

Newspaper Clips

June 30, 2012

Pioneer ND 30-Jun-12 P5

Few takers for Sibal's plan

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

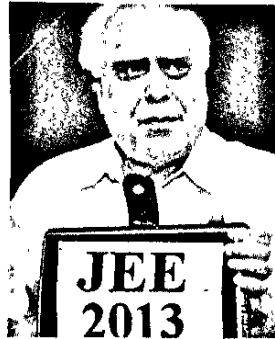
The State Examination Boards may have agreed to declare Class XII results by June 10 to allow engineering aspirants to take the newly announced two-tier entrance test but except four State Governments none other has expressed its interest for HRD Minister Kapil Sibal's 'one-nation, one-test' proposal.

The States were supposed to respond to the Centre by June 30, however, till now only one State — West Bengal has agreed, which, interestingly, initially had boycotted. Gujarat, Haryana and Maharashtra Governments had announced their participation in CET at the initial stage itself.

The HRD Ministry has thus again dispatched memorandums to the State Governments. In case the States do not agree to CET, the aspirants in respective States would have to take another entrance test to be conducted by that State for entry into a technical institute of that particular State/UT.

This means, through his/her performance in the CET, a student from Uttar Pradesh can seek admission in an institute in Madhya Pradesh also or vice versa, subjected to condition of domicile. But if both the States are not part of the CET then the candidates besides taking JEE-2013 will have to appear also in the engineering entrance conducted by UP or MP State boards.

"It is for them to respond. We have sent a reminder and expect them to respond to our requests within a month which will help the bodies (administrative, academic and logistics) involved in the task to conduct JEE-2013. It is good for the stu-



dents of the States who will have to face one test to have a choice for multiple institutes rather than face multiple tests. The State Governments have to comprehend that this is for the betterment of their students and there is no vested interest of Centre in the process," said the official.

The single entrance format says that it would be open to the States and even other participating institutions to use the results of JEE and to adopt the same pattern of admission. Appropriate weightage has to be given for State Board results, normalised on the basis of percentile formula which would not be less than 40 per cent (and could go even up to 100 per cent) and the JEE scores for the Main Test (The Advance Test score could also be added if the institute so wishes like the CFTIs).

The medium of question will also be as per the participating State's request, in addition to Hindi and English. The HRD Ministry has meanwhile agreed to the demand of representations of the participating States in the Academic Body to be constituted for the JEE-Main test by CBSE in an appropriate manner.

During the State Education Ministers' Conference early this month, the representatives of several States had expressed resentment over CET.

Business Line, ND 30/06/2012

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I(I)T's back to coaching

The new norms for admission to the IITs and other central engineering colleges, expected to come into force from next year, are an exercise in obfuscation. The May 28 notification had proposed a common entrance examination for IITs and other institutes, taking the results of the Class 12 exam into consideration. However, to call the exam 'common' is a bit of a misnomer. Rather than move towards one exam, like, say the UPSC, and base the selection on ranks, what we are seeing is a situation where the candidates give one exam but are assessed in different ways to determine whether they will enter the IITs or the other institutes. It cannot be more absurd. The IITs had all along opposed a common exam, fearing the loss of their control over selection, and thereby their distinctive identity. They did not want the Class 12 results to influence the admission process. Now, they seem to have got what they wanted - of fully being able to control the selection process despite a so-called common exam for all institutes. This has been made possible through a recent order that raises the number of candidates that are eligible to write the JEE (advanced), the exam to be administered by the IITs after the candidates go through an elimination round called JEE (main). By raising the number of candidates that should be cleared in the JEE (main) to 150,000, the weightage given to the Class 12 exam would have implicitly been diluted and the JEE (main) reduced perhaps to a farce. So, after much sound and fury, nothing much is likely to change. The coaching classes would thrive as always, preparing students for the JEE (advanced), just as they do for IIT-JEE.

The government should not have backtracked on its May 28 order, which was right on two grounds: Having a common exam by which all candidates and institutions can be judged and giving due pride of place to the Class 12 exam. At present, students focus on the entrance exams rather than their higher secondary exam, and attend any number of coaching classes, some of which have acquired a dubious renown for being able to 'crack' the IIT-JEE paper. Besides privileging the well-to-do student over an economically deprived one, this has led to selection of students of uncertain quality. The IITs may be 'centres of excellence', but surely their candidates can be picked from an exam common to other central colleges, many of which are regarded as top notch. They should work together with other institutes to evolve a more robust JEE, and not look down upon them.

