out going back on the Centre's proposal.

back on the Centre's new proposal. Opposing the Centre's new format, the AIITFF had written to the PM on May 31, saying that "each IIT is an individual and independent academic entity and should reserve its right to follow its own norms with regards to admissions and other academic matter".

Seeking the PM's intervention, AIITFF had said that the IIT system should be preserved not only as per the provisions of the acts but beyond.

Sibal, who is currently on a visit to the US, has said that

the government has no intent to impinge on the autonomy of the IITs.

The ministry also suffered a setback on Wednesday after the Supreme Court refused to stay the Andhra High Court order to carve out a 4.5% sub-quota from the 27% OBC reservation pie.

The high court order led to confusion and concerns for the 325 students already shortlisted under the minority sub-quota. After instructions from the government and IITs, students were asked to widen their choice of courses.

Sibal keen to get deemed varsities on one-test plan

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 13

UNFAZED by the controversy over the common entrance examination for engineering courses, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal is now trying to get the 130 deemed-to-be universities to accept the 'one nation, one test' principle.

Sibal has called a meeting with representatives of deemed varsities on June 25 to discuss the possibility of them joining the common entrance test. Most of these universities run engineering colleges.



Unfazed by controversy these universities run engineering colleges.

The examination is aimed at replacing multiple tests with a single one and factoring in school board scores for admissions to undergraduate engineering courses.

"While some deemed to be universities admit students to engineering colleges on the basis of the AIEEE scores or state-level engineering exams, in other states, some deemed varsities get together to organise an entrance examination. There are some deemed varsities which also hold individual entrance exams or even admit students on the basis of their Class XII board results. The ministry will discuss with them the possibility of joining the common test," a senior official said.

The meeting will also urge deemed universities to adopt uniform accounting standards in 2013 to bring in transparency regarding accounting and investments.

While IIT Senates have openly rejected the common test that will also determine admissions to the institutes, states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra and Haryana have indicated that they will adopt the common test for admission in state engineering colleges as well. Members of the All India IIT Faculty Federation are meeting PM Manmohan Singh on Thursday to bring to his notice their "concerns".

IIT KANPUR NOT TO CHANGE EXAM FORMAT IN 2013

Vanita Srivastava

■ Vanita shrivastava@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The first meeting of the admission committee of IIT Kanpur, set up for conducting a separate exam in 2013, was held on Wednesday.

"We had a discussion on the exam format for 2013 and decided that it would be exactly like the one in 2012. Also, the eligibility requirement would be the same," said Dr Neeraj Mishra, chairman of the committee, said.

Meanwhile, representatives of the All India IIT Faculty Federation are slated to meet the Prime Minister on Friday to put forth their points. A delegation of the body will meet officials of the Prime Minister's Office also on Thursday.

The nine-member admission committee was formed on Monday after the senate of IIT Kanpur passed a resolution on June 8 to hold a separate entrance exam in 2013. The resolution was passed after stiff opposition to the government move to change the JEE pattern from 2013.

The members also explored on the possibilities of other IITs joining it in conducting a separate exam. "We discussed it and have decided that the director will make a request to other IIT directors." There are around 850 undergraduate seats in IIT Kanpur.

Dainik Jagran ND 14/06/2012

p-11

आइआइटी कानपुर की प्रवेश परीक्षा जेईई 2012 के पैटर्न पर

♦ ऑल इंडिया आइआइटी फेकल्टी फेडरेशन की प्रधानमंत्री के साथ बैठक शुक्रवार को

साथ काम करेंगे बीएचयू और पिदसबर्ग यूनिवर्सिटी

जागरण संवाददाता, कानपुर : भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आइआइटी), कानपुर में बुधवार को प्रवेश समिति की बैठक में तय हुआ कि 2013 में प्रवेश परीक्षा जेईई 2012 के पैटर्न पर ही होगी। इसमें अन्य संस्थानों के निदेशकों को पत्र भेजने का प्रस्ताव भी पारित हुआ। वहीं, आइआइटी व केंद्रीय सहायता प्राप्त इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों में एकल परीक्षा का विरोध कर रहे ऑल इंडिया आइआइटी फेकल्टी फेडरेशन के प्रतिनिधि शुक्रवार को प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह से मुलाकात करेंगे।

फेडरेशन से जुड़े एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय ने उनके अनुरोध को स्वीकार कर लिया है। फेडरेशन के लोग गुरुवार को प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय के अधिकारियों से मुलाकात करेंगे, जबकि शुक्रवार को प्रधानमंत्री से। फेडरेशन ने उम्मीद जताई है कि मुलाकात में कोई सार्थक परिणाम बाहर निकल कर आएगा।

