

# Newspaper Clips

## May 21, 2012

Hindustan Times ND 21/05/2012

P-13

# IITs go global, NRIs apply for top post

**A FIRST** Eight applicants are from US, New Zealand, Malaysia and Thailand

**HT Correspondent**

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**NEW DELHI:** For the first time, eight NRIs have applied for the post of IIT directors.

According to official sources, of the total 71 applicants for the post of IIT Kanpur and IIT Kharagpur directors, eight are from outside India.

Countries outside India from which applications have been received are US, New Zealand, Malaysia and Thailand.

Of the eight foreign applicants, five are from US including one from Tuft University.

A selection committee had met last week to shortlist the candidates.

The tenure of the two directors gets over this June.

The IIT council, the top decision-making body of the premier tech schools, had last year agreed on a proposal to advertise "globally" to get the best persons for the post of director.

The HRD ministry had put out the first international advertisement to fill the posts.

The recruitment will to be

# IIT Kanpur looks westward to meet faculty shortage

**htSPECIAL**

**Vanita Srivastava**

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**NEW OFFICE WILL BE EITHER IN NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON. IT WILL HELP IIT HIRE FACULTY AND GET DONATIONS**

**NEW DELHI:** In a bid to tackle the problem of faculty shortage, IIT Kanpur is looking westward and plans to open its office in the US. If the plan works out, it will be perhaps the first initiative by an IIT to have a global presence.

The new office, which will be either in New York or Washington, will help the institute hire faculty and garner donations.

The institute will put forward the proposal at its board meeting on June 1 and if approved, the office may start functioning in two months.

Initially, there will only be two or three people in the office, including a person who will coordinate with the Indian students pursuing Phd in the US. At present, the institute has been able to fill only two third of its faculty positions.

"So many US and European universities have their offices in India. We strongly feel that there is a need to have our presence at a location that provides

us with lots of resources. The US will be an excellent platform for getting faculty and donations," Manindra Agarwal, dean resource, planning and generation said.

Acknowledging that faculty shortage was a major problem, he added, "This shortage has arisen because we cannot compromise on quality. Owing to faculty shortage, we are not able to offer many courses too. This has also prevented us from offering flexibility to the faculty besides hampering us from being able to form big research groups."

Since more than 50% of the faculty comes from the US, Agarwal said the US-based office would help tap prospective candidates.

"It will also act as a catalyst for raising funds and increasing research collaboration with varsities and industry in the US."

## **RECRUITMENT DRIVE**

■ Earlier, nominations used to be invited from eminent institutions and personalities

■ But the IITs decided to issue ads after the system was challenged in the Madras HC

■ The recruitment will to be done on a contractual period of 5 years or till the date of superannuation, whichever is earlier

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Till now, the selection for IIT director was done from the applicants residing in the country only.

Earlier, nominations used to be invited from eminent institutions and personalities, but the IITs decided to issue ads after the system was challenged in the Madras HC. That is how the posts of the IIT directors in Delhi and Roorkee were filled.

RECRUITMENT ON CONTRACT BASIS...

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper>

## RECRUITMENT ON CONTRACT BASIS FOR 5 YEARS

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■ The post of IIT director in Delhi was filled after issuing ads.

HT FILE PHOTO

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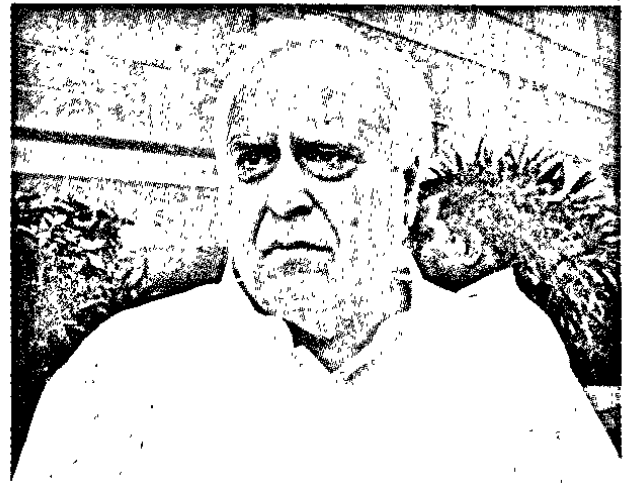
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Mail Today ND 21/05/2012

p-12

# IITs 'spoil' Sibal's engg test dream



Six out of seven IIT senates have rejected Kapil Sibal's idea to introduce a common entrance for engineering.

By **Ritika Chopra** in Delhi

A CLOUD of uncertainty has descended on the fate of the proposed common engineering entrance test.