True, the school-leaving exam is known to promote rote learning over conceptual understanding. If the IITs feel that a weight of 40-50 per cent for the school-leaving exam is excessive, one can peg it at, say, 30 per cent now and gradually increase it, while simultaneously improving the standards of the Class 12 exam. The IITs should take an active interest in improving the quality of the school-leaving exam. The issue at hand is to raise the level of technical education across the country - to not merely preserve excellence but to spread it.

IITs may be 'centres of excellence', but that is no reason to stall the move for a common admission exam with other central colleges, many of which are top notch as well.

Deccan Herald ND 30/06/2012

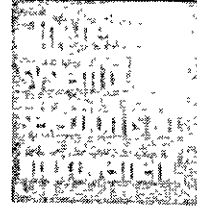
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Improved formula

The compromise over the format of the recently announced common entrance test for admission to engineering institutions has retained some of the basic ideas behind the proposed change but has refined them to suit the requirements of a higher eligibility bar for the Indian Institutes of Technology. IITs had objected to the admission system proposed by the HRD ministry and had even threatened to go to court. It seems the consensus evolved now has averted a confrontation. The idea of a single examination, instead of multiple tests at different locations which has created difficulties for students and parents, has been largely accepted. The only difference is that it would now involve different levels of testing the skills and aptitude of students.

The newly finalised admission process consists of a main exam, which will serve as a screening test to shortlist 1.5 lakh students for an advanced test for IIT admissions. Since IITs will have control over the format of the advanced test and will conduct them they will not have any complaints about losing their autonomy in selections. Admissions to the IITs will be based on the rank achieved in the advanced test subject to the condition that the students have to be in the top 20 percentile group of their respective

school board exams. The combination of excellence in school board exams and in the entrance test may ensure that the students do not neglect their school studies. The earlier proposal for a specific weightage for school board marks had led to the apprehension of the IITs that it may dilute their eligibility standards. This was because there was a possibility that students who did not do well in the entrance test could secure admission on the basis of higher board exam marks. Since the quality of various board exams is uneven, this was a genuine concern.



While the new system may be an improvement over the older one in

some respects, it may not greatly benefit the less privileged students and address the problem of the influence of coaching institutions in the admission stakes. Since the advanced test is still an IITJEE in itself, though derived from a common test for all aspirants, there would still be demand for coaching. The demand for coaching for board exams also may rise as only the top 20 per cent can secure IIT admissions. The solution is to improve the standards of teaching in schools across the country and school boards.

IIT's new admission norms: More stress in store for aspirants?

ET, June 29

BANGALORE | NEW DELHI: Ayan Agrawal has just made it to the biotech stream at IITDelhi this year. His rank in [JEE](#) 2012 was 3,532 and his XIIth standard CBSE percentage 77.2%. Had the new IIT admission norms announced on Wednesday come into force last year, he would have missed making it to the top 20 percentile of students in his board by a whisker. That would also have cost him his IIT seat, never mind his JEE rank.

Even as the stressful reality of the new admission formula for IITs and a few other institutes sinks in, about half-a-million students who will fight it out for about 9,600 IIT seats next year are beginning to brace themselves for a harder grind.

"What the [IIT Council](#) has done is raise the bar further. Mr Sibal's (HRD Minister [Kapil Sibal](#)) dream of 'one nation, one exam' has resulted in three exams," says CV Kalyan Kumar, director, FIITJEE, a coaching institute. "Besides, there is the huge pressure of two tests - JEE Main and JEE Advanced," he adds. The IIT Council hammered out a new compromise formula on Wednesday, ending a month-long standoff between some IITs and the government.

Earlier, anyone with the skill and stamina for the unrelenting, 8-10 hours-a-day preparations for the IIT-JEE entrance exams that place great emphasis on practical problem-solving skills could take a shot at the IITs. The cutoff for IIT-JEE was only 60% marks in the mostly theoretical twelfth standard board exams.

But now, only students in the top 20 percentile of school boards will make it past the new two tier JEE exams. This year, for example, students scoring less than 78% in central boards such as the CBSE and 65-68% in state boards such as UP would not have made the cut.

Many fear this figure will gradually inch up as competition for elusive IIT seats grows, adding to more stress on students. This means students will have to add more hours for their school board exams.

Students will have to put in more hours for school board exam preparations even as they put in long hours for IIT-JEE.