मालूम हो कि हाल ही में आइआइटी कानपुर की सीनेट में संस्थान की 2013 की प्रवेश परीक्षा स्वयं कराने का निर्णय लिया गया था। इसके लिए नौ सदस्यीय कमेटी भी गठित कर दी थी। इसी कड़ी में बुधवार को प्रवेश परीक्षा समिति के चेयरमैन प्रो. नीरज मिश्र की अध्यक्षता में पहली बैठक हुई। उन्होंने बताया कि 2013 में होने वाली प्रवेश परीक्षा का प्रारूप तय हो गया है। यह जेईई 2012 के पैटर्न पर ही होगी। दो पाठियों में होने वाली परीक्षा में दो प्रश्न पत्र होंगे। प्रवेश परीक्षा में शामिल होने की अर्हता के लिए सामान्य एवं ओबीसी वर्ग के अभ्यर्थियों के बोर्ड परीक्षा में 60 फीसद अंक होने चाहिए। एससी, एसटी एवं विकलांग अभ्यर्थियों के लिए बोर्ड परीक्षा में 55 फीसद अंक का

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : उच्च शिक्षा के मामले में अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति बराक ओबामा एवं प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह की कोशिशें परवान चढ़ने लगी है। दोनों देशों के कई विश्वविद्यालयों, प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों और कालेजों ने आठ अलग-अलग क्षेत्रों की परियोजनाओं पर साथ-साथ काम करने के लिए हाथ मिलाया है। शैक्षिक साझेदारी की इस पहल में भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आइआइटी) कानपुर व बनारस हिंदू विश्वविद्यालय (बीएचयू) शामिल हैं। भारत की तरफ मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल और अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री हिलेरी क्लिंटन ने उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों के बीच शैक्षिक भागीदारी का यह साझा एलान मंगलवार को अमेरिका में किया। 'ओबामा-मनमोहन 21 सेचुरी नॉलेज इनिशिएटिव अवार्ड' के तहत हुए इन समझौतों में दोनों देशों के कई महत्वपूर्ण संस्थान आगे आए हैं। मसलन बनारस हिंदू विश्वविद्यालय एवं अमेरिका की पिदसबर्ग यूनिवर्सिटी भारत-अमेरिका की जरूरतों के लिहाज से 21वीं सदी में नवीकरण ऊर्जा स्रोतों के मद्देनजर ऊर्जा परिदृश्य में आमूलचूल बदलाव पर साझा काम करेंगे। आइआइटी कानपुर एवं अमेरिका की कर्जोनिया टेक यूनिवर्सिटी ने बुनियादी ढांचे के सतत विकास के प्रोजेक्ट के लिए करार किया है।

मानक है। बैठक में यह भी प्रस्ताव पारित हुआ कि दूसरे संस्थानों के निदेशकों को भी पत्र लिखकर परीक्षा प्रक्रिया की जानकारी दी जाए। पूछा जाए कि क्या वह भी इस प्रक्रिया में शामिल होना चाहते हैं। उनके जवाब मिलने पर परीक्षा के बाबत अगली रणनीति तैयार होगी। इसके बाद ही प्रवेश परीक्षा के लिए सीटों का आंकलन होगा।

पुराने पैटर्न पर होगी आईआईटी-जेईई

कानपुर वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

आईआईटी, कानपुर की एडमिशन कमेटी ने बुधवार को यह स्पष्ट कर दिया कि 2013 की आईआईटी-जेईई पुराने पैटर्न और नियमों पर आधारित होगी। परीक्षा अप्रैल में होगी लेकिन शेड्यूल 'आईआईटी-जेईई 2012' की काउंसिलिंग और प्रवेश प्रक्रिया पूरी होने के बाद जारी होगा।

आईआईटी, कानपुर ने 'वन नेशन, वन टेस्ट' का विरोध करते हुए अंडर ग्रेजुएट की प्रवेश परीक्षा स्वयं कराने का निर्णय लिया है। इसके लिए सीनेट ने प्रोफेसर नीरज मिश्रा की चेयरमैनशिप में नौ सदस्यीय कमेटी का गठन किया था। बुधवार को हुई पहली बैठक में इनमें से सात सदस्य शामिल हुए।

प्रवेश परीक्षा कराने सम्बंधी कई मुद्दों पर चर्चा के बाद निर्णय लिया गया कि वे

बनी सहमति

- आईआईटी, कानपुर ने की पहली प्रवेश कमेटी की बैठक सभी को शामिल करने के प्रयास पर सहमति
- 'वन नेशन, वन टेस्ट' का विरोध करते हुए अंडर ग्रेजुएट की प्रवेश परीक्षा स्वयं कराने का निर्णय लिया

निदेशक प्रोफेसर संजय गोविन्द धांडे से आग्रह करेंगे कि वे सभी 15 आईआईटी के निदेशकों को पत्र लिखें।

