

Newspaper Clips

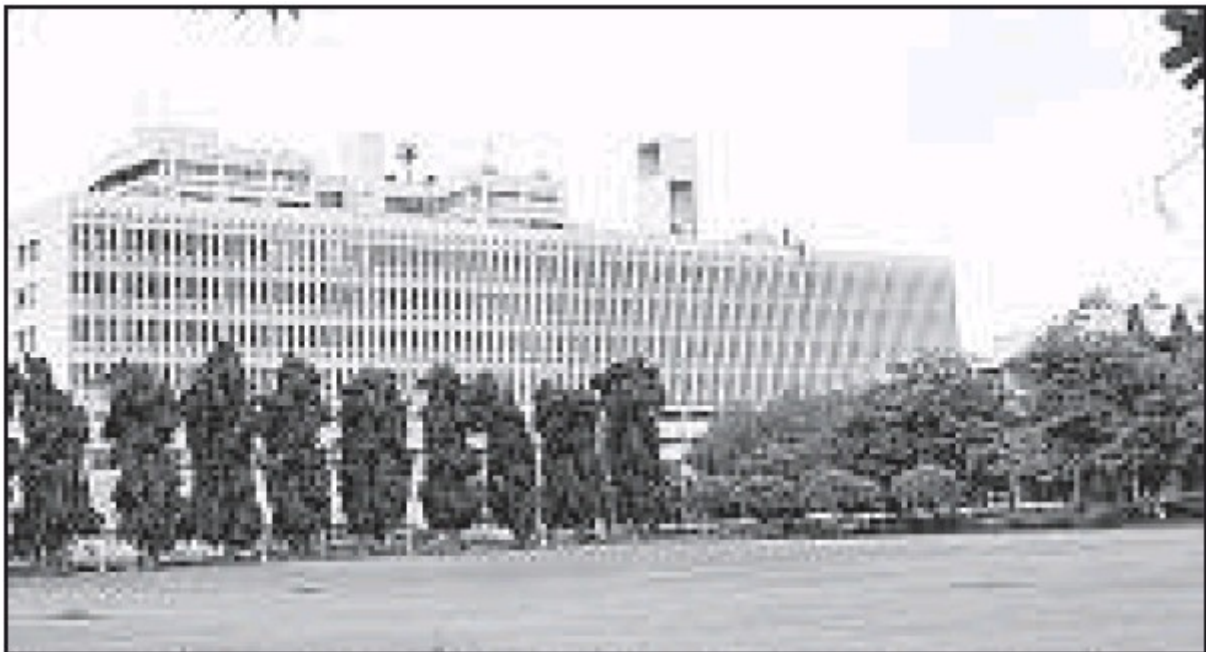
March 16, 2012

IITS don't want board marks to be counted

16 Mar 2012, Hindustan Times (Bhopal)

Ministry wants 40% weightage to Class 12 exam marks for engineering entrance, but faculties don't agree to it

NEW DELHI: Even as the human resource development ministry is trying to formalise its proposal of having a common engineering exam and change the format for Joint Entrance Exam by giving 40% weightage on the board marks, the All India IIT Faculty Federation (AIITFF) and some IIT senates are opposing it, saying it could create problems and dilute the system.



AIITFF members said the proposed format would not be a 'healthy' structure to examine students.

AIITFF members, representing the seven IITS, met in Delhi on Sunday to discuss the issues involved and were unanimous in their opinion that the proposed format in the present form would not be a 'healthy' structure for examining and selecting students.

The AIITFF will now write to union HRD minister Kapil Sibal with a copy marked to the Prime Minister's Office, spelling out their concerns and reservations on the proposed changes.

The AIITFF members had written to various IIT directors last month, saying that the HRD ministry was trying to impose an arbitrary decision on IITS and all the issues must be debated in the senate of IITS for views, recommendations and acceptance before implementing a decision.

Many IITS have debated the matter on various platforms and have passed resolutions expressing concern over the proposal. The senates of IIT-kanpur and IIT-delhi, which met last month, had voiced a protest against the proposal.

“We are not fighting. But there is already a system in place in the IIT Act. Let the system work out a solution in a comprehensive way. We would like to have a thoughtful evaluation. The objective-type questions can only be a filtering exercise. But for the final selection, the exam should be exhaustive and thought provoking,” said AIITFF secretary Atul K Mittal.

Observing that providing 40% weightage to the board marks would be difficult due to difference in various boards’ evaluation systems, Mittal said the formula that had been devised needed some corrective inputs. Gautam Bauruah from IIT Guwahati, one of the prime movers of the proposal, felt that any change was bound to have some opposition and protests. “Reservation of the faculty members will be removed once we work out the details. The IIT faculty members had already been consulted before the council gave its approval. The new proposal will work on the rank in the board and not marks,” he said.