"It's very unfair. This is worse than giving board results 50% weightage (another formula considered earlier)," says Abhishek Barthwal, 17, an IIT aspirant for 2013. "Earlier, you had the chance to appear. Now only toppers will appear. There will be immense pressure first to perform well in boards, then in the two exams," he says.

Barthwal is voicing the concern of a large number of students who are taking the exam in 2013. The new rules have dealt a blow to students who began preparation for the exams a couple of years ago. Coaching centres placing emphasis on rote learning of school syllabus will now mushroom.

But students from poor or rural backgrounds, who do not have access to private tuitions for their school syllabus or cannot pay for them, will lose out. "This is one decision that will go against the poor, who don't have the opportunity to study in elite schools," said Anand Kumar, founder of Super 30, a coaching institute that trains only the economically underprivileged. The decision should have been implemented 2014 onwards so that students who have already begun preparations are not affected, Kumar says. Those sitting for the exam in 2014 are equally concerned though not as impacted as the current class-XII batch.

Padmanabha Prasanna Simha, 16, scored 96.48% in his class X examinations and will sit for his joint entrance test in 2014. "I will now have to change my study pattern and prepare for long answer formats and theories rather than concentrate only on the IIT entrance tests," says the Bangalore-based Simha, who studies in VVS Sardar Patel Pre-University College. "That one seat in IIT is worth pursuing all these challenges."

"The whole thing has resulted in too much pressure on students," says [Ashok Pandey](#), principal, Ahlcon International School, a Delhi school. "It is good for schools," says Lata Vaidyanathan, principal, Modern School, Barakhamba. "For a long time students did not think much about board exams, but only about competitive exams. This will lead them to pay more attention to school exams."

Under the new norms, students will have to appear for JEE Main, which is an all-India test for all colleges funded by the Centre, including IITs, NITs and IIITs. Around 1.5 lakh students who score the highest will sit for the next round, called JEE Advanced. IITs will pluck out only those who are among the top 20 percentile in their board exams and have scored high in JEE Advanced.

Coaching institutes that specialise in JEE are bracing for a fall in business. "The number of students preparing for IITs will go down and we expect our business to come down by 20-25% in the first two years," said [Navneet Jethwani](#), who teaches chemistry at the Kota-based institute Etoos.

The new harsher reality may actually make life less cruel for the less talented. "This decision will give direction to a majority who know they will not figure in the top 20 percentile of their board examination. This will encourage them to look at other courses more suited to them," says Pramod Maheshwari, director, Career Point. The institute coached 30,000 students last year and admissions for this year are on.

IIT-JEE FORMULA WILL MAKE BOARD EXAMS RELEVANT

HT, Mumbai

Aspirants will have to clear two written exams and be within the top 20 percentile in their board

MUMBAI: From 2013, IIT aspirants will have to clear two written exams as well as be within the top 20 percentile of students in their education board. The IIT council proposed to use a student's board marks as an eligibility criterion, rather than as a screening or ranking criterion. MUMBAI: From next year, even topping the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) may not be enough to secure a seat at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). An IIT aspirant will have to also be within the top 20 percentile in their Class 12 board exam.

HT FILE PHOTO The IIT council proposed to use a student's board marks as an eligibility criterion, on Wednesday.

The JEE is the entry criterion to the IITs. In the latest proposed reforms, from 2013, IIT aspirants will have to clear two written exams as well as be within the top 20 percentile of students in their education board.

At a meeting on Wednesday, the IIT council proposed to use a student's board marks as an eligibility criterion, rather than as a screening or ranking criterion. This means, a student's performance in their board exam will only come into play once a student clears the two-tier JEE. If a student is outside the top 20 percentile in their board, they will not be admitted, regardless of their all India rank in JEE.

Until this year, a student's eligibility to qualify to the IITs was a minimum score of 60% in the Class 12 board exams. With a view to making the school exam system more relevant, that eligibility criterion has now been upped.

The top 20 percentile will vary from board to board, and year to year, as percentile is a parameter based on a student's relative performance compared to others in that same board.

While the first exam will be held in the first week of April, the second exam will be held in the third week of May. A student's board marks are unlikely to be known before May end, depending on when that board releases its results. However, at a meeting between school board heads on Thursday, 20 boards agreed to make the results available before June end next year to ensure smoothness in the IIT admission process.

Faculty members are happy with the proposal as it does away with an earlier proposal of giving a 40% weightage to a student's 'normalised' percentile score, and thus giving board marks a role to play in determining the merit list.