अगर कोई आईआईटी, कानपुर के साथ आना चाहता है तो उसे जेईई में शामिल कर लिया जाएगा। यदि सभी आईआईटी एक ही मंच पर आ गए तो यह जिम्मेदारी अपने टर्न के हिसाब से जो भी उठाना चाहेगा उसे दे दिया जाएगा। आईआईटी, कानपुर इसके लिए मेजबानी

छोड़ सकता है। कुल सीटों की संख्या भी तब तय की जाएगी जब सभी आईआईटी को भेजे जाने वाले पत्र का जवाब आ जाएगा। आईआईटी, दिल्ली के सीनेट की बैठक 25 जून और मुंबई की 01 जुलाई को होगी।

इसके बाद इन आईआईटी का रुख स्पष्ट हो सकेगा। एक तकनीकी पहलू पर भी चर्चा हुई जिसके अन्तर्गत नई प्रक्रिया तब तक शुरू नहीं हो सकती जब तक पिछले सत्र की प्रवेश प्रक्रिया पूरी नहीं हो जाती। आईआईटी, कानपुर ने प्रवेश प्रक्रिया से सम्बंधित सभी जानकारी अपनी जेईई वेबसाइट के साथ लिंक पर देने का निर्णय लिया है। इसके संदर्भ में जो भी अपडेट होगा उसे लिंक वेबसाइट पर देखा जा सकेगा। संशोधित नोटिफिकेशन में प्रशासनिक मदद के लिए पहले तय व्यवस्था को खत्म करने पर भी चर्चा हुई।

क्या सरकार आईआईटी के पर कतरना चाहती है

दो कौड़ी की रह जाएगी साख

प्रो. पी.के. चांदला
शिक्षाविद

आईआईटी काउंसिल के चेयरमैन और मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने आईआईटी, एनआईटी और आईआईआईटी के लिए जिस कॉमन टेस्ट की जरूरत बताई है, उसका असर निश्चित रूप से आईआईटी की स्वायत्तता पर पड़ेगा। ऐसी व्यवस्था आईआईटी पर सरकारी नियंत्रण कायम करेगी जो बिल्कुल उचित नहीं है। मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या इसकी किसी ने शिकायत की थी कि देश के आईआईटीज में शिक्षा का स्तर गिर रहा है? या वे अपने स्तर पर जो प्रवेश परीक्षा लेते हैं, वे स्तरीय नहीं होतीं? सचार्इ यह है कि आईआईटी की मौजूदा छवि उसकी स्वतंत्रता और स्वायत्तता के कारण ही बन पाई है। गठन के बाद से ही ये संस्थान हर फैसला खुद लेते आए हैं। अब तक सरकार की भूमिका इनकी मदद करने तक सीमित रही है। फिलहाल प्रत्येक आईआईटी संस्थान अपने स्तर पर प्रवेश परीक्षा संचालित करता है। ऐसी परीक्षा में वे ऊंचे स्टैंडर्ड अपनाते हैं, जिससे प्रतिभाशाली छात्रों को उनमें प्रवेश

का मौका मिलता है। ऐसी स्वायत्तता के कारण ही देश में आईआईटी की एक साख कायम हुई है। मोटे तौर पर आईआईटी अन्य तकनीकी संस्थानों से अलग हैं, इसलिए उनकी प्रवेश परीक्षा भी अलग होनी चाहिए। कॉमन टेस्ट आयोजित करने और इसके आयोजन का जिम्मा सीबीएसई को देने के अलावा बारहवीं के अंकों को टेस्ट का आधार बनाने वाले प्रावधानों से आईआईटी पर सरकारी कंट्रोल बढ़ेगा, जो अच्छा नहीं है। सरकार को कम से कम वहां अपना दखल बनाने से बाज आना चाहिए, जहां गुणवत्ता का खयाल रखा जाता है। अब तक आईआईटी अपनी स्वायत्तता के कारण ही अच्छे रिजल्ट देते आए हैं। इस मामले में यदि जोर-जबर्दस्ती से काम लिया गया तो कल को शायद उनकी साख दो कौड़ी की भी न रह जाए।

पैसा कमाने की फैक्टरी ही तो हैं

प्रो. यशपाल
वैज्ञानिक-शिक्षाविद

आखिर किस इमेज की बात कर रहे हैं आईआईटी संस्थान। उनकी जो साख है

वहस

इमेज बनाम क्वालिटी



वह सिर्फ इसलिए है कि वे अपने लिए कोचिंग के बल पर तैयार होकर आए स्टूडेंट चुनने में सफल रहे हैं। यह कोचिंग छात्रों को आईआईटी में दाखिला भले दिला देती है लेकिन उनकी असली प्रतिभा का कितना नुकसान करती है, इसका अंदाजा नहीं लगाया जा सकता। ऐसी

