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Despite flak, UGC & HRD clear secy's appointment

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: University Grants Commission and HRD ministry came on the same page on Thursday and regularized appointment of Jaspal Singh Sandhu as secretary despite opposition from three members.

While two members – Sanjay Dhande and MM Ansari – were present in the meeting, Anjali Chibb, additional secretary, ministry of finance, had sent a strong letter against the appointment. However, Chibb's note of dissent that pointed out violation of law and the UGC Act was read out but not made part of the record.

"The outcome was prejudged. A pre-drafted resolution was read out, UGC chairperson Ved Prakash and HRD secretary Ashok Thakur managed to bulldoze their way. Such an appointment has never taken place in UGC's history," said a member. The commission has now decided to seek Election Commission's approval.

Thakur's decision to ratify the appointment was unusual as he himself told TOI after the meeting that the earlier decision by Ved Prakash without taking the

Of the three members against it, two members were present in the meeting, Anjali Chibb had sent a strong letter against the appointment. However, her note of dissent was read out but not made part of the record

full commission into confidence was 'illegal'. Thakur said Ved Prakash was empowered to appoint education advisers and not secretary who is the administrative head of the commission. Asked how two illegal acts can be legalized through a retrospective decision of the UGC, Thakur said, "Now, commission has ratified the appointment and everything is fine."

In the meeting, UGC chairperson said a fair decision had been taken and six members of the commission were involved in the appointment. Asked about rejection of many applications and the hastily conducted interview, he said the process was fast-tracked as the model code of conduct was to come into force.

आईआईटी के परिणाम से पहले जानें नंबर

नई दिल्ली | कार्यालय संवाददाता

इस साल आईआईटी प्रवेश परीक्षा जेईई एडवांस का परिणाम जारी होने से पहले ही आप यह जान सकेंगे कि आपके कितने नंबर आने वाले हैं। अगर किसी सवाल के जवाब पर सही नंबर नहीं मिले हैं तो यह संशोधन भी परिणाम से पहले कराया जा सकेगा। जेईई एडवांस 2014 का आयोजन कर रही आईआईटी खड़गपुर ने आवेदन पत्र सोमवार को जारी कर दिया है। इस साल परीक्षा के लिए आवेदन 4 मई से 9 मई तक किए जाएंगे।

आठ जून को जानिए कितने आए नंबर: जेईई एडवांस का परिणाम 19 जून को आएगा। 1 जून को आंसर की और 8 जून को ओआरएस अपलोड कर दी जाएगी। इससे पता चल सकेगा कि कितने नंबर हैं। किसी सवाल पर आपत्ति है तो अभ्यर्थी 500 रुपये प्रति सवाल शुल्क

जेईई एडवांस 2014

- जेईई एडवांस 2014 में बैठने के लिए जेईई मेंस में टॉप डेढ़ लाख में बनानी होगी जगह
- इस साल जेईई एडवांस वही दे पाएंगे, जिन्होंने बारहवीं 2013 में किया है या 2014 की बोर्ड परीक्षा में बैठने वाले हैं
- बोर्ड के टॉप 20 परसेंटाइल में भी जगह बनानी होगी
- जेईई मेंस का रिजल्ट इस साल 3 मई को जारी होगा
- छह दिन तक जेईई एडवांस के ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन होंगे

देकर संशोधन करा सकेंगे।

ज्यादा देनी होगी फीस: जेईई एडवांस के आवेदन के लिए सामान्य और ओबीसी छात्रों को 2000 रुपये और एसएसी, एसटी और शारीरिक विकलांग छात्रों के लिए 1000 रुपये चुकाना होगा। सभी वर्ग की छात्राओं के लिए शुल्क माफ है।

जेईई परीक्षा की तिथि में हो सकता है बदलाव

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। सीबीएसई की बारहवीं की परीक्षा दे रहे ऐसे परीक्षार्थियों के लिए राहत की खबर है, जिनकी परीक्षा तिथियां जेईई मेन की ऑनलाइन परीक्षाओं की तिथियों से टकरा रही हैं। सीबीएसई द्वारा ऐसे परीक्षार्थियों के लिए कम्प्यूटर बेस्ड जेईई परीक्षा की तिथि में बदलाव कर दिया जाएगा। इस फायदा को लेने के लिए बोर्ड परीक्षार्थियों को बोर्ड का रोल नंबर और जेईई मेन का एप्लिकेशन नंबर बोर्ड को भेजना होगा। इसके लिए परीक्षार्थियों को अंतिम तिथि 25 मार्च तक आवेदन करना होगा। दरअसल बोर्ड के विद्यार्थियों की ओर से कई बार यह शिकायत की गई थी कि बोर्ड परीक्षाओं की तिथियां जेईई मेन की ऑनलाइन परीक्षा की तिथियों से टकरा रही हैं। परीक्षार्थियों की मांग और उनकी परेशानियों को देखते हुए बोर्ड ने उन सभी विद्यार्थियों को नई डेट्स देने का निर्णय लिया है, जिनकी परीक्षा तिथियां जेईई मेन की ऑनलाइन परीक्षाओं की तिथियों से टकरा रही हैं। सीबीएसई की जेईई मेन की ऑफलाइन परीक्षा 6 अप्रैल और ऑनलाइन परीक्षा 9, 11, 12 और 19 अप्रैल को है। इन तिथियों में बोर्ड की बारहवीं की उर्दू, सोशियोलॉजी, होम साइंस व फिलॉस्फी विषयों की परीक्षाएं हैं।

UK STUDENT VISAS FALLING

MISCONCEPTION
Indians think there is a cap on students who can study in UK

HT Correspondent

Fewer Indian students went to study in the United Kingdom in 2013, with study visas issued to Indian nationals seeing a drop of 21% compared to the previous year. One reason is that there was also a 27% drop in applications across all education sectors from 2012. However, the number of Indians visiting the western country increased by 10% last year.

