

**eNewspaper Clippings**  
**July -10-12, 2010**

**TOI**

**July 10**

## **CBI to probe 'credit' tussle over IIT topper**

*Akshaya Mukul / TNN*

New Delhi: In a step that could check private coaching institutes from poaching successful candidates to make false claims about their strike rate, HRD ministry has ordered a CBI inquiry into specific allegations against two IIT coaching institutes — FIITJEE and Aakash Institute — for misusing the name of Nitin Jain, topper of IITJEE and AIEEE in 2009, for commercial gains.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal told TOI, "We want to take on coaching institutes institutionally and otherwise. We have asked CBI to look into the allegations. Appropriate action will be taken against institutes found guilty. They have a habit of claiming that toppers studied in their institute."

HRD ministry has already set in motion the process of change in JEE to break the stranglehold of coaching institutes.

**'Will expose institutes'**

New Delhi: HRD ministry has ordered a CBI inquiry into private coaching institutes poaching successful candidates. Though the initial inquiry might be limited to FIITJEE and Aakash Institute, sources said making false claims about toppers is quite widespread. "Students and parents fall for tall claims made by institutes. The idea (behind the CBI probe) is to save gullible people from such coaching institutes," a source said.

The action comes in the wake of a complaint by Chiranji Lal Jain, father of Nitin Jain, to Sibal seeking his intervention. The senior Jain said, "Coaching institutes are indulging in big frauds. They are like shops. I will expose them."

SAFE CHOICE

## **Security clause added to IIT web counselling**

*Hemali Chhapia / TNN*

Mumbai: IITs have redesigned their online counseling process and inserted a security clause: candidates wanting to block a seat will now have to fill in their date of birth.

This is the first year when general category students can fill in their choice of course and institutes online. Students merely had to type in their registration number and mention their preferences. "However, many felt the online system was not secure. Although we have other methods of verifying, and the process was secure, we decided to insert a security clause in the form asking students to fill in their date of birth," said IIT-JEE 2010 chairman T S Natarajan.

The IITs have decided to continue online counseling for students next year, too. "This has saved a lot of time and money for parents and students. Earlier they had to travel to the IIT closest to their home town," said a JEE chairman.

IITs, IT-BHU and ISM Dhanbad have declared that 412 seats are vacant for their preparatory course. "Most seats that have not been filled are from the ST category and many of seats for the physically challenged are also lying vacant," said an IIT faculty member. Seats reserved for the physically challenged, feared JEE staff, may not be filled. Last year around 200 such seats were left vacant.

The IITs had then mooted a proposal to allow them to transfer the vacant seats for the physically disabled (PD)

to the general category pool. But the case was not pursued further and filling up the PD seats has been a challenge. In 2008, 13 IITs managed to fill only 20 of the 200-odd PD seats.

**July 11**

## **AIEEE flaw is bad news for top rankers**

*Akshaya Mukul / TNN*

New Delhi: A major flaw in the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) counselling, introduced this year, could result in meritorious students — those with better ranking — getting a raw deal.

According to the new system outlined by the Central Counselling Board (CCB) of AIEEE, students allotted a seat (engineering branch of choice) in any round till the first three rounds of counselling will have to take provisional admission. If the student does not get a seat of his choice till the third round, he can opt for a fourth round. But the caveat is that the student will have to give up claim to what has been allotted till the third round. The student will have to choose afresh, an option rife with insecurity. Sources in the CCB said the flaw has been brought to its notice but refused to say if action would be taken.

The result for the fourth round is due on July 22 and students would have to take admission in whatever course they are allotted.

### **New AIEEE norms will leave students with no options**

New Delhi: According to the new system outlined by the Central Counselling Board (CCB) of AIEEE, students allotted a seat in any round till the first three rounds of counselling will have to take provisional admission. This change practically extinguishes the option that the students so far had, that of moving to a better institute and a branch of their choice even after reporting for admission.

Under the new rules, there is room only for 'internal sliding' (movement of position within the institute) that can be availed of, with the option of movement across NITs over. In short, it will leave students trapped in NITs not necessarily of their choice: an irony in an age where there is so much of premium on choice. With results of third round of counselling to come on Sunday, students from all over the country have launched online protests ([protestagainstccb.webs.com](http://protestagainstccb.webs.com) and [entrancecorner.com](http://entrancecorner.com)) demanding a change in the rules so that deserving students get NITs of their choice.