महंगी कोचिंग गरीब और दूरदराज के जिन छात्रों को हासिल नहीं है, वे कहां जाएं? उन्हें आईआईटी में दाखिला कैसे मिलेगा? ऐसे छात्रों के हित में एक रास्ता सरकार बनाने की कोशिश कर रही है। कॉमन एंट्रेंस टेस्ट से यह व्यवस्था बन सकती है, लेकिन कुछ आईआईटी इसे अपनी स्वायत्तता में दखल बताकर इसके खिलाफ खड़े हो गए हैं। हर आईआईटी

अपने यहां अलग प्रवेश परीक्षा कराए, यह नहीं हो सकता। आईआईटी जैसे संस्थान इस मामले में महंगे प्राइवेट स्कूलों जैसा रवैया नहीं अपना सकते। असलियत यह है कि आईआईटी संस्थानों की इमेज अभी देश की फैसी अंडर ग्रेजुएट फैक्ट्री जैसी बन गई है। उनको इससे बाहर निकलना होगा। उन्हें खुद को ऐसी प्रॉपर यूनिवर्सिटी बनाने की पहलकदमी करनी होगी, जहां नॉलेज को अहमियत दी जाती है, महज डिग्री और उसके बल पर मिलने वाली लाखों रुपये महीने की नौकरी को नहीं। अभी हमारे आईआईटी ऐसा करने में सफल नहीं हो रहे हैं। रिसर्च और इनवेंशन उनके अर्जेंडे से बहुत दूर चला गया है। इन्हीं वजहों से क्वालिटी एजुकेशन के मामले में हमारा देश पिछड़ा हुआ माना जाता है। हमें ऐसे आईआईटी नहीं चाहिए। आईआईटी को सुधारने के लिए सरकार को अकैडमिक्स के साथ चलना होगा। साथ ही यह ध्यान भी रखना होगा कि कोई ऐसा बदलाव न किया जाए, जिससे आईआईटी के लिए बहुत ज्यादा खतरा पैदा हो जाए। ऐसा करना ठीक नहीं होगा। एक संतुलन बनाना ही ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

SC won't stay 'illegal' quota

Refuses to stay Andhra HC order; setback for 325 shortlisted for IIT counseling

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday once again refused to give any relief to the Centre on the controversial minority sub-quota issue by questioning its legality in the absence of any Constitutional or statutory provision.

The SC questioned the Centre's calculation for carving out 4.5 per cent sub-quota within the 27 per cent OBC quota and asked whether any such quota can be made on the basis

of religion and whether it will not affect the interest of the OBCs.

The SC's refusal to stay the Andhra Pradesh High Court order quashing the provision of sub-quota for minorities will have a direct implication on admission to prestigious educational institutions like IITs. They can now go ahead with admissions ignoring the sub-

quota provision under which 325 candidates from minorities were shortlisted for counseling.

"We are not inclined to grant stay," a Bench comprising justices KS Radhakrishnan and JS Khehar said. "You are carving out 4.5 per cent sub-quota. Will it not affect other OBCs?" the Bench asked referring to the data provided by the

Government about the ongoing counseling for IITs. It said the effect would "not be marginal".

The court issued notices to the petitioners on whose PIL the high court had quashed the sub-quota for minorities. Pointing out that the scheme of 4.5 per cent reservation was neither supported by Constitutional provisions nor by statutory provisions, the Bench asked, "Can you make classification on the basis of religion?"

The court further said unlike 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in Central Educational Institutions, which was supported by Constitutional provisions, the December 22, 2011 Office Memorandum (OM) on the sub-quota issue did not have legislative support.

Continued on Page 4

ILL-CONCEIVED MOVE

■ SC asked Govt, 'Can you make classification on the basis of religion?'

■ ASG told SC that religious minorities like Buddhists and Zoroastrians are not in the list of 4.5% sub-quota

■ SC Bench said it was not inclined to stay the HC order as sub-quota would have a bearing on the OBCs

■ 'Why you overlooked the NCBC and NCM. They are two most important statutory bodies,' the Bench asked

SC won't stay 'illegal' ...

From Page 1

Additional Solicitor General Gourab Banerji asked the apex court to consider his plea for staying the high court order in view of the ongoing counselling for IITs for which 325 candidates have been short listed under the sub-quota. However, the SC Bench said it was not inclined to stay the high court order as carving out sub-quota from minorities would have a bearing on the OBCs.

The court was critical of the Government for not consulting statutory bodies like the National Commission of Minorities (NCM) and National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) in

determining the sub-quota. "Why you overlooked the NCBC and NCM. They are two most important statutory bodies," the Bench asked.

Referring to the voluminous documents placed before it by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, to justify the basis for its decision on sub-quota, the Bench said, "These documents should have been produced in the high court."

When the ASG said the high court was under the impression that the sub-quota was for all minorities, the Bench shot back, "It was because that was the reflection in the office memorandum." Banerji said religious

minorities like Buddhists and Zoroastrians are not in the list of 4.5 per cent sub-quota. He said though the OBCs among the religious minorities are covered under 27 per cent OBC quota, 4.5 per cent sub-quota was granted to lowest ranks of Muslims or converts to Christianity.

