

# Newspaper Clips

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# Alumni backlash for Sibal's IIT plan <sup>14</sup>

By Ritika Chopra in New Delhi

The announcement on the changed format of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) has provoked a backlash from the IIT fraternity.

Less than a week after the announcement was made by HRD minister Kapil Sibal, faculty and alumni members of different IITs have started working on ways to register their resentment against the change.

In the first signs of an organised protest, the alumni members of IIT-Delhi, are preparing to move court against the decision. In a meeting held on Friday morning, the alumni association also decided to have a point-by-point rebuttal to Sibal's 'One Nation One Test' proposal prepared by the IIT faculty and communicate their objections to the Prime Minister through a memorandum.

At IIT-Kanpur, several faculty members have decided to boycott the institute's annual convocation on Saturday. According to sources, the IIT-Bombay and Kanpur faculties are also trying to call a meeting of their respective Senates — the highest decision making body of an IIT — to discuss the latest development. "We have sent a request for meeting of the IIT Kanpur Senate to be held latest by June 5," said a member of the institutes' faculty forum, who did not wish to be identified.

"In next one week we will identify alumni members and have PILs filed in different State high courts. We will also

## IIT-D alumni to move court against decision

try to get the same heard before the CABE (highest consultative body on education policies) meeting on June 6," said Supreme Court advocate and IIT Delhi Alumni President Somnath Bharti.

According to Bharti, the IIT Act states that the IIT Council only has an advisory role as far as fixing admission standards are concerned. This, he said, should help them argue against the decision taken by the joint meeting of the IIT

and NIT Council last month.

On May 28, Sibal, after chairing a joint meeting of the IIT and NIT Council, had announced that from next year the Joint Entrance Examination or JEE will be valid for all centrally funded technical institutions (CFTIs) such as the IITs, NITs and IISERS. JEE will be conducted in two parts — main test and an advance test — and have multiple-choice objective-type of questions.

The IITs, however, were allowed to follow a different admission process where in the Class XII Board marks and the performance in the JEE-main test will only be considered for filtering the best candidates. The IITs will then check the JEE-advance papers of the top 50,000 aspirants that qualify on the basis of the screening process. The final All-India-Rank (AIR)

list will then be based only on the marks scored in the JEE-advance test.

One of the arguments of the IIT fraternity against a common entrance test for all CFTIs is that it will dilute brand IIT. They are also against the inclusion of the normalised Class XII board marks as they feel it will bring down the quality of candidates entering the IIT system.

However, according to ministry officials, some of the arguments made are elitist in nature. "We understand that cracking the IIT-JEE gives IITians a sense of identity. But instead of viewing these changes as a dilution of Brand IIT it can also be seen as an extension of the brand, a senior ministry official said.

Kapil Sibal



Several faculty members of IIT-Kanpur (above) have decided to boycott the Institute's annual convocation on Saturday in protest against 'one test' proposal.

## WHAT WORRIES IIT FRATERNITY

- 100 per cent control of the examination should remain with IITs as the current situation is
- School marks should act as a cut-off and not given any weightage
- Stress on school board, JEE (main) and JEE (advance) will only increase the pressure on students rather than taking that off and will further propel the coaching industry by manifolds
- Senates of IITs should have the final say on the new pattern and can't be overridden by IIT council

# One JEE will not improve matters



P.V.INDRESAN

## VISION 2020

The Human Resources Development Ministry has announced its latest regulations for admissions to engineering colleges. Mr Ashok Kumar, the police officer-activist who trained 33 rural youths and managed to get 30 of them through the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for the

This is 330th in the Vision 2020 series. The last article appeared on May 19.

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), has been so incensed that he has organised a big demonstration in Patna against the decision. Some alumni may even go to court.

The new regulations have tackled reasonably well two of the three objectives. One, it gives due importance to high-school examination.

Two, it reduces the burden on the students by having one common examination for all Central Government institutions. However, it is not likely to do much for the third objective of curbing the influence of coaching institutions.

Even in the first two cases, there are issues. For instance, many years ago, the IITs admitted the top 10 from each school board directly without any entrance test.

That was a disaster, the system had to be stopped because influential persons got false certificates for their wards.

What guarantee is there that something similar will not happen in the certificate for percentile scores? However, corruption now may be less because the candidates have to take the entrance test, too.

*The new norms for engineering entrance exams cannot address the rich-poor, or rural-urban divide. There are better ways of dealing with these problems.*



Nowhere in the world are admissions carried out purely through a mechanical test.

A single test is a good idea, but it has its own problems. What will happen if a paper is leaked in some obscure corner of the country? Will or should the tests in thousands of centres round the country be scrapped and re-held? In any case, how will the Government keep the question papers secret everywhere without fail? These are real issues to which the Government seems to have given little thought.