However, alumni and faculty members claim the proposal is anti-poor and anti-rural and that the basis for demarcating the top 20 percentile from the rest is still a debatable one.

“While using a board percentile as a cut-off may be better than using for ranking, what is the guarantee that the students in the top 20 percentile of a certain state board (eligible by the current proposal) are better than the students in the top 30 percentile of CBSE or ICSE,” said a faculty member.

The IIT Delhi Alumni Association has also opposed the 20 percentile stipulation as being “prejudicial to the interests of students from rural India.”

AGENDA FOR IIT-B SENATE MEETING ON JULY 5

The agenda for the senate meeting on July 5 at IIT-Bombay was circulated among members on Friday night. It includes: Allowing aspirants who took the JEE in 2012 and who are entitled to take the exam once again in 2013 to be judged on the current eligibility requirement of scoring 60% in the Class 12 board exam, and not the new top 20 percentile

requirement The possibility of allowing, for only next year, a raised eligibility cut-off in the board exam in case a student cannot make it to the top percentile of their board, since the change has been announced so late in the day

The senate will discuss these points and then forward it to the Joint Admission Board

With 39% in boards, he made it to IIT

NEW DELHI: While the country is debating on the pros and cons of making school boards a part of the IIT-JEE, here’s a story of an IIT alumnus who had scored just 39% in boards.

After completing his graduation, he went on to get a doctorate from Europe and is currently working at a senior position in a Danish drilling company.

Rajiv Dandotiyam attributes his success to IIT-JEE.

“Sometimes you have to turn your weakness into a blessing. The critical thinking that was developed while training for JEE helped me become more versatile and work in different domains. If it was not for IIT-JEE, I would have been working as a teacher in my village,” said Dandotiyam, better known as Dandu Bhai.

Recalling his school days in his village in Rajasthan, he said that the teachers would hardly teach. “After getting our final exam results, we would sell our books and buy cricket balls with the money. That was what learning meant to us...”

Dandotiyam got 39% in his school board exam and he stood 5th in his class of 60. Soon, he found out that his board exam score made him ineligible for pursuing further studies. “I cleared PET, but was ineligible. I was totally disenchanted. At this stage in my life, a bookseller told me about IIT-JEE. He even gave me three books for reference.”

After one failed attempt, Rajiv cleared the JEE in 2002. “I still remember the counselling session held at IIT-Bombay. I was trying to hide my board exam results, hoping that they shouldn’t lead to my rejection.”

Maintaining that board exams are important, Dandotiyam said: “The main problem is that the standards of schools across the country are not the same. This issue needs to be tackled.”

