IIT Kharagpur defies CVC, faces heat

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THE Centre may soon crack the whip on IIT Kharagpur for disregarding the Central Vigilance Commission’s order to act against three professors for their involvement in a scam.

The HRD ministry is weighing several options, including action against the entire board of governors, and is set to summon the institute’s director over the issue.

The CVC had sought action against professors A K Bhowmick, director of IIT Patna; P P Chakraborty, the IIT’s dean; and R N Banerjee, Director Select; for their role in the so-called coal-net scam, involving computerisation of Coal India and its subsidiaries between 2001 and 2004.

The IIT did not act against them and instead told the Delhi high court, in an affidavit filed in response to a case brought by whistleblower Prof Rajeev Kumar, that since it was an autonomous institute, the CVC had no jurisdiction. If that wasn’t enough, the IIT upset the ministry by filing the affidavit without consulting it.

Whether the IIT’s argument convinces the court remains to be seen but it clearly hasn’t cut much ice with the ministry. The IIT, the ministry has pointed out, gets substantial grants, about Rs 300 crore, from the Centre and falls within the jurisdiction of the CVC. Besides, being an autonomous institute, it is even more imperative that the IIT encourage transparency of processes, the ministry has said.

Its embarrassing affidavit is not the first time the IIT has irked the Centre. The HRD ministry recently directed the IIT to revoke the suspension of Prof Rajeev Kumar, as advised by the CVC, but it is yet to do so. Prof Kumar was suspended in May 2011 for, among other charges, maligning and misrepresenting the IIT.
Few takers for taking JEE examination online

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NEW DELHI: Despite technological invasion when it comes to writing for their exam, students still prefer the traditional paper and pen method over the computer mode.

Of the total number of aspirants appearing for the Joint Entrance Exam—JEE (main), a mere 14% have opted for the computer mode of writing the exam.

The paper and pen based JEE (Main) exam is to be held on April 7.

According to sources of the total 1,297,709 candidates who will be appearing for the JEE(Main) exam, only 180,644 have chosen the computer-based exam over the paper and pen method.

Among the candidates 50,386 of 1,297,709 students appearing for JEE, only 180,644 have chosen computer based exam over the old paper & pen mode.

Girls and only 130,258 have chosen for computer centric exam. While there are 2015 centres spread across 82 cities for the traditional method, there are only 276 centres across 31 cities for computer-based exam.

The computer based exams will be held on April 9, 22, 23 and 25.

Though the exam fees for female candidate is half that of a male aspirant, girls constitute merely 27%—346,369—of the total number of candidates.

IIT exam from this year will be two phased—JEE(Main) and JEE(Advanced). Only the top 1.5 lakh students from JEE (Main) will be eligible for JEE(Advanced) on June 2. The rest will be given admission to the different National Institutes of Technology (NIT) and other centrally-funded institutes according to their ranks.

Of the total candidates who would be appearing, 291,187 candidates have not opted for JEE.
14 lakh examinees get ready to take JEE mains tomorrow

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: The first Joint Engineering Entrance Examination Main after change of AIEEE format will be conducted on Sunday. Over 14 lakh engineering and architecture aspirants have registered for the entrance which is a record number.

Last year, 11.5 lakh aspirants took the test conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education. Experts are advising aspirants not be complacent as this may result in minor but critical mistakes, marring their chances of appearing for the JEE Advanced as only the top 1.5 lakh candidates in the merit list of the 14 lakh will be eligible for the advanced exam, which is the entrance exam for the admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology.

While the offline (pen and paper) exam will be conducted on Sunday, the computer-based exam introduced last year will be conducted on April 9, 22, 23 and 25. The JEE (Main)-2013 (paper 1 of earlier AIEEE) will have one objective-type question paper. The three-hour paper will comprise physics, chemistry and mathematics.

Apart from the nomenclature, a lot of changes have been introduced in the exam from this year: The JEE (Main) examination 2013 is being conducted for admissions to BE/BTech courses at National Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Delhi Technological University and other Central Government-funded technical institutes. But unlike previous years, this year's JEE (Main) merit list will give 40% weightage (suitably normalized) to Class XII or other qualifying examination marks and 60% to performance in the entrance exam. And the significance of JEE (Main) from now on is that only 1.5 lakh of the top rankers in JEE (Main), which includes students from all categories, will be eligible to appear in JEE (Advanced) 2013 (earlier known as IIT-JEE) for admission to the IITs, IIT BHU and ISM Dhanbad.

According to experts, the difficulty level in this exam is likely to be relatively lower and, therefore, students need to be more careful while attempting the paper.

“A question of higher difficulty will be a challenge for a regular student. But a question of lower difficulty level can be tricky for bright students. So the students have to be very careful as paper of easy standard can result in silly mistakes which can be costly,” Ananda Raman, mentor and director, FIIT JEE, Hyderabad, said.