I do not think anyone will lay a claim that the influence of coaching centres will diminish. At present, coaching costs are heavier than the four-year tuition charges in the IITs. Yet, they will probably increase to coach students for the plus-two examinations, too. Hence, only the well-to-do will get that benefit. Then, will not the rich-poor divide increase? Mr Kumar is worried that the new programme will impose a heavier burden on rural children. As it is, rural schools are poorly off; they are worse than the schools in the cities and far worse off than the good

ones. Frankly, the Government has not thought of the rural-urban divide at all. Our present-day politicians are enamoured of quotas. Who knows, we will have a new quota for rural schools, too.

### DEFICIENT FILTER

The biggest question of all is whether the new system will identify and admit students of the best calibre. It probably will not. As matters stand, admission to the IITs is a gamble — a chance of one in a hundred or so. In comparison, great universities such as Harvard and Stanford get only 10 applications for each student admitted. So long as the application-admission ratio remains as high as it is in India, no programme will be truly rational.

Further, nowhere in the world are admissions made purely through a mechanical test. For instance, SAT scores are used as a guide by American universities; they do not determine admissions entirely. Our country is so obsessed with objectiv-

ity that it forgets that we produced better scientists and engineers before Independence, too, when there were no entrance tests at all and teachers took who they liked. Unfortunately, the present government has no such faith.

### WHY WE LAG

Nobody has asked the crucial question: why have MIT, Stanford, Oxford and all the great universities of the West done better, and are still doing better than our own institutions and do so in spite of admitting less-qualified rich students? The basic reason: those universities have the autonomy to admit whoever they like, including children of the very rich; our institutions have no autonomy and are shackled by the State.

Years ago, the IITs were concerned about the varying standards of high-school boards; they were worried by political interference. That is how they devised the JEE. Unfortunately, they forgot they were giving up a precious privilege — the

autonomy to select their own students. Even now, according to the statutes, only the individual IITs can decide on admission policy — not the government. The Minister, being an able lawyer, may be able to get round, if, for instance, as is possible, IIT Kanpur refuses to accept his rules. But let us remember that the IIT statutes are good; that is why they have performed better than the universities have.

### TWO SOLUTIONS

What is the ideal that will ensure the autonomy of not only the IITs but also of all other institutions, and at the same time minimise rural-urban and rich-poor divides? I suggest that each district gets a quota — for short-listing the applicants — that depends on its population; the districts will conduct independent tests to fulfil their quota. That way the rural-urban divide will be minimised.

Alternatively, each IIT may short-list four or five times the number of students it is entitled to admit after they pass class 10 and provide the selected students scholarships to study in the best schools for the next two years. That way, the influence of coaching centres too will diminish, reducing further the rich-poor divide.

Only through interviews will the teachers know whether the applicant is a 'muggo,' or whether he understands the subject. Undoubtedly, the faculty will be under enormous pressure from politically powerful persons to admit their nominees. That may be resolved in one of the two ways: IITs admit some of them, the way Western universities do, but on payment of very high fees, or stick to their guns.

I think the first proposition is better. If a rich or influential person's ward can be admitted to Harvard, no disaster will ensue if they are admitted to an IIT.

(The author is a former Director, IIT Madras. bfeedback@thehindu.co.in and indresan@gmail.com)

# IIT alumni oppose new entrance exam

**NEW DELHI:** The alumni association of Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi on Friday opposed the recent decision to change the format of the entrance exam to get into IITs.

Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Kapil Sibal on Monday had announced plan to conduct a common engineering entrance test from 2013 for engineering and science institutions funded by the Central government.

In a meeting, members of the alumni association, All India IIT faculty federation, Pan-IIT and IIT alumni of Kharagpur stated that the complete control of the IIT examination should remain with IIT, like the existing pattern.

Members of the faculty federation have recently sent a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expressing their opposition to the plan.

"School marks should act as a cut-off and not given any weightage. Stress on school board, JEE (main) and JEE (advance) will only increase the pressure on students rather than taking that off and further propel the coaching industry by manifolds," was unanimously said in the meeting.

Sibal, in response to the growing opposition from the IIT's to the common entrance test, stated that the IIT council along with the council of National Institute of Technology

(NIT) and Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT) had unanimously taken the decision.

"Senates of IITs should have the final say on the new pattern and can not be overridden by IIT council," said a member. All India IIT Faculty Federation secretary A K Mittal stated that they would send their rebuttal to the proposal on June 2. Mittal and Sanjiv Sanghi, president faculty forum, will communicate with various IIT senates and arrange formal rejection of the May 28 proposal of the HRD Ministry.