The ASG said the first cut-off identifying the OBC within the minorities for sub-quota were that they have to be socially and educationally backward and they have to be religious minorities. At this, the Bench said, "That is the difficulty and that is the point. We can understand if it is across the board. How you made the calculation?"

The ASG laboured hard to satisfy the Bench that the Centre considered the OM of 1990 which formed the basis for implementing the Mandal Commission recommendation, 1993 list of NCBC and Sachar Committee report before determining the 4.5 per cent sub-quota for minorities.

When the Bench was asking him whether the sub-quota was supported by Constitutional and legislative provisions, Banerji said it could be done through executive order by issuing OM as in the Mandal case. He said some States like Tamil Nadu and Kerala have carved out sub-quota for Muslims within the OBC quota.

SC nixes Muslim quota on whiff of communalism

Says Basis For It Seems Just Religion

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday delivered a big blow to the UPA government's bid to create a 4.5% minority sub-quota within the 27% OBC quota. Despite the Centre's fervent plea, it rejected the proposal and pulled up the government for doing shoddy homework to reach the figure of 4.5% as a sub-quota for backward Muslim groups in government jobs and admissions to colleges, including IITs.

► **'Not backed by law', P 15**

Expressing doubts about the constitutional validity of the Centre's decision, a bench of Justices K S Radhakrishnan and J S Khehar said carving out of the minority sub-quota from the 27% reservation for OBCs appeared to be driven only by religion-based considerations. The Andhra Pradesh high court had on identical grounds quashed the Centre's decision on May 23.

"We are not inclined to grant interim stay of the high court judgment," the court said. It also refused to entertain the Centre's last-ditch attempt to push the minority quota into IIT admissions because it doubted the intention behind the Centre's decision.

The Centre had on December 22, 2011 decided to implement the 4.5% minority quota to benefit 82 Muslim groups included in the central list of OBCs, which together were entitled to a total of 27% reservation in jobs and admissions to central educational institutions, from January 1 this year.

WHAT COURT SAID

► 4.5% sub-quota for minorities within OBC reservation **not supported by Constitution or law**

► **Rejects Centre's arguments** on "social, educational backwardness", says quota purely on basis of religion

► With SC decision, **325 students shortlisted for IITs under the sub-quota** will be accommodated in the seats reserved for OBCs

“Can you make classification on the basis of religion? We are asking whether 4.5% sub-quota has got constitutional or statutory support or not — SC BENCH

325 IIT aspirants to get seats, not choice of course, institute

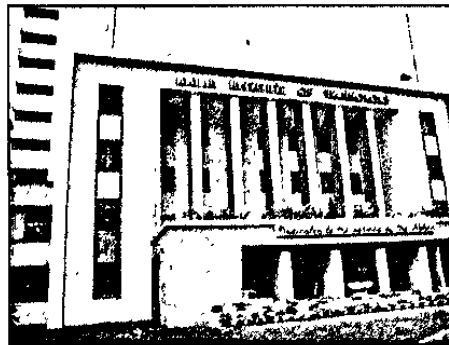
Students Picked Under Minority Sub-Quota To Be Absorbed In OBC List

Himanshi Dhawan | TNN

New Delhi: The IITs and other centrally-funded educational institutions will now have to put on hold the minorities sub-quota following the Supreme Court order. Students in this category who had already been counselled are likely to lose their choice of course or the IIT.

IIT-JEE organizing committee chairman Prof G B Reddy said, "The minority quota will not be implemented this year but all the students who have been shortlisted will be accommodated in the OBC quota list. The first list for allocation of seats will be released on Thursday." There are a total of 9,647 seats in different IITs, including 4,722 for the general category students. A total 17,464 candidates were shortlisted for counselling this year. Under the proposed sub-quota, 441 seats were reserved for minorities, but only 325 candidates were shortlisted.

Former member secretary to the National Commission for Backward Classes P S Krishnan denied that the sub-quota was worked out for religious considerations. He said, "The sub-quota from the OBC quota is not based on religion. It seeks to reserve seats for those from a religion or caste who are socially and educationally backward as well."



Under the proposed minority sub-quota, 441 seats were reserved for minorities, but only 325 candidates were shortlisted

Krishnan said an indicator of the backwardness within the minority communities was the fact that despite reservation there were not enough deserving candidates who made it to IIT. He referred to the Sachar Committee report that has documented the social and educational backwardness of Muslims in India in extensive details. For instance, while the Muslim population forms 13.4% of the total population, it accounts for only 6.3% of graduates.