HRD Minister Kapil Sibal's target to introduce the examination in 2013 now seems unachievable as six out of seven IIT senates have outrightly rejected the idea. This sentiment was conveyed to the HRD ministry on May 12 during a meeting with the IIT directors.

But what's even more unsettling for his ministry is the fact that the IIT faculty hasn't given an absolute assurance to come on board even in 2014. "Introducing the test next year is not acceptable to them. But what, unfortunately, still isn't clear if

## IIT faculty still not on board for the change

they want to join the test at least in 2014," said a ministry official, who did not wish to be identified.

According to sources, the government now has two options. The first is to imple-

ment the test next year without the IITs and treat it as a dry-run (with the NITs and IIITs on board) for the proper launch in 2014. As per the original plan, the single entrance test in its first edition was to be valid for all centrally-funded engineering institutes including 15 IITs, 30 NITs, 4 IIITs, IISERs and a few deemed universities.

The second option would be to defer the test completely till 2014. Both options, however, don't seem too appetizing as conducting the exam without the IITs in the first year would be a big blow to a project that has been dubbed as Sibal's dream.

The second alternative is not viable either as the minister is skeptical of launching the test in the election year. Sibal had made his skepticism clear during a meeting of the state chief ministers in January this year as he felt that a change of power at the centre in 2014 might not augur well for the future of this test.

While a final decision on this matter will only be taken on May 28 after a meeting of the IIT and NIT Council, the government, as a last ditch effort will try and meet the IIT

faculty representatives once before the Council meeting.

The rationale behind the common entrance exam for engineering is to reduce psychological and financial stress on students because of multiple entrance tests and give more importance to Class 12 results than private coaching.

The IIT faculty has expressed their objection against the use of Board marks. All IITs have said board exam performance "will not be used for the preparation of the final merit list in respect of admission to IITs.

## HOW THE TROUBLE BEGAN

- IIT senates and faculty federation displeased at not being consulted before the IIT Council (highest decision making body) accepted the common entrance test proposal on February 18, 2012
- The HRD ministry gave the IIT senates time to discuss the matter and submit their recommendations

- To convince the senates and the faculty federation a central committee made by Sibal visited IITs. The committee faced tough arguments & the faculty of IIT Kanpur staged a walk out
- Different senates met and their feedback (read opposition) to the entrance test was communicated by the IIT directors to the ministry on May 12, 2012

**IIT faculty has expressed objection against the use of Board marks**

Hindustan ND 21/05/2012 P-1

# आईआईटी में नए जमाने के छह कोर्स

नई दिल्ली | अनुशाम मिश्र

इंजीनियर बनने की चाहत रखने वाले छात्रों के लिए खुशखबरी है। आईआईटी में प्रवेश के लिए इस बार उनके पास नए जमाने के छह और कोर्स चुनने का विकल्प होगा। बाजार की जरूरत के मद्देनजर आईआईटी प्रबंधन ने इस सत्र से ये कोर्स शुरू किए हैं। साथ ही कुछ कोर्स में सीटें भी बढ़ाई गई हैं।

आईआईटी-जेईई के चेयरमैन प्रो. जी.बी. रेड्डी ने बताया कि मौजूदा दौर में अर्थव्यवस्था और बाजार में बदलाव

आया है। कई क्षेत्रों में नए विकल्प खुले हैं। इसी ट्रेंड को देखते हुए आईआईटी ने छह नए कोर्स शुरू किए हैं। कुछ संस्थानों में इलेक्ट्रिकल और सिविल कोर्स भी पहली बार शामिल किए हैं।

पिछले साल की तुलना में इस बार आईआईटी में 41 अधिक सीटों पर छात्रों को मौके मिलेंगे। कुल मिलाकर इस दफा 9,647 सीटों पर दाखिले होंगे। रेड्डी ने कहा कि सिविल इंजीनियरिंग और इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग में इस सत्र में सबसे अधिक सीटें बढ़ी हैं। इसकी वजह इन कोर्स की लोकप्रियता बढ़ना है।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के डिप्टी डायरेक्टर एस.एम. इशितयाक का कहना है कि वर्तमान समय में दाखिले के ट्रेंड में बदलाव आया है।

छात्र जब किसी कोर्स को चुनता है तो वह उसके कई पहलुओं को देखता है। वह एमबीए करना चाहता है या एमटेक या फिर इंटरप्रिन्योरशिप, उसके अनुरूप ही विकल्प चुनता है। आईआईटी में कुछ कोर्स को बंद कर दिया गया है। इसका कारण पिछले कुछ अरसे से इनमें दाखिला लगातार कम होना है।