"We have decided that the IIT alumni will form a lobby group to meet the prime minister and submit a memoran-

dum to apprise him with the objections in three-four days. PILs will be filed in various High Courts within a week," said the member. It was unanimously decided to demand a status quo till 2014.

The exam will be known as ISEET, the first common entrance test for engineering colleges of the country to enroll students in bachelor programmes. The ministry is all set to do away with the two well-known engineering exams AIEEE and IIT-JEE from next year. The ISEET main and advance exam will carry 60 per cent weightage, and 40 per cent will be given to Class XII board exam scores.

**DH News Service**

# IIT-K faculty, alumni boycott 'autocratic' Sibal

5 professors to skip convocation; former students plan to meet PM to protest

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■  
NEW DELHI

Within a week of HRD Minister Kapil Sibal claiming that the decision to hold 'One-nation-one test' was endorsed by all the IITs, the faculty association of the prestigious IIT-Kanpur has decided to boycott the convocation scheduled on Saturday.

Simultaneously, the Kanpur IIT alumni association on Friday condemned the 'autocratic' decision of the HRD Ministry and sought an appointment with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to register their protest against the alleged conspiracy to bring investments from foreign universities to open technical institutes here. They also want to inform the Prime Minister that the Kanpur IIT senate was kept in dark about the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) reform plan.

The Executive committee of IIT Kanpur Faculty Federation in an official communication to the General Body Meeting of the IIT Alumni on Friday conveyed that "as a strong symbolic



protest against the sidelining of the IIT-Kanpur Senate in the ongoing process of JEE reforms, the members of the senate and the faculty in general would abstain from the convocation function, including the academic procession".

"Yes, the faculty members have decided to lodge their protest by not participating in the convocation. As of now all of them have agreed, but let us wait to see the turnout of solidarity till tomorrow," a professor at IIT Kanpur said over phone requesting anonymity.

At least five professors have gone out of town to keep away from the convocation on Saturday. "Yes, I will not be there as am out of town," said another professor when contacted by *The Pioneer*.

"While this is expected to send a strong message, it will not hinder the process of awarding degrees to the graduating students in any material manner," said Prof AK Mittal, Secretary, All India IIT Faculty Federation.

*Continued on Page 4*

# IIT-K faculty...

From Page 1

A special meeting of IIT Kanpur Senate has been called on Saturday to discuss the sidelining of IIT-K senate in JEE reforms by the Ministry and legal repercussions.

The IIT Alumni association on Friday formed a lobby group to seek appointment from the Prime Minister at the earliest and submit a memorandum to apprise him with the objections before the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) deliberates over the issue. "There is a larger conspiracy in the matter. The Government is trying to dilute the present IITs and to facilitate private players from India and abroad. They are also mulling to bring investments from foreign universities to open technical institutes here. What is wrong in the present IITs," Somnath Bharti, president, IIT-Delhi Alumni Association (IIT-DAA) told *The Pioneer*.

Claiming that the IIT-Kanpur Senate was kept in dark, the GBM alleged that Sibal did not keep his promise made to different stakeholders that he will not go ahead without consensus. "Five out of seven senates have given their dissents in writing but MHRD still went ahead. The IIT Council is an advisory body qua admission process and senates enjoy the conclusive authority qua admission process as per the IIT Act," said Mittal.

The meeting held at Alumni Association Office of IIT Delhi was attended by Somnath Bharti, president, Pravin Purang, Secretary, IIT-DAA, Prof Sanjeev Sanghi, president, Faculty Forum, Prof AK Mittal, Secretary, All India IIT Faculty Federation, Vanita Srivastava, Alumnus, IIT Kanpur, Y P S Suri, President, IIT Kharagpur amongst others.

"While full control of the examination should remain with IITs as it is in present, the school marks should act as a cut off and not given any weightage. In the given new format stress on school board, JEE (main) and JEE (advance) will only increase the pressure on students rather than taking that off and will further propel the coaching industry by manifolds. Our demand is that Senates of IITs should have the final say on the new pattern and can't be overridden by IIT council," Bharti added. The IIT alumni association is also looking into legal options to put in abeyance the One Nation One Test concept. IIT Alumni will arrange PILs to be filed in various High Courts within a week. It was felt that it should be tried to get the same heard before June 5, the day a meeting of CABE committee of MHRD is scheduled.

# IITs revolt against joint test, will go to court

## Kanpur Faculty To Skip Convocation

Himanshi Dhawan | TNN

**New Delhi:** Opinion is growing against the HRD ministry's decision to introduce a common engineering test for central engineering institutions, including IITs, NITs and IIITs, with the IIT alumni on Friday deciding to move court against it.

Faculty members from IIT Kanpur

### ► Faculty write to PM, P 11

are also planning to boycott the institute's convocation ceremony on Saturday as a mark of protest. While efforts have been made by the faculty federations to seek an appointment with the prime minister to explain their opposition to the common exam, the HRD ministry is seeking to engage the faculty members.