The counselling for 15 IITs, Institute of Technology-Banaras Hindu University (IT-BHU) and the Indian School of Mines

(ISM), Dhanbad was on till June 10 with the first list being announced on Thursday. The counselling website had been opened for the shortlisted candidates from May 18, giving them a chance to opt the courses of their choice. Online counselling ended on June 10.

The first round of seat allotment will be intimated online through the counselling website on June 14. Seats not accepted in the first round will be allotted on AIR (All India Ranking) basis. The second round of allotment will be done on June 25. The final round of allotment will be done on July 6. This year a total of 4,79,651 candidates had appeared in both the papers of IIT-JEE, conducted on April 8. Out of the total number of candidates, 24,112 have secured ranks in various categories and 17,462 had been shortlisted for counselling for admission to 9,647 seats in 15 IITs, IT-BHU and ISM-Dhanbad.

Defending the sub-quota, officials cited the Mandal Commission which placed backward Hindus to form 43.7% of the population. At that time, the Hindu population was 83.84% of India. So, 43.70% in 83.84% is same as 52 out of 100. Therefore, the commission applied a rule of the thumb and assumed that the percentage of BCs among non-Hindus would also be 52% of the population of minorities.

‘Minority sub-quota not backed by law’

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

New Delhi: Rejecting the UPA government’s proposal to create a 4.5% minority sub-quota within the 27% OBC quota, the SC on Wednesday said, “All the groups included under OBCs are socially and educationally backward. But, you (the Union government) appear to have carved out the sub-quota for minorities on the basis of religion. Can you make a classification on the basis of religion?”

When a bench of Justices K S Radhakrishnan and J S Khehar asked how many of other minority groups are getting the benefit, additional solicitor general Gourab Banerji said there were 2,343 groups included in Central list of OBCs and of these 4.5% was reserved for 82 Muslim groups that were extremely backward.

“The benefit was intended to be given to them not because of their religion but due to their backwardness which impeded them from fairly competing with other backward groups for their share in the 27% reservation. Pitted alongside the other OBCs, these backward Muslim groups would never get their share,” he said.

The court pointed out that unlike the 27% reservation in admissions to central educational institutions ef-

fectured through enactment of legislation in 2008, the decision to carve out 4.5% minority sub-quota was neither backed by a law nor any constitutional provision.

“It is a very important matter and we have got our doubts. You (the government) admit that the carving out of the sub-quota would affect the prospects of other OBC groups. If so, why did you not consult the National Commission on Backward Classes?” the bench asked.

Sensing the bleakness of getting an outright stay on the HC judgment, Banerji thought of getting a foothold for the 4.5% minority quota and sought the court’s permission to implement the executive scheme in admissions to IITs, where Wednesday was the last day of counseling.

“Under the 27% reservation, 2612 seats in IITs were available for admitting OBC students. From this, 443 has been earmarked under 4.5% sub-quota. But only 325 candidates are available against the 443 seats. Please allow this small number to get benefit under the sub-quota,” Banerji pleaded. But the court shot down this request, too, saying it was not inclined to grant interim stay on the HC verdict. It issued notices on HRD ministry’s appeal to respondents.

Educational partnership to now strengthen US-India ties

Two IITs among eight institutes picked for the first Obama-Singh knowledge awards

PNS NEW DELHI

A joint working group of India and the United States on educational partnership has selected eight institutional partnership projects, including two IITs, for the first Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative awards.

The announcement was jointly made by HRD Minister Kapil Sibal and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in Washington on Tuesday, according to a Press release by the HRD Ministry.

The initiative aims to strengthen collaboration and build partnerships between American and Indian institutions

of higher education. The Mahatma Gandhi University will tie up with Browns University, Duke University and Plymouth State University as partners for a project titled Interdisciplinary and Community Oriented Approach toward Sustainable Development. Similarly the Banaras Hindu University will tie up with University of Pittsburgh as partnership institution.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur will tie with Virginia Tech University for a project on Sustainable Infrastructure Development and IIT Delhi will work on Resource Building for Ecosystem and Human Health Risk Assessment with Special reference to Microbial Contamination in partnership with Drexel University.

The US led partnerships includes Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey with Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai to work on Capitalizing on the Demographic Dividend for India and the U.S. in the 21st

Century. The University of Montana will in association with Bangalore University, while Cornell University will tie up for program on agriculture and food Security with University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut. The University of Michigan will be the institutional partners with Maharashtra University of the Health Sciences.

Each project will receive an award of approximately \$250,000 that can be utilised over the three year grant period, with the aim of encouraging mutual understanding, educational reform, and economic growth, as well as the development of junior faculty at Indian and American institutions of higher learning. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and US President Barack Obama had announced the Obama-Singh Initiative in November 2009. Each government pledged \$5 million for this endeavor, for a total of \$10 million.