● खाली रहती हैं सीटें: पेज-7

एगिजट पॉलिसी बनाकर खाली सीटों को भरने के लिए संस्थान ने कसी कमर

## आईआईटी में खाली रहती हैं सीटें

नई दिल्ली | प्रमुख संगददाता

देश के प्रमुख संस्थानों में से एक आईआईटी में पिछले कुछ सालों से लगातार पांच से दस प्रतिशत सीटें खाली रह जाती हैं। 2011 में हुई दाखिला प्रक्रिया में 762 सीटें पर कोई दाखिला नहीं हुआ था। इनमें से 650 सीटें ड्रॉप आउट की वजह से खाली रह गई थीं। जबकि विकलांग कोटे की श्रेणी में पर्याप्त उम्मीदवार न होने के कारण करीब सौ सीटें खाली रह गई थीं।

आईआईटी-जेईई के चेयरमैन जी.बी.रेड्डी का कहना है कि अभी तक संस्थान में एगिजट पॉलिसी नहीं थी, लेकिन खाली सीटों को भरने के लिए इस बार यह नीति अपनाई गई है। अभी तक हम पाते थे कि छात्र काउंसलिंग में कोर्स चुन तो लेते थे लेकिन दाखिला नहीं लेते थे। वहीं इस बार उन्हें मौका दिया गया है कि अगर वह लिखित तौर पर सीट छोड़ने के बारे में जानकारी दे देते हैं, तो

### भरेंगी सीटें

- आईआईटी दिल्ली से 4108 उम्मीदवारों को मिली रैंक, 2906 को बुलाया गया पहली काउंसलिंग में
- ऑनलाइन काउंसलिंग के तहत छात्र 10 जून तक कर सकेंगे रजिस्ट्रेशन
- चयनित छात्रों की पहली सूची 14 जून, दूसरी 25 जून, तीसरी सूची 6 जुलाई को जारी की जाएगी
- 124 विकलांग छात्रों के लिए जारी की जाएगी प्रिपरेटरी सूची

उन्हें अगला मौका दिया जाए और फीस भी वापस कर दी जाए।

बहरहाल, 2008 में आईआईटी में काउंसलिंग की प्रक्रिया एक चरण में ही



### लड़कियों की प्रतिभा का इका

पिछले साल के मुकाबले इस बार आईआईटी की परीक्षा में 40 प्रतिशत अधिक लड़कियां उत्तीर्ण हुई हैं। वहीं आईआईटी में सामान्य वर्ग की कुल सीटें 4722 हैं। सीटें खाली रहने की स्थिति में अन्य कोटे के उम्मीदवारों को विकलांग कोटे की सीटें दी जाएगी दी जाएगी। इस बार 4,79,642 उम्मीदवारों ने आईआईटी परीक्षा दी है।

पूरी हो जाती थी। 2009 और 2010 में काउंसलिंग प्रक्रिया दो चरण की कर दी गई थी, जबकि 2011 में इसे तीन चरणों की प्रक्रिया कर दिया गया था।

कई साल से खाली रह जा रही सीटों के मुद्दे पर आईआईटी के एक शिक्षक का कहना है कि नई नीति खाली सीटों की दर को कम नहीं करेगी क्योंकि सीट को छोड़ने का विकल्प छात्र के सामने तीसरे राउंड तक रहेगा। पिछले साल का ट्रेंड बताता है कि अंतिम राउंड में ही सबसे अधिक सीटें छोड़ी गई थीं। वहीं रेड्डी का कहना है कि वह काउंसलिंग की प्रक्रिया तीन राउंड से अधिक नहीं कर सकते क्योंकि आवंटन की प्रक्रिया जुलाई तक समाप्त करनी होगी। प्रक्रिया आगे बढ़ाने से जुलाई से कक्षाएं नहीं शुरू की जा सकेंगी।

आईआईटी के डिप्टी डायरेक्टर एस.एम.इशितयाक का कहना है कि कई बार छात्रों को आईआईटी में उन्हें मनपसंद कोर्स नहीं मिलता जबकि एनआईटी में पॉपुलर कोर्स में दाखिला मिल जाता है, ऐसे में वे आईआईटी काउंसलिंग में भाग लेने के बाद दाखिला नहीं लेते हैं।

Financial Express ND 21-May-12 P2

# States may get direct central funding for higher education

**Kirtika Suneja**

**New Delhi, May 20:** With bulk of enrollment in higher and technical education taking place in universities and colleges supported by the states, the government is planning to fund the states directly, instead of allocating money to individual institutes.