“The IIT alumni will file PILs in various high courts within a week. The members felt efforts should be taken to get a hearing at the earliest and demand that the common test be postponed to 2014

**Somnath Bharti**

IIT DELHI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

In a meeting of alumni members and faculty members on Friday, it was decided to file PILs in courts across the country against the common exam proposal within a week.

“The IIT alumni will file PILs in various high courts within a week. The members felt that efforts should be taken to get a hearing at the earliest and demand that the common test be postponed to 2014,” said Somnath Bharti, IIT Delhi alumni association president.

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# Common test: IIT faculty write to PM

Himanshi Dhawan | TNN

**New Delhi:** In IIT Kanpur, there is a deep sense of dissatisfaction that the HRD ministry had not heeded the faculty's concerns before announcing the decision on a common engineering test for central engineering institutions. Therefore, there is a plan to boycott the convocation ceremony on Saturday. A senior faculty member from IIT Kanpur said, "Although all faculty members are upset with the decision, some will attend the convocation because it's an important occasion for the students."

All India IIT Faculty Federation secretary A K Mittal said, "People across IITs are concerned and agitated at the ministry's decision. We have written to the PM opposing the decision and will seek time from him."

The main points of differences between the faculty members and the ministry include, the weightage given to class XII board exams for shortlisting candidates and

the lack of complete control over the IIT exam. There are 15 IITs with about 10,000 seats in the country. At the root of the debate is the elite status of these tech institutes, and clubbing them with IIITs and NIITs is seen as making centres of excellence come down to the level of ordinariness.

HRD ministry sources said that efforts were being made to ensure that the matter does not go to the courts. A senior official said, "The ministry has over a period of two years held lengthy consultations and tried to accommodate all the concerns raised by the various stakeholders." Ministry sources said that the IITs are geared for conducting exams for 5-6 lakh students but the numbers would increase to 20 lakh with the common test. "We have even said that IITs will be able to direct the agency that conducts the test," the source said, pointing out that the concerns being raised had been dealt with through several rounds of consultations.

## IITs TO TAKE JEE FIGHT TO COURT

HT Correspondent

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**NEW DELHI:** Upset over the new joint entrance exam (JEE) norms announced by the Centre, the IIT alumni association on Friday decided to take their protest to court.

"We are looking for people who could file PIL in different high courts against the decision. We will also meet the PM next week," IIT Delhi alumni association head Somnath Bharti said. The IITs want a status quo on the implementation of the format till 2014.

The new format gives weightage to class 12 results while deciding the merit list. According to the association, school marks should act as a cut-off and not given any weightage. "Five out of the seven IIT senates have given their dissents in writing to HRD ministry," Bharti added. » P9

# IITs to battle it out with govt on JEE

## ON WARPATH PIL may be filed; delegation to meet PM

Vanita Srivastava

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**NEW DELHI:** Tempers are running high. A direct confrontation between IITs and the Centre has shaped on the changed pattern of IIT-JEE. As a first step to register protest, a PIL may be filed in a HC on Monday against the government's decision.

Representatives of the Alumni Association and the All India IIT Faculty Federation, which met on Friday devised a three-pronged strategy to register protest.

They have decided to lead a delegation to the PM and submit a memorandum raising their concern over the autonomy of the IITs. It was also decided to identify persons who could file

petitions in different high courts against the government's decision in the next few days. The All India IIT Faculty Federation will prepare a rebuttal of the government's decision shortly.

"We will lead a delegation to Prime Minister in the next few days and submit a memorandum. We are also looking for people who could file PIL in different high courts," Somnath Bharti, President Delhi IIT Alumni Association and Supreme Court advocate said.

**(We will lead a delegation to PM in the next few days and submit a memorandum)**  
**SOMNATH BHARTI**  
 Delhi IIT Alumni Association

The IIT senates are also in a confrontation mood. Raising strong objection against the government's decision, IIT-K Faculty has described the new exam as counterproductive, unilateral, and arbitrary.

There are speculations that a motion could be raised against the Chairman of the IIT-Kanpur Senate who is also the director of the institute for 'misguiding' the Senate in the whole process. There are 210 senate members. There was also a suggestion that IIT Kanpur should press for a separate exam if the government does not roll back its decision. Some faculty and senate members may also boycott the IIT-Kanpur convocation on Saturday to register their protest.

## CAT: IIT alumni demands status quo on implementation

**NEW DELHI:** Strongly opposing the new format for admission to IITs and other central institutes from 2013, the IIT alumni association on Friday decided to move court and demanded a status quo on its implementation till 2014.

At a meeting here, the association also decided to form a lobby group and meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh objecting the move.