Executive education on global B-schools' radar

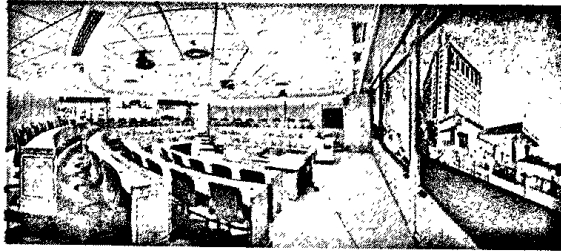
Competition from offshore B-schools is forcing country's institutes to plan new, cutting-edge executive management courses

VINAY YALAGURRAJ UMARJI
& KALPANA PATHAK
Ahmedabad/Mumbai, 13 June

An increased supply of executive education programmes by the Ivy League institutes and other International B-schools, including Harvard Business School (HBS), Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania, University of Chicago, Tuck School of Business, INSEAD, Oxford University's Said Business School and Duke University, in the Indian market is set to add pressure on management institutes in the country.

B-schools *Business Standard* spoke to said though there would be pressure, the only way was to deliver quality products and services. "Executive training at the Indian Institutes of Management is changing with the competitive pressures from Ivy League global B-schools, such as HBS and INSEAD, turning their heads to the Indian executive education market. The impact of executive programmes by international B-schools on management development programmes, offered by IIMs is likely to be on quality and nature of programmes conducted in the executive education domain," says Keyoor Purani, chairperson, MDP, IIM-Kozhikode (IIM-K).

The pressure will be felt in different areas by different B-schools. For some, there will be added competition in the vertical of open enrolment management development programmes (MDP), wherein B-schools offer an



Harvard Business School's classroom at the Taj Lands End, Mumbai

open invitation to working executives on a set topic. There are some who say the pressure would be felt in customised MDPs demanded by companies exclusively for their employees.

"Others, especially the IIMs, may feel the pressure in open enrolment MDPs. Our focus is mostly on customised programmes, which is where we will have to up the ante," says Bibek Banerjee, director, IMT Ghaziabad.

India's growing ₹350-crore executive education space continues to attract B-schools. US-headquartered Harvard Business School opened a classroom at Taj Lands End, at Bandra, in suburban Mumbai. The Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania, is scouting for a centre in India, preferably Mumbai.

"I think International B-schools will give competition to Indian B-schools. With their deep-rooted global research, highly-experienced faculty, exhaustive curriculum and attractive price-points,

Business in India.

"More research from these schools is being focused on India such as The India Way (Wharton), Top Indian CEOs (INSEAD), Reverse Innovation (Tuck). This makes their programmes more compelling," he added.

With competition building up, how do Indian B-schools plan to counter it? "We will invest heavily on faculty research and go for international accreditation. We will have to open up ourselves for scrutiny as per international standards," adds Banerjee. Also, increased engagement and collaborations with the industry and "heightened participation in international peer review journals" are some of the other steps.

According to Purani, open-enrolment programmes, pre-designed by the members of faculty based on cutting-edge research, and formulation of new practices to upgrade senior executive know-how are likely to be impacted the most.

"Senior and top-level executives from private organisations have started moving to get training at foreign B-schools or have executive coaches to keep abreast of new management perspectives and techniques. Even top-level executives from government and public-sector organisations are choosing to go abroad or participate in programmes conducted by top international B-schools in India," he says.

Indian B-schools believe the challenge will be to continue to draw corporate nominations in high-impact,

cutting-edge, research-based, open enrolment programmes that prepare senior executives for emerging challenges. "Such programmes have a smaller market and, hence, the pressure from global B-schools would be felt the most, since the latter may eat into this small pie significantly if the IIMs get lured by a large number of middle-level, generic programmes. We will focus on specific development themes, demonstrate expertise through new research and publications in contemporary areas and develop more relevant programmes targeted at senior executives. Another way is to create strategic difference through 'Indianising' the content and programmes, making them more relevant to Indian companies," adds Purani.

In other words, while foreign B-schools are attempting to develop India-specific content through their local research centres, IIM-K will look to focus on adaptation of global models in the Indian context.

However, Indian B-schools disagree there will be added pressure on fees as well. "We are not under pricing pressure. In fact, we had around 12-18 per cent increase in the fees from previous financial year. MDPs were focused on the needs of the industry. The trend we see is that of increased demand for customised programmes. And from an international audience to understand India through programmes of IIM-B," says Shyamal Roy, chairperson, executive education, IIM-B.

PULLING THEIR SOCKS UP

- Indian B-schools could face competition in open enrolment programmes
- B-schools to 'Indianise' content to beat competition
- IIM-K to focus on adaptation of global models in Indian context
- IMT Ghaziabad to up the ante on customised executive education programmes

the programmes from schools such as INSEAD, Wharton and Tuck offer tremendous value proposition," said Chaitanya Kalipatnapu, director, Eruditus Executive Education.