Students have even found a major inconsistency in CCB's argument that "sliding" will be possible within the institution. "If a student cannot change his institution how will a seat be vacated to upgrade any other student's branch," asks one student.

The third flaw being pointed out is that after the fourth round of counselling, not so popular branches in top NITs will still be vacant and these will go to low-ranked students.

Upgradation in the same NIT, students say, can also create a situation of a low-ranker getting a better branch. How? Students explain it through an illustration. Suppose a student with an AIR of 6,500 gets computer engineering in NIT Durgapur and another student with AIR 6,000 gets computer engineering in NIT Allahabad. In case the second student chooses to join any other engineering college like IIT, BITS and others, the vacancy in Allahabad will go to a student within the institute, whatever be his rank, and not to someone with a better rank.

Students feel the flaw can still be rectified. They say there will be a large number of dropout seats after the fourth round of counselling since many students who have got through to other engineering colleges will wait till that round. But the vacancies thus created will not help students who have already taken admission in NITs after the third or fourth round. Therefore, students have demanded open upgradation — from one institute to another. They also want CCB to allow one round of counselling after refunds have been made to those who did not take admission.

**July 12**

## 52 students lose seats due to IIT board's blunder

*Akshaya Mukul / TNN*

New Delhi: To the shock and dismay of 52 candidates who had cleared the prestigious IIT joint entrance exam this year and were assigned architecture and design courses, the IIT Joint Admission Board has cancelled the allotments a day before the students were to deposit their fees.

IIT authorities say these students had not cleared the architecture/design aptitude test — a separate exam for architecture and design — but were “inadvertently included in seat allotment for BArch and BDes courses”.

Another set of 52 students have been offered admission to these courses. The students whose admissions were cancelled have been left in the lurch. Most of them have lost the chance of joining other institutes as they did not go for counselling after getting IITs.

Many of these students said they had cleared AIEEE and other entrance examinations but will not be able to join these institutes. The students have threatened to go to court against the decision.

The JAB said the 52 candidates would be considered for the second allotment based on choicesheets they had submitted earlier. T Natarajan of JAB told TOI, “We are looking into it, something will be done.” But many in the JAB felt this assurance was meaningless. “There could be hundreds who scored more than these 52. The scores of all students who appeared for architecture and design need to be published,” a source said.

### **High And Dry**

IIT cancels admission of 52 to architecture, design courses  
Says it made a mistake in allotting seats to these aspirants  
Students threaten to go to court, fear they may lose a year

Hindustan Times

Title : US colleges spend more on sports than studies

Author : Sam Dillon letters@hindustantimes.com

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# US colleges spend more on sports than studies

**Sam Dillon**

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW YORK:** US colleges are spending a smaller share of their budgets on instruction, and more on recreational facilities for students and on administration, according to a new study of college costs.

The report, based on government data, documents a growing stratification of wealth across America's system of higher education.

The study of trends in revenues and spending by American institutions of higher education from 1998 through 2008 traces how the patterns at



■ **Harvard University**

elite private institutions like Harvard University and Amherst College differed from sprawling public universities like Ohio State and community colleges like Alabama Southern.

Community colleges spend close to \$10,000 per student per year; while the private research institutions, spend an average

\$35,000 a year for each one.

But the trend toward increased spending on nonacademic areas prevailed across the higher education spectrum, with public and private, elite and community colleges increasing expenditures more for student services than for instruction.

The student services category can include spending on career counseling and financial aid offices, but also on intramural athletics and student centers.

On average, spending on instruction increased 22 per cent over the decade at private research universities, about the same as tuition.

**THE NEW YORK TIMES**

HindustanTimes

Title : 52 students in a fix after IIT error

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# 52 students in a fix after IIT error

**BLUNDER** Applicants were 'inadvertently' promised seats

**Charu Sudan Kasturi**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** A congratulatory letter first. Ten days later, a double whammy.

An error by the IITs has cost 52 undergraduate architecture and pharmaceutical students seats they were promised at the institutes and fooled many of them into not accepting seats they were receiving at other engineering schools.