The association contended that HRD Minister Kapil Sibal did not keep his promise made to different stakeholders of not going ahead with the new format if there is even one dissent from the IIT senates.

"...and here 5 out of 7 senates have given their dissents in writing to Sibal but he still went ahead," president IIT Delhi Alumni Association Somnath Bharti.



The association also dismissed Sibal's assertion that there was complete support in the IIT council for the

common entrance test under the new format, saying IIT council is an advisory body only while the senates enjoy the conclusive authority for admission process as per the IIT Act.

In a statement, the association said the senates should have the final say on the new pattern and can't be overridden by IIT council.

"PILs to be filed in various High Courts within a week,"

the statement said adding initiatives would be taken to get them heard by 5 June when central advisory board of education meets here.

While the new format seeks to give weightage to the class XII results under a two-tier format in deciding the merit list, the association underlined that the school marks should act as a cut off and not given any weightage.

AGENCIES

# JOINT TEST: IIT ALUMNI WILL MEET PM, FILE PILS

**NITIN MAHAJAN**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 1

Strongly opposing the recently announced national entrance test for engineering courses, IIT Alumni Association has decided to file PILs in various high courts against the government move within a week. At an urgent meeting of the body held on Friday, the body decided to demand a status quo till 2014. A group of the body has also been deputed to meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to submit a memorandum to apprise him with the objections regarding the new examination pattern in next three-four days.

At a meeting chaired by President IIT Delhi Alumni Association Somnath Bharti it was felt that PILs should be tried to get heard before 5th June, the day when CABE committee of MHRD is meeting. It was also felt that HRD minister Kapil Sibal did not keep his promise made to different stakeholders of not going ahead if there is even one dissent. "Here five out of seven senates have given their dissents in writing, however, the HRD ministry still went ahead," it was pointed out in the meeting.

## IIT alumni to move court against CET

Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** The alumni of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi will move the court against the Union government's decision to hold a common entrance test for admission to undergraduate engineering courses from 2013.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the IIT-Delhi Alumni Association here on Friday. The participants expressed fears that the emphasis on weightage to the school board results and the Joint Entrance Examination (Main and Advance), proposed under the new format, would add to the pressure on students rather than reduce it.

Within a week, the alumni will file public interest litigation petitions in various High Courts, so that they could be heard before June 5, when the Central Advisory Board of Education will meet.

The meeting demanded that status quo be maintained till 2014 and said the new system would result in further mushrooming of coaching centres.

The association said it should be allowed full control of the examination and admission and school marks should act as a cut-off and not given any weightage. The new system has also been rejected by the All-India IIT Faculty Federation.

The new system was announced on May 28, after a meeting of the Joint Councils of the IITs, the National Institutes of Technology and the Indian Institutes of Information Technology with the Federation of Faculty of the IITs. Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal chaired the meeting.

The association, representing more than two lakh graduates of the IITs, said the government had "no right to impose a common entrance exam on the IITs."

The association and the Faculty Federation sought more time to discuss the implications of the new system and said the IIT Senates should have the final say and their decision could not be overridden by the IIT Council.

The alumni have planned to meet the Prime Minister.

"HRD Minister Kapil Sibal did not keep his promise, made to different stakeholders, of not going ahead if there is even one dissent, and here 5 out of 7 Senates have given their dissent in writing, but the HRD [Ministry] still went ahead. The IIT Council is an advisory body for admission process, and [the] Senates enjoy the conclusive authority over the admission process as per the IIT Act," they said in a statement.



# आईआईटी-के में सिंगल टेस्ट पर फिर विरोध

नई दिल्ली/कानपुर | हिटी

सिंगल एंट्रेंस टेस्ट को लेकर आईआईटी के भीतर से विरोध के स्वर फिर उठने लगे हैं। आईआईटी कानपुर के कुछ सीनेट सदस्यों ने टेस्ट के विरोध में शनिवार को होने वाले 44वें दीक्षांत समारोह के बहिष्कार का ऐलान किया है। हालांकि इसमें पूरी सीनेट शामिल नहीं है।

लेकिन शुक्रवार को गवर्निंग बॉडी के चेयरमैन और निदेशक संजय धांडे की अपील के बावजूद सदस्यों ने प्रस्तावित विरोध को वापस नहीं लिया। विरोध में

विरोध के कारण	क्या हो सकता है अब
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>आईआईटी की स्वायत्तता पर असर पड़ेगा</li> <li>बोर्ड के अंकों को जोड़ने से स्तर में सुधार नहीं होगा</li> <li>एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा में जल्दबाजी की जा रही है</li> <li>कई लॉग फैसले को एकेडमिक कम और राजनीतिक ज्यादा मान रहे हैं</li> </ul>	<p>अगर सीनेट के 40 से ज्यादा सदस्यों की बात न मानी गई और सीनेट क्री बैठक न बुलाई गई तो चेयरमैन और निदेशक की कुर्सी खतरे में पड़ सकती है। 28 साल पहले भी विवाद हुआ था और दोनों को कुर्सी छोड़नी पड़ी थी</p>