Virat Vaibhav ND 30/06/2012

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टेंशन का बोझ

आईआईटी काउंसिल और मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के बीच एंट्रेस टेस्ट के स्वरूप को लेकर हुए समझौते में सही बात सिर्फ इतनी है कि इस बारे में जो एक धुआं सा बना हुआ था, वह छंट गया है। लेकिन इससे इंजीनियरिंग की परीक्षार्थियों के कंधे से टेंशन का बोझ कितना कम होगा, इस बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता। इस बात पर बरबस धुआं बना हुआ है। दूसरे कोचिंग के धंधे पर कितनी चोट पड़ेगी और देश में इंजिनियरिंग शिक्षा की क्वालिटी किस हद तक सुधर पाएगी, इस पर कुछ भी टिप्पणी करना अभी बहुत जल्दबाजी होगी। समझौते से निकले एंट्रेस टेस्ट फॉर्मेट में लगभग एक महीने के अंतर पर एक स्क्रीनिंग और एक मुख्य परीक्षा का प्रावधान है। लेकिन दाखिले के साथ एक जरूरी शर्त यह भी जुड़ी है कि छात्र ने अपने इंटरमीडिएट बोर्ड एग्जाम में सबसे ज्यादा नंबर पाने वाले 20 प्रतिशत छात्रों में अपनी जगह बनाई हो। अभी आईआईटी में दाखिले की न्यूनतम शर्त इंटरमीडिएट में 60 प्रतिशत अंक लाना है और ज्वाइंट एंट्रेस एग्जाम में छात्रों को एक ही दिन फिजिक्स, केमिस्ट्री, मैथ के दो पर्चे देने पड़ते हैं। नई व्यवस्था में एक बात तो पहली नजर में ही साफ है कि इंजीनियरिंग की तैयारी करने वाले छात्रों को एक के बजाय दो जगह फोकस बनाकर पढ़ाई करनी होगी। सीबीएसई जैसे हाई स्कोरिंग बोर्ड में बैठने वाले छात्रों के लिए टॉप 20 पर्सेंट में जगह बनाना यूपी जैसे लो स्कोरिंग बोर्ड में बैठने वालों से कहीं ज्यादा मुश्किल होगा, क्योंकि एक को इंटरमीडिएट में अपने सामने 80 पर्सेंट का टारगेट रखकर चलना होगा, जबकि दूसरे का काम 65 प्रतिशत से ही चल जाएगा। मान लीजिए, कोई छात्र दोनों एंट्रेस टेस्ट पास करके सिर्फ इस वजह से आईआईटी में जाने से रह गया कि इंटरमीडिएट में उसके एक-दो पर्चे उतने अच्छे नहीं गए, तो उसकी मनोदशा की कल्पना की जा सकती है। जाहिर है, छात्रों का टेंशन नए फॉर्मेट से और बढ़ेगा। खासकर 2013 वाले बैच से जुड़ी अनिश्चितता तो उन्हें एक से ज्यादा कोचिंग सेंटर्स की परेड करा सकती है। ऐसे में शिक्षा मंत्री आखिर किस आधार पर हजारों करोड़ के कोचिंग धंधे का बाजार ठप कर देने का दावा कर रहे हैं? 2008 में पहली बार मद्रास आईआईटी ने चिंता जताई थी कि कोचिंग के कारोबारी देश की सबसे अच्छी इंजीनियरिंग प्रतिभाओं को, खासकर लड़कियों को आईआईटी तक नहीं पहुंचने दे रहे हैं। इस चिंता से निपटने का सबसे अच्छा तरीका यही हो सकता है कि माध्यमिक शिक्षा का स्तर सुधारा जाए और इंजिनियरिंग एंट्रेस को ज्यादा क्वालिटी बनाया जाए। लेकिन अपने झूठे अभिमान में डूबे आईआईटी के एकेडमिशियन अपने एंट्रेस टेस्ट का दायरा लांघने को तैयार नहीं हैं। ऐसे में प्रतिभा को आंकने का सबसे भरोसेमंद तरीका उन्हें इस सांप-सीढ़ी के खेल को ज्यादा-से-ज्यादा उलझाते जाना ही नजर आता है। राजनीतिक नेतृत्व को इस जाल में फंसने के बजाय आईआईटी एंट्रेस को सहज बनाने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए, क्योंकि छात्रों की ही नहीं, खुद आईआईटी और देश की भलाई भी इसी में है। लेकिन देखना यह है कि इस पर कितना अमल हो पाता है। ■

Indian Express Chandigarh 29-06-2012 P-8

IIT: 20 school boards to declare results by June 10 every year

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

AS many as 20 school boards on Thursday agreed to ensure that board results are declared by June 10 every year to facilitate a smooth roll-out of the new entrance examination format for IITs. This came a day after the IIT Council announced a new admission formula for IITs under which only students who are in the top 20 percentile of their board will make it to IITs.

At a meeting of Council of Boards of School Education in India (COBSE) held to discuss operational issues arising out of the IIT Council

decision, it was also unanimously agreed that the boards will complete the revaluation/retotaling/reverification work by June 30 every year. For this, if need be, priority will be given by the boards to revaluation/retotaling/reverification of results of those students who are appearing for professional examinations.

The boards also decided to provide secured and category wise data of OBC/SC/ST and General candidates. In order to give a fair chance to students who may have taken the board exams this year and want a second attempt at JEE next year, it was reiterated that

these students will be allowed improvement in all five subjects to aim at top 20 percentile category.

The boards agreed to permit the COBSE to use their previous year data available with NIC or other agencies and make available to students details on the equivalent percentage of marks for top 20 percentile students so that they are able to know the percentage of marks that will make them eligible for IIT entrance.

A total of 20 out of 29 boards' chairpersons or representatives were present at Thursday's meeting and various operational issues were discussed threadbare.

Indian Express Ahmedabad 29-06-2012 P-7

For IIT, 20 boards agree to declare results by June 10

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Asian Age,
ND30/06/2012
P-5

IIT-MADRAS TO RUN NIGHT BUS FOR WOMEN

AGE CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JUNE 29

The night bus service of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras that it plans to run with security guard, would be a blessing for girl students who work late into the night in the labs.