The students were "inadvertently" allotted seats by the IITs on June 28 and even received invitation letters from the Institutes, only to be told on July 8 that their allotment would not be accepted.

By then, the students had missed the opportunity to earn a seat at myriad other engineering colleges offering architecture and pharmaceutical sciences through the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE), which ended admission counseling on July 2.

The IITs are writing to each of these 52 students to apologise and suggest that they try for seats during the second round of admission counseling

## ADMISSION WOES



- Architecture and Pharmaceutical seats promised to undergraduate students, many of them did not accept seats at other institutions.
- IIT apologises, suggests the students apply during second round of counselling.
- Troubled students unlikely to wait quietly, are considering approaching Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal.

that the Institutes will embark on from July 16. But there is no guarantee that these students will earn seats during the second round of IIT counseling.

"I was being offered a seat

through the AIEEE but I didn't even go for the counseling because I had the IIT offer letter in my hand," said Ashna Tayal, one of the 52 affected students.

A senior IIT Joint Entrance Examination administrator confirmed to *HT* that some of the students had spoken to Institute officials. "We are trying to see how we can salvage the situation," the administrator said.

But the affected students are unlikely to quietly wait for the second round of counseling at the IITs and are considering approaching Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Kapil Sibal.

The IITs admit students for their architecture and pharmaceutical sciences courses through a two-stage process. Students must first clear the IIT-Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and then clear a second subject-specific examination.

The IITs has over the past five years —since 2006— faced repeated criticism for an alleged lack of transparency in the way the JEE is conducted and students are selected.

# IIT-K to form probe panel over MTech student's death

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

KANPUR ' JULY 10

THE Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K) will soon form a committee to probe the death of a student following an uproar among his batchmates.

Rakesh Kumar Thakur, who hailed from Bihar's Darbhanga district, died on July 7 at a private clinic in the city where he was admitted four days ago. A MTech student of mechanical engineering, Thakur was undergoing treatment for "acute psychiatric disease" for some time. He had joined the institute in 2009 and was staying in hostel.

"Rakesh was not treated properly and there is something which the institute authorities are hiding," said a student. Rakesh's relatives have filed a complaint regarding his death at a police station in Bihar, but neither the IIT authorities nor the Kanpur DIG know anything about it, the students alleged.

"If the students think we are hiding something regarding Rakesh's death, then we will soon form a committee of teachers and doctors from

the institute's health centre. When the report will come out, it will be put in front of the students," said Registrar Sanjeev Kashalkar.

"Also, we want to make clear it that Rakesh had died of cardiac arrest and the institute had made good arrangements for his treatment," he added.

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NDA DELHI | MONDAY, JULY 13, 2010

## IITs for changes in review panel's recommendations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 11

IIT DIRECTORS have called for caution and suggested some changes to the recommendations by the IIT-JEE Review Committee that has proposed that candidates be admitted on the basis of scores in a GRE/SAT-pattern National Aptitude Test (NAT) and Class XII marks.

The IIT Directors, who held a meeting at IIT-Kharagpur over the weekend to discuss reforms in entrance

among other issues, also discussed ways to increase the fee with loan structures to assist needy students and increase student intake, sources said.

A committee headed by IIT Kharagpur Director Prof. Dhanoo Acharya, formed by the Human Resource Development Ministry to review JEE and examine feasibility of a single entrance exam to engineering institutes, has suggested that candidates be admitted on the basis of scores in a GRE/SAT-pattern NAT and Class XII exams. While the committee, in its interim report to the ministry, called for

70 per cent weightage to Class XII exam scores, the IIT Directors at their meeting said this would only be possible if there is standardisation of board results across the various state school boards.

"The recommendations of the committee have been looked at and some modifications were also suggested. The key aspect is the increased weightage to Class XII board results. This is a

big challenge as it will require standardisation of Class XII scores across various school boards," said an IIT Director who did not want to be named. "So at this stage this is a bold academic recommendation and will have to be routed by the HRD Ministry to various state

education ministers to find acceptability for the proposal. For the proposed add-on test for admission to IITs above, we have suggested minor changes."

Another IIT Director said that ways to work out a fair hike factoring in student loans, the proposed National Education Finance Corporation and disadvantaged groups were also discussed.

### THE KEY

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