उतरे सीनेट सदस्य नए टेस्ट को आईआईटी की स्वायत्तता के विरुद्ध बता रहे हैं। उन्होंने परीक्षा का प्रशासनिक कार्य सीबीएसई को दिए जाने, नए टेस्ट

को जल्दबाजी में लागू करने, इससे एक वर्ग के छात्रों का वर्चस्व बढ़ने की आशंका जाहिर की है। आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्रों के समूह ने भी नए टेस्ट का

विरोध किया है। सीनेट के कड़े रुख को लेकर निदेशक धांडे और आईआईटी के चेयरमैन आनंद कृष्णन बेहद चिंतित दिखे। उन्होंने छात्रों के हित में विरोध वापस लेने की अपील की है। विरोध कर रहे शिक्षकों ने कहा कि वे समारोह की वेशभूषा में नहीं आएंगे। धांडे ने बताया कि उनसे विरोध वापस लेने की अपील की गई है। वे नहीं मानते तो भी दीक्षांत समारोह जारी रहेगा। शुक्रवार को गवर्निंग बॉडी की बैठक में 1135 छात्रों को डिग्रियां देने का अनुमोदन किया गया।

# इंजीनियरिंग की सिंगल प्रवेश परीक्षा का विरोध तेज

हाईकोर्ट जाएंगी आईआईटी  
एलुमनाई एसोसिएशन

● बृजेश सिंह

नई दिल्ली। इंजीनियरिंग की सिंगल प्रवेश परीक्षा के लिए 28 मई को तय नए प्रारूप का विरोध तेज हो गया है। प्रवेश परीक्षा में प्रस्तावित बदलाव का कड़ा विरोध करते हुए आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्र इस पर रोक लगाने के लिए अगले हफ्ते जनहित याचिका दायर करेंगे। यही नहीं मंत्रालय के फैसले खिलाफ जल्द ही एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल प्रधानमंत्री से भी मिलकर इसे रोके जाने की मांग करेगा। यह फैसला शक्रवार को आईआईटी एलमुनाई एसोसिएशन की दिल्ली में हुई एक बैठक में लिया गया।

एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष सोमनाथ भारती की अध्यक्षता में हुई आईआईटी पूर्व छात्रों की बैठक में चर्चा के दौरान यह स्पष्ट रूप से कहा गया है कि सात आईआईटी में से पांच आईआईटी सीनेट प्रवेश परीक्षा में मंत्रालय के प्रस्तावित स्वरूप से सहमत नहीं हैं इसके बावजूद काउंसिल की सहमति से इसे लागू करने का फैसला लिया गया है। बैठक में सदस्यों ने कहा कि आईआईटी प्रवेश परीक्षा जेईई के आयोजन में काउंसिल की भूमिका केवल सलाहकार की होती है। परीक्षा में निर्णायक भूमिका सीनेट की होती है फिर भी सीनेट की राय को मंत्रालय द्वारा अनदेखा किया जा रहा है।

सरकार के इस रवैये से नाराज फैकल्टी फोरम ने 2 जून को आईआईटी कानपुर में आयोजित दीक्षांत समारोह का बहिष्कार करने का फैसला लिया है। इस दौरान

● केब. मीटिंग से पहले  
नए प्रारूप पर स्टे की  
कोशिश  
● पूर्व छात्रों का समूह  
जल्द प्रधानमंत्री से  
मिलकर जताएगा  
विरोध

कानपुर में सीनेट की विशेष बैठक भी आयोजित की जाएगी। इस बैठक में जेईई के नए प्रारूप को तय करने में सीनेट के सुझावों को दरकिनार किए जाने पर चर्चा होगी।

एलमुनाई एसोसिएशन की बैठक में यह भी फैसला किया गया है कि आईआईटी फैकल्टी फेडरेशन के सचिव प्रो. एके मित्तल 28 मई को काउंसिल की बैठक में सिंगल प्रवेश परीक्षा के तय किए गए स्वरूप को अस्वीकृत किए जाने के संबंध में दो जून को मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय को पत्र भेजेंगे।

सभी आईआईटी सीनेट की ओर से भी इस आशय का पत्र मंत्रालय को भेजे जाने का भी फैसला लिया गया है। बैठक में यह भी फैसला लिया गया है कि आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्रों का एक समूह गठित किया जाएगा जो प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह से तीन-चार दिन में मिलकर उन्हें अपना विरोध पत्र सौंपेगा। अगले हफ्ते देश के विभिन्न उच्च न्यायालयों में 28 मई के फैसले के खिलाफ जनहित याचिकाएं भी दायर की जाएंगी। कोशिश होगी कि छह जून को केब. कमेटी की बैठक से पहले इस मामले पर सुनवाई हो जाए।

# UGC lens on foreign institutions

New Delhi: The Universities Grants Commission (UGC) will discuss a regulatory framework to regulate foreign educational institutions in its meeting on Saturday.