“The main reservation against the new format is against the inclusion of the board marks,” an IIT-kanpur professor said.

“With the multiple boards in the system, how can a foolproof method be devised to bring them on a common platform. Instead of including the board marks, they can raise the minimum percentage required to appear in the exam,” he said. Acknowledging that a change was essential in the examining system, IIT-bombay director Devang Khakhar refused to comment on whether there was internal opposition.

GATE 2012: BOMBAY ZONE HAS FEW WHO QUALIFIED

16 Mar 2012, Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

MUMBAI: The ‘Bombay zone’ has the second lowest number of candidates to have qualified for the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) of eight zones across the country.

GATE is for entry into the Mtech and PHD programmes at the Indian Institutes of Technology and the Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore), and other engineering colleges.

GATE results were declared on Thursday morning. Of the 92,000 candidates who appeared for the exam in 2012 from the Bombay zone, 12,287 have qualified. The Bombay zone (which covers Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa) has a qualifying percentage of 13.2%, slightly lower than last year’s 13.6%. The Delhi zone had the highest number of candidates qualifying this year at 18,927, with the Madras zone second with 17,343. “It is surprising that the Bombay zone is among the lower performing zones,” said Narayan Rangaraj, chairman, GATE 2012 at IIT-bombay.

He said each exam paper had a different qualifying score and it was possible that Bombay zone candidates had opted for tougher papers. Candidates appear in 21 exams that come under GATE.

Around 6.86 lakh candidates wrote the test across the country this year with 1,08,526 candidates qualifying overall.

Qualified candidates can now use their scores to apply to masters' programmes; qualifying in the exam doesn't automatically guarantee admission. Around 15,000 seats are available in different Mtech and PHD programmes at the IITS alone through GATE.

Hindustan Times ND 16/03/2012 P-17

ASIAN VARSITIES POSE THREAT TO US-UK DOMINATION

Harvard in top spot, leading Asian varsities gain higher rankings than in 2011

The US and UK have the best reputed universities in the world, but Asian nations are catching up fast, a major survey of the world's top thinkers shows. The results, published as a league table by Times Higher Education magazine, places

- **44 US universities** in the top 100 - one fewer than last year
- **UK has 10, two fewer** than last year
- **Japan and the Netherlands** have **five each** in the top 100.
- **No Indian universities** made it to the list, which totals 100 institutions.
- **The National University of Singapore** has climbed from **27th to 23rd place**.

Top 10 Universities in the World

- United States
- Japan
- United Kingdom
- Canada

Chinese varsities that improved their positions

University	City	Rank 2011	Rank 2012	Gain
Tsinghua University	Beijing	35th	30th	5
Peking University	Beijing	43rd	38th	5
University of Hong Kong	HK	42nd	39th	3

List of World's Top 10

- 1 Harvard University
- 2 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 3 University of Cambridge
- 4 Stanford University
- 5 University of California - Berkeley
- 6 University of Oxford
- 7 Princeton University
- 8 University of Tokyo
- 9 University of California - Los Angeles
- 10 Yale University

Economic Times ND 16/03/2012

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Harvard Tops MIT in Reputation

TRISTA KELLEY

Harvard University again topped a list of universities in terms of global prestige, while the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Cambridge held on to the second and third place.

Stanford University leaped from the University of California, Berkeley to take fourth place while the latter dropped to fifth on the list of 2012 World Reputation Rankings, published by the London-based *Times Higher Education* magazine. Oxford University again came in sixth.

In its second year, the magazine's ranking gauged the world's universities on academic reputation only, based on about 17,554 responses spanning 137 countries. Most of those surveyed were academics themselves, who were asked to rank the quality of teaching and the global impact of research. Among the findings was the widening gap between the top six "global super elite" and all the others, according to Phil Baty, editor of the rankings.

"It seems as if the entire world sees these six institutions as head and shoulders above everyone else, and that is strange," Baty said in an interview. "There's something about their brands

that is extremely powerful on a global level. Reputation is an extremely nebulous concept but also a powerful one in terms of winning respect in the real world."

Institutions from China, Taiwan and Singapore moved up, signaling the start of a power shift from West to East. China's Tsinghua University rose five spots to 30th place while Peking University climbed to 38th from 43rd. The University of Hong

Kong moved up three places to 39th and the National University of Singapore climbed to 23rd from 27th. National Taiwan University jumped to the 61-70 band from the 81-90 band.

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"We have seen a noticeable trend that every leading Asian institution has risen," Baty said. "There's a significant trend of decline in bits of the West and exciting improvement in key parts of Asia." The rankings are based on an opinion poll carried out by Ipsos for Times Higher Education's rankings data supplier, Thomson Reuters.

Bloomberg