Both the ministry of human resource development (HRD) and the Planning Commission are mulling new ways of funding the state-run institutes — which often complain of paucity of funds. Currently, the Centre funds the state-run institutes individually through the University Grants Commission (UGC) in stages, but under the new system, states would be funded as a whole.

The new system aims to increase the funding to state universities and colleges from ₹7,600 crore in the 11th Plan to more than ₹25,000 crore in the 12th Plan (2012-17) period.

“There is a consensus that state universities and colleges get little support from the Centre. We are mulling a model wherein states will be looked at as a collection of institutions — both state universities and colleges — compared with the present system, wherein UGC gives piecemeal funding to institutions case by case. We are also thinking that allocation for each university should be

specified at once,” said a Planning Commission official. In fact, the HRD ministry has proposed norms-based funding of UGC schemes so that there is better coordination between the commission and states.

At present, the higher education system in India comprises more than 556 universities, including 43 central, 289 state, 73 private, 130 deemed-to-be universities and close to

nised as they did not meet the criteria of permanent affiliation. In 2007, only 167 out of 224 state universities were recognised while the rest are not able to qualify for recognition under this section for they fail to meet the minimum prescribed academic requirements and, thus, are deprived of the development assistance from the UGC.

“More than 80% of the enrolments in higher educa-



The new system aims to increase the funding to state universities and colleges from ₹7,600 crore in the 11th Plan period to more than ₹25,000 crore in the 12th Plan period.

31,324 colleges. Around 14.6 million students are enrolled in the higher education sector and an additional capacity of about 25 million seats would be required over the next decade to cater to the increased demand.

Till sometime back, of the total colleges under the UGC purview, only about 6,000 (less than half) were recognised, making them eligible for development grants from the UGC. The rest were not recog-

tion happen in state universities, which have funds enough to give salaries to their staff, but hardly for expansion. Under the new scheme, the ministry would pay greater attention to such institutes,” said an education expert from the industry.

The planning commission official added that with the change in pattern of funding, the UGC's role in monitoring the expansion of education in states would increase.

Hindu ND 21/05/2012 p-15

# Cloudy outlook for Aakash

The government's plan to develop and supply an inexpensive tablet computer to schoolchildren is in a mess.

Ashok Parthasarathi

In September 2010, the Minister of Human Resource Development & Communications and Information Technology, Kapil Sibal, showcased a tablet computer called "Sakshat" which the Ministry was to distribute to higher secondary school students. He said the tablet would be launched in January 2011. However the company, HCL Info Systems, which, through a tender floated by the Ministry, had won the contract to source and distribute the computers initially, backed out.

So the Ministry floated a subsequent tender in February 2011, which the Canada-based DataWind Ltd. (DWL) bagged. This tablet, named "Aakash" by the Ministry, was to be designed and developed by IIT Rajasthan, manufactured by a local company selected by DWL, and marketed and sold by DWL.

## Tests show poor performance

The Ministry then ordered one lakh "Aakash" tablets from DWL, which chose a small Hyderabad company, Quad Electronics Ltd. (Quad), through an unknown methodology, to undertake its manufacture. DWL then placed an order for 50,000 tablets with Quad. Quad produced only 20,000 in the first lot and DWL lifted only 10,000. Of the 10,000, DWL-HRD provided 2,000 to IIT Rajasthan for detailed testing a week before the formal launch of "Aakash" by Mr. Sibal on October 5, 2011. That evaluation revealed severe poor performance. Therefore, DWL immediately ceased lifting anymore "Aakash" tablets from Quad.

Despite this, Mr. Sibal went ahead with his pre-determined launch — that is, despite knowing the severe poor performance of "Aakash" as evaluated by the very institution that designed and developed it, viz. IIT Rajasthan — and 500 schoolchildren were made to buy dud "Aakash" tablets at a subsidised price. At a per computer subsidy of Rs.750, indicated in several public documents, the total wastage of public money on that sale came to Rs.3.75 lakh.

But this is not all. There is also a serious "material accounting" aspect. Five hundred tablets were given to students, and 2,000 to IIT Rajasthan for testing. What happened to the remaining 7,500? Were they also sold to more schoolchildren at the subsidised price by the Ministry? If so, how many? If not, are they lying in some godown of the Ministry or DWL?

## Case filed

There are other complex issues to be settled. Quad has filed a suit against DWL that DWL has not paid Quad even for the first 10,000 Tablets which DWL



**SYSTEM ERROR:** Union Minister Kapil Sibal displays an 'Aakash' tablet during its launch in 2010 in New Delhi. — PHOTO: PTI

lifted from it. No payment has been made for the balance 40,000 of DWL's 50,000 order with Quad.