The decision to draft laws to regulate foreign universities comes at a time when the Foreign Educational Institutions (Entry and Operations) Bill, 2010, is pending before Parliament. "There was a need to create a framework to regulate universities of dubious reputation. The Commission will be discussing that in its meeting on Saturday," said Prof. Ved Prakash, UGC acting chairman.

The Commission will also look at regulations for twinning and joint degree programmes between foreign and Indian educational institutions. Sources said that the HRD ministry had earlier this year asked the UGC to address the issue of fake foreign universities following students' complaints. The Commission had set up a panel under C N Rao to study the issue. The report is also likely to be discussed in the meeting. TNN

# Regulatory framework for foreign varsities, not backdoor entry, UGC says

N. Adil Kazmi, Secretary, University Grants Commission, writes:

Apropos "Government trying 'backdoor' entry for foreign universities" (*The Hindu*, June 1, 2012), the University Grants Commission has been seriously engaged in the analysis of the findings of the various reports on foreign education providers operating in the country with regard to the standing of such providers in their respective countries, the nature of programmes offered by them and the degrees awarded, and above all, protection of the interest of students seeking admission to such foreign institutions.

Many foreign educational institutions are operating in the country offering different types of courses and programmes and there is no regulation presently in place to control and curb the operation of such institutions with academic credentials which may not even be satisfying in their own country. The UGC is aware that the AICTE Regulation of 2003 are applicable only for technical and man-

agement education but not in the other areas of higher education. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has time and again emphasised the need to put in a regulatory framework for entry and operation of foreign education providers through a UGC Regulation. This need has also been emphasised by various reports of experts/committees which include the report of the C.N.R. Rao Committee, the Study Report on foreign educational institutions (2005) by the National Universi-

ty of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) and the Report prepared by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) in 2012.

The impression given by *The Hindu* story that the UGC is going to permit foreign educational institutions through a 'backdoor' channel is not true. The objective of the UGC is to formulate a regulatory framework which could be put in place on the lines similar to what has been laid down by the AICTE in 2003.

The MHRD has been deeply concerned with this situation and has been approaching the UGC to make a detailed analysis of the implications of the operation of such institutions in the country.

In a February 1, 2012 letter, it requested the UGC to frame Regulations/Guidelines for the purpose of safeguarding the interest of the student community in India. Accordingly, the UGC constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. P. Rama Rao in March, 2012 to look

into the entire issue and make recommendations which could facilitate the formulation of appropriate regulations. The Report of the Rama Rao committee was subjected to further scrutiny through another committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Ramamurthy Naidu. This committee has finalised the regulations which are now to be placed before the Commission for its consideration.

The process initiated in March, 2012 to address the concerns related to the issue of for-

foreign educational providers, therefore, has no relationship, whatsoever, with the visit of the Minister Mr. Kapil Sibal to the USA.

Our correspondent replies: Mr. Kazmi's 'clarification' is self explanatory and does not controvert our report that the UGC will on Saturday be discussing and finalising regulations on foreign educational institutions. The reference in our story to 'backdoor entry' was to contrast the decision to frame new guidelines via the UGC with the earlier plan of getting legislation passed by Parliament.

As for his contention that the process initiated in March, 2012 has no relationship to the visit of HED Minister Kapil Sibal to the U.S., *The Hindu's* report merely says that Mr. Sibal is scheduled to travel to Washington to participate in the Indo-US Strategic Dialogue — of which education is a part this year — where "he would like to make some announcements on joint programmes to encourage foreign educational institutions into India."

## It is in contempt of Parliament, says CPI(M)

Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has criticised the Union government's move to draft guidelines for regulation of foreign educational institutions, arguing that since a Bill was pending in Parliament, this was a clear case of bypassing, and

contempt of, Parliament.

The Left parties are opposed to the Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill, 2010, maintaining that these universities would subvert the Indian system, skew salaries, take away faculty members from domestic universities and increase elitism in education,

besides commercialising higher education.

In a statement here on Friday, the CPI(M) warned Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal against any such step. "On the contrary, those foreign-owned institutions operating in India, in violation of the law, must be proceeded against, and steps

taken to prevent any further violation."