The British Deputy High Commission in the city shared the figures on Wednesday at the launch of a new visa application centre at the Trade Centre in Bandra-Kurla Complex, where it was shifted this week from its Andheri venue. British High Commissioner to India Sir James Bevan KCMG, who inaugurated the centre, said that there were multiple reasons behind the drop in study visas.

There are several misconceptions among Indians about there being a cap on the number of Indian students who can study in the UK, but it is a myth. One reason could also be the depreciation of the rupee last year, as it altered the exchange rates," said Bevan. Citing the much-criticised policy that foreign students can take up only graduate-level jobs that pay salaries more than 20,000 pounds, Bevan said, "That could also be a reason for fewer students applying to the UK, as they may not be confident of getting the required job."

Bevan also responded to questions about India being tagged as a 'high risk' country when the cash bonds for visas from India



■ One reason behind fewer student applications to UK could be the policy that foreign students can only take up graduate-level jobs HT FILE

and a few other countries were being mooted last year, saying, "We do not have any such categories. India itself is not seen as a high risk country".

The commissioner also announced the 'Passport Passback' scheme will be extended to all the 12 UK visa application centres in the country within two months, wherein applicants can retain their passports while visa applications are pending at an additional charge of 40 pounds.

"The service was being piloted in Chennai and will soon be extended to all centres. It would help those applicants who want to apply for another visa while their UK visa application is being processed," said Bevan.

UK VISA STUDENT POLICY

UK VISA APPLICATION CENTRES SHIFTED

UK visa application centres were shifted to new venues. The Andheri centre was shifted to the Trade Centre at Bandra-Kurla Complex, while the one in south Mumbai will operate from the Express Towers, Nariman Point.

The UK's largest visa operation in the world is in India

Nine out of ten Indians who applied for UK visas received their visas, with the **success rate of UK visa applications** for Indian nationals in 2013 standing at **90%**.

There was a 10% increase in Indians who visited UK in 2013 compared to 2012

However, study visas issued to Indian nationals fell by **21% to 13,608**

The total number of applications across all educational sectors fell by **27% to 14,762**

IIM-B to start India's first aerospace MBA programme

NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B) and Toulouse Business School, France, have signed an agreement to set up India's first executive general management programme in aerospace and aviation management as a first step towards collaborating in teaching and research. The programme will start in April 2015. Airbus will sponsor the two year part-time degree programme.

Nation gets Bio-Energy Research Centre

Marking an important event in the development of technology for advanced biofuels in the country, the Bio-energy Research Centre was dedicated to the nation by Prof. K Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, in the presence of R.S. Butola, Chairman, IndianOil and Functional Directors at the sprawling Research & Development Centre of IndianOil located in Faridabad. Costing about Rs 50 crore, the centre for advanced bio-energy research has been set up jointly by IndianOil's R&D Centre and Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

Speaking on the occasion, Raghavan advocated application of knowledge of advanced genet-



■ The state-of-the-art ligno-cellulosic Pilot Plant of the DBT-IOC Centre for Advanced Bio-energy Research being dedicated to the nation. Seen from right: Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, DBT; R.S. Butola, Chairman, IndianOil; and Dr. R.K. Malhotra, Director (R&D), IndianOil.

ic engineering for designer biofuels. He said, "The DBT-IOC Centre for advanced biofuel research,

with its advanced facilities, can act as a nucleus of innovative technologies."

Model code of conduct delays appointment of IIM-L director

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LUCKNOW: It's official. The next Central government will appoint the new director of Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow. With the model code of conduct in force, incumbent director Prof Devi Singh's term has been extended by six months or till his successor is appointed, whichever is earlier.

Prof Singh's second term ended on March 9.

Confirming the news, Prof Singh said, "Extension is a common practice across IIMs. It's an interim arrangement as the new director could not be searched. The moment a new director comes, I will be relieved." Prof Singh, however, kept mum on whether the poll code of conduct has postponed the director's appointment process.

He clarified that he was not seeking a third term. Prof Singh, 62, still has three years left for his retirement.

Sources, however, clarified that in case where selection process is complete and the [Prime Minister Office](#) has to make an announcement, the appointment can take place. In case where panel of names has not been received by MHRD, there is no chance for selection till a new government is formed. When it comes to IIM-L, names of eligible candidates are yet to reach the search-cum-selection committee, said sources. The last date for submission of applications (for director's appointment) was January 24.

Prof Singh was appointed [IIM-L director](#) in 2003. He first term ended in August 2008. He was re-appointed on March 9, 2009.

Well in time before elections, Prof [Sushil Vachani](#) was appointed IIM-Bangalore director in November. Ashish Nanda was appointed IIM-Ahmedabad director last August.