Speaking to this newspaper, Prof. L.S. Ganesh, dean (students), Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, said, "As a research-oriented institute, we had always kept our laboratories open even at night as several students, including girls, work long hours."

"I have seen several girl students working in our labs during night as it lets them work at their own pace."

Referring to some earlier attacks on girl students, Prof. Ganesh said the institute administration had decided to operate night service buses from 10 pm to 2.30 am with a security guard.

"The bus will be stationed at the administration building and students can call the designated intercom for the bus to pick them up from their hostel and drop them in their lab. We have also asked the canteen staff to keep the place open till 2.30 am as students can have refreshments before they go to sleep," he said.

Reminiscing about an incident in which an outsider snatched the cell-phone of a girl student, one of the residents said that the students apart, even other women who lived on the campus felt under a similar threat.

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अनुभव साझा करेगा आईआईटी

नई दिल्ली । राजधानी में 15 जुलाई को आईआईटी गुवाहाटी के छात्रों की ओर से 'टेक्नोथ्लोन' नामक परीक्षा का आयोजन किया जा रहा है। फिर चयनित छात्रों को गुवाहाटी के वार्षिक तकनीकी महोत्सव में आमंत्रित किया जाएगा।

इस विशेष परीक्षा में स्कूल में 9वीं, 10वीं, 11वीं और 12वीं कक्षा में पढ़ने वाले विद्यार्थियों को हिस्सा लेने का मौका मिलेगा। इस परीक्षा लिखित रूप में होगी। इसके जरिए बच्चों की मानसिक क्षमता की जांच की जाएगी। दिलचस्प यह है कि सभी प्रतिभागी मित्रों के साथ प्रश्नों को हल कर सकेंगे। भाग लेने वाले सभी बच्चों से 50

रुपए का शुल्क लिया जाएगा। परीक्षा में बच्चे टीम के रूप में भाग लेंगे जिसमें एक टीम में दो होंगे। टेक्नोथ्लान में सर्वोच्च 250 टीमों को गोल्ड और सिल्वर सर्टिफिकेट दिए जाएंगे। सर्वोच्च 50 टीमों का चयन 30 अगस्त से 2 दिसंबर तक चलने वाले परीक्षा के मुख्य चरण में आईआईटी गुवाहाटी बुलाया जाएगा। वहां उन्हें रोबोटिक्स आदि प्रतियोगिताओं में भाग लेने का मौका मिलेगा। मुख्य चरण में चुने गए विद्यार्थियों को मशहूर नोबल पुरस्कार विजेताओं से अनुभव को बांटने का मौका मिलेगा। भाग लेने के लिए बच्चे अपने स्कूल में अध्यापकों तथा प्रधान अध्यापकों से संपर्क करें।

Hindu Kochi 29-06-2012 P-5

Close down poor-performing engineering colleges: court

Government told to take action within a month

Special Correspondent

KOCHI: In a significant verdict aimed at improving the standard of engineering education in the State, a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Thursday directed the State government and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to take steps to derecognise and close down the colleges which have been continuously performing badly for the last three years.

The Bench comprising Justice C.N. Ramachandran Nair and Justice Babu Mathew P. Joseph ordered that the steps be taken in this regard within a month. The court observed that students studying in the closed down colleges could be accommodated in the neighbouring colleges. The court directed the State government not to grant NOCs for starting new self-financing engineering colleges in the State. The Bench directed all

- Bar on granting NOCs for new engineering colleges
- AICTE told to raise cut-off marks of qualifying exam

the universities in the State to post the results of engineering examinations of the self-financing colleges affiliated to them on their websites. The court was of the opinion that if the results were posted on the websites, students could evaluate the performance of the colleges of their choice.

The court ordered the AICTE to take steps to stop the faculties which had been putting up a poor performance. It also directed the AICTE to raise the cut-off marks of the qualifying examination for admission to engineering courses. The government was asked to formulate an action plan to im-

prove the standard of education in engineering colleges.

Panel report

The Bench issued the directives after considering the report of an eight-member expert committee appointed by the High Court to study the results of the engineering examination conducted by all the universities during the last three years. The committee, headed by N. Vijayakumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Electronic and Communication, College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram, after inspecting the self-financing engineering colleges, said in its report that only four to five colleges had the qualified faculties. Some colleges were sharing the faculty members among themselves. It was found that the faculty members who possessed science degrees were teaching engineering subjects in some colleges.