On the eve of his visit to the U.S. to attend the Indo-US CEO Forum, the party said, Mr. Sibal was keen on finding a way of meeting U.S. educational institutions' demand for easy entry to India through liberalised UGC rules that did not require Parliament's assent.

# आईआईटी का मास्टर प्लान मंजूर

भास्कर न्यूज | इंदौर

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इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी) इंदौर का मास्टर प्लान मंजूर हो गया है। अब आईआईटी इंदौर के निर्माण को लेकर कोई बाधा नहीं रह गई है। बाउंड्रीवाल बन रही है, जल्द ही मूल निर्माण कार्य भी शुरू हो जाएगा। पहले चरण में निर्माण पर 388 करोड़ रुपए लगेंगे।

बुधवार को मुंबई में हुई बोर्ड मीटिंग में यह निर्णय लिया गया। वहां चर्चा हुई कि वर्तमान प्लान करीब 10 हजार छात्रों के हिसाब से तैयार हुआ है, भविष्य में बढ़ने वाले कोर्सेस व सीटों की संख्या को देखते हुए निर्माण कार्य में करीब 30 हजार छात्रों की क्षमता का ध्यान रखा जाए।

NEW TREND

# IIM grads prefer interning with Kalam

ht SPECIAL

Manish Chandra Pandey

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**LUCKNOW:** In 2009, a Lucknow lad from the Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A), surprised many by deciding to work fulltime with APJ Abdul Kalam after interning with the 80-year-old former President. Three years later, it has become a trend and the number of IIM grads wanting to intern under the former President has increased steadily.

"Such students are giving preference to Kalam, leaving internship offers from

prominent multinational companies," Lucknow-born Srijan Pal Singh, 28, the trendsetter and a 2009 batch pass-out from IIM Ahmedabad, told Hindustan Times on the phone from New Delhi.

In 2010, one IIM-Ahmedabad student interned under Kalam, followed by six IIM-A graduates next year. This year, the recently set up Kalam Foundation, which Srijan looks after, received 36 applications from IIM-A students who showed an interest in interning under the guidance of Kalam.

"We have admitted eight interns, six from IIM-A and



■ Srijan Pal with former president APJ Abdul Kalam.

one each from Calcutta and Indore-based IIMs. We would have selected more. But due to space and

resource constraints, we have had to limit the numbers," says Singh. Besides managing Kalam

Foundation, Singh also interviews and screens interns.

So how does one explain this trend at a time when an entry into IIMs, specially IIM-A, is considered a virtual passport to a cushy, fat salaried job?

Indranil Hansda, an IIM-A grad interning under Kalam, says the 'experience' has been very diverse and enriching.

"I wanted to gain experience in a proper social development organisation, in order to be able to develop and implement initiatives aimed at the social development of the people at my native place later," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## New trend: IIM grads prefer...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hansda added that "This internship has turned out to be all that I had expected and more. I have had the exposure to implementation of the social initiatives designed by Kalam Foundation which has provided me an understanding of the various issues. I have also received the opportunity to build on these initiatives. Besides, I have met and established networks with many dynamic individuals who are also involved in various independent social initiatives."

The IIM grads feel that compared to a regular corporate internship the major difference has been that under Kalam, they are given complete freedom to build on their ideas.

"Thus, the experience here is much more fulfilling as the effort I have put in during the internship will hopefully help develop our nation," Hansda says.

Srijan adds: "Yes, there is money in the corporate world.

But, that is one world where you can go back to anytime.

The rich experience you gain under Dr Kalam's patronage, the emotional satisfaction that you get when you try and work on solutions with the great man for empowering India is undoubtedly something that you can't have otherwise." Kalam Foundation has launched several initiatives like 'What Can I Give?' and 'Make Your Mother Smile.'

During their internship period, the IIM grads are also sent to villages to study rural life, says Srijan, who has been involved with Dr Kalam's Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) mission. As someone who now regularly moves with Dr Kalam, he says, the stint has been an enlightening one.

"As IIM students, we get to work for MNCs and start using our knowledge for making profits for the company we serve. But my stint taught me that the real satisfaction comes by serving India, finding solutions to

brighten the life of the country's impoverished millions. You always have students who are willing to work in the development sector," says Srijan, rated the best all-round student of the 2007-9 batch of IIM-A.

Srijan says people often want to know the reason for his rather unusual career choice. "At IIM Ahmedabad, I got numerous opportunities to meet and interact with people from the corporate world, alumni of the institute and several others. Most of these people I met had that one big dream still unfulfilled - of trying that one thing. But the opportunity cost had become so big for them now that letting go of what they had become was very difficult for them. I was at an advantage. All I had to do was let go of my secure consulting job," he says.

Srijan's parents in Lucknow were still not convinced until Dr Kalam visited them in 2010. "They haven't mentioned it again," says Srijan.