Eruditus, promoted by alumni of INSEAD and Harvard Business School, delivers executive education programmes to Indian corporations and participants. It is at present working with INSEAD and Tuck School of

Reaching for the Aakash

THE PRIME minister's office has done right to raise queries on the human development ministry's draft cabinet note to invite bids for 50 lakh Aakash II tablets, having correctly suggested that the ministry test the tablet's 'performance and viability in the market' before implementing the proposal. The PMO is rightly concerned about the quality of Aakash because the first version, which had been unveiled in October last year, was found to have several flaws. Doubts were raised over its efficiency and durability. At that time IIT-Rajasthan, the nodal agency for the 'Aakash' project, had rejected the tablet for not meeting performance criteria and the project had to be shifted to IIT-Bombay. Among the technical flaws listed by experts at that time were a faulty processor that could not preform multiple tasks, low memory and storage, low battery back-up and poor display. It was also said to heat up too quickly. These flaws seriously impact the performance of this device. Though charges and counter charges had been traded, with Datawind, the company behind Aakash, claiming that IIT-Rajasthan had rejected the tablet on the basis of biased and unscientific testing methodology, quite obviously, there were problems, with several users unhappy with it.

This should not have happened as the Aakash project is an important one and is the hope of many a student, especially the underprivileged, who cannot afford the more expensive devices at present available in the market. Slated as the cheapest tablet in the world, it is meant to improve the system of education in India, with Kapil Sibal having said, 'Soon, a 35 dollar computer will be made available to every child in school. It shall help enhance the quality of learning of children.' There is nothing wrong with this dream, which is to link millions of children with the latest in information and knowledge, especially the college-going youth. However, the government has to ensure that the users of this product, mostly students, are not provided with a dud. Therefore, the government must make sure, at the very least, the minimum standards of quality so that a viable product reaches our school children.

दोनों देशों ने आठ उच्च शिक्षा परियोजनाओं को दी मंजूरी

शिक्षा को नया आयाम देंगे भारत और अमेरिका

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

भारत-अमेरिका के बीच उच्च शिक्षा क्षेत्र में सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए 'ओबामा-सिंह एजुकेशन इनिशिएटिव' के तहत दोनों देशों ने साझेदारी में आठ परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी प्रदान की है।

चार परियोजनाओं का क्रियान्वयन भारतीय संस्थानों और चार का क्रियान्वयन अमेरिकी संस्थानों के नेतृत्व में किया जाएगा। प्रत्येक प्रोजेक्ट पर करीब 12.50 करोड़ रुपये की राशि खर्च की जाएगी। दोनों देश इसमें आधी-आधी राशि खर्च करेंगे।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल और अमेरिकी मंत्री हिलेरी क्लिंटन के बीच इस मुद्दे पर वाशिंगटन में बातचीत हुई। मंत्रालय के अनुसार दोनों पक्षों में आठ परियोजनाओं पर सहमति बनी है। भारत की तरफ से इनमें बनारस हिन्दू यूनिवर्सिटी, महात्मा गांधी

साझेदारी

- बीएचयू, आईआईटी कानपुर, दिल्ली और महात्मागांधी विवि के नेतृत्व में चलेंगी परियोजनाएं
- मेटा यूनिवर्सिटी की स्थापना के लिए दोनों देशों के विशेषज्ञ शोध करके प्रारूप तय करेंगे

यूनिवर्सिटी, आईआईटी कानपुर और आईआईटी दिल्ली शामिल होंगे। जबकि अमेरिका की तरफ से मॉन्टाना, मिशीगन, कार्नेल और न्यू जर्सी यूनिवर्सिटी शामिल हैं। इन परियोजनाओं के तहत नेतृत्व विकास, कार्मिकों को प्रशिक्षण, चुनौतीपूर्ण क्षेत्रों मसलन, सतत विकास, ऊर्जा सुरक्षा, जन स्वास्थ्य आदि क्षेत्रों में शोध, मुक्त शिक्षण संसाधनों को विकसित करना, संकाय विकास आदि शामिल किए गए हैं।

‘फर्जी शिक्षा के खतरों से सचेत रहें’

वाशिंगटन। भारत और अमेरिका शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में सहयोग करने के लिए कई उपायों को अपनाने पर विचार कर रहे हैं। इस बीच, अमेरिका की विदेश मंत्री हिलेरी क्लिंटन ने छात्रों को फर्जी शिक्षा से आगाह किया है।

हिलेरी ने भारत-अमेरिका उच्च शिक्षा संवाद के उद्घाटन सत्र में कहा कि मैं समझती हूँ कि हमें शिक्षा के फर्जीवाड़े को रोकने के लिए और विचारशील होना होगा। दूरस्थ शिक्षा और कंप्यूटर आधारित शिक्षा में कुछ फर्जी हो रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि फर्जी शिक्षा से न तो ज्ञान बढ़ता है और न ही विकास होता है। (एजेंसी)