## Then, 'Aakash' version 2

In its legal response, DWL has said that: (a) the supply contract of DWL on Quad was an indivisible contract for a total number of 50,000 "Aakash" Tablets, all for sale by Quad to DWL, and not involving any sale by Quad directly in the open market; and (b) it (DWL) owns the copyright of the tablet; though merely a contract manufacturer to DWL, Quad was violating DWL's rights by collaborating directly with IIT Rajasthan for development of the device.

Moreover, the CEO of DWL, Suneet Singh Tuli, told the media on April 23, 2012, that DWL is working on a second generation "Aakash" tablet on its own. This messy dispute has brought the supply of "Aakash" to schoolchildren — its avowed objective — to a complete halt.

For his part, Mr. Sibal announced in Parliament recently that DWL had since ceased its collaboration with IIT Rajasthan and will now be supplying the one lakh "Aakash" Tablets in collaboration with IIT Bombay! This appears to be in total contradiction of what he told the media on the sidelines of the inauguration of the World IT Forum 2012 on April 17. He said, "We have invited com-

panies from across the world for manufacturing and many are ready to manufacture it here. Currently we are looking at the design and other parameters. After we freeze the design and technology, manufacturing will take place." More astonishingly, despite the huge work agenda listed by Mr. Sibal, he has concluded in Parliament that "the second version of 'Aakash' will be launched in May!"

## Questions and violations

His confused and inconsistent statements apart, key questions, issues and anomalies arise in this case.

Irrespective of the type of tendering process adopted by the Ministry for the second version of "Aakash," DWL will get an order of one lakh tablets as per Mr. Sibal's announcement in Parliament. This, despite DWL's failure to meet its commitments on "Aakash 1."

How much money was paid by the Ministry to DWL for the supply of "Aakash 1"? Was it for one lakh tablets, or 50,000 or 10,000 devices? Or was it for a totally different figure?

If neither the specifications nor the vendor of "Aakash 2" had been decided by the Ministry as late as April 17, 2012, how can the device be available in the market just four to six weeks later, in May?

Furthermore, has DWL leveraged its knowledge of "Aakash" technology to develop the "Ubislate," its own tablet device, now being sold online to the general public? If true, was this permitted in its contract with the Ministry? Who, in fact, owns the international patent for "Aakash"?

Delays in the launch of "Aakash" have no doubt put off millions of interested people from buying this affordable tablet. But the Ministry projected "Aakash" as a tablet meant only for school students, and this is why public monies went into providing large subsidies for the project.

Many more inconsistencies and contradictions surround this project, and space constraints prevent a full discussion here. However, from the few facts and analysis that I have presented, it ought to be clear that what we have here is a monumental mess perpetrated at considerable public financial cost in the name of a project that could have been a genuinely exciting and useful one. If it is not a mess, the Ministry, which is the policymaker and manager of the "Aakash" programme, must come out immediately with a public statement clarifying this matter before Parliament and the people.

(The author is former Science Adviser to late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and secretary of several major scientific departments.)

Hindu ND 21/05/2012 p-17

# “Dramatic” dip in Indian students opting for U.K. varsities

Hasan Suroor

**LONDON:** British universities have reported a “dramatic slump” in applications from Indian students as a result of stringent visa rules and other restrictions imposed on non-European foreign students.

There has been a more than 30 per cent drop in the number of Indian students who applied this year, compared with last year, confirming the worst fears of Britain’s cash-strapped universities which rely heavily on fee-paying foreign students.

The Universities U.K., which describes itself as the “definitive voice” of British higher education, has protested against the changes to visa rules which it says are “putting off” foreign students coming to Britain.

Its president Eric Thomas, who is also vice-chancellor of Bristol University, has written to Prime Minister David Cameron, pointing out that new rules, such as restrictions on post-study work visas, have not gone down well with foreign students who are now turning to more student-

friendly countries.

“The U.K. seems to be telling the world it doesn’t welcome international students,” he wrote, calling for foreign students to be excluded from his government’s crackdown on wider immigration as part of the Conservative Party’s election pledge.

Julia King, vice-chancellor of Aston University in Birmingham, said her university had seen applications from Indian students fall from about 1,000 a year to 650 this year. “They believe the situation is much friendlier in Australia, the U.S. and Canada,” she told *The Sunday Times*.

The paper said other universities which reported a sharp fall in applications from India included Middlesex and Sunderland, traditionally popular with Indian students.

Visa rules have become so difficult since the Conservative-led coalition came to power two years ago that foreign students find them “humiliating,” given that they often pay three to four times more fee for the same course than their British peers.