IIT Kanpur backtracks, to take part in JEE 2013

Kanpur/New Delhi: IIT Kanpur on Saturday decided to accept the common entrance based on percentile ranking as an “interim” measure only for 2013 and retain the existing eligibility condition for students who passed their board examination in 2012.

At a meeting on Saturday, IIT Kanpur senate, which was the first to reject the common entrance under a proposed format, resolved to “accept as an interim measure for JEE 2013 the IIT council’s decision keeping in view the urgent need to remove uncertainties from the minds of students”. For 2014 and onwards, it suggested constitution of a senate committee which will study all aspects of the admission process.

It means that the IIT K senate has accepted the compromise formula, which includes a proposal to take the top 20-30 students based on percentile ranking of respective boards for preparing the merit list.

This formula had been worked out in a meeting of the directors of all the IITs on June 23. The percentile formula, replacing the proposed format of giving weightage to board results, had also been accepted during the meeting. The controversy of whether to conduct its own entrance examination in 2013 instead of participating in the JEE, or accepting the recommendations arrived at the meeting and adopted by the IIT Council on June 27 has been settled. TNM & AGENCIES
Unlucky '13 a one-time affair?

New entrance test format may not last till 2014, a poll year

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA NEW DELHI

The general elections in 2014 are likely to cast a shadow on the prospects of IIT aspirants for the year. As of now, the much-hyped new common entrance test to be held in 2013 is slated to be a one-time affair, with the Government dithering on taking a call for continuing with the engineering entrance exams in 2014.

In effect, it will mean a return of the existing pattern wherein IIT-JEE and AIEEE will be held separately. Class XI students, who will be eligible to take the test in 2014, will be the most affected due to the uncertainty.

"As of now, there is no word about 2014 keeping in mind the scheduled elections between April-May 2014. The IITs may have to decide to revert to the JEE pattern as it happened till this year. While the 2015 entrance exams can be decided by the new Government, the fate of the exams in 2014 is almost uncertain and the incumbent Government is restricting itself," a top HRD Ministry official told The Pioneer.

However, the official maintained that there should not be a problem as the 'experiment' due next year will be completely under detailed terms of reference and composition of the Joint Admission (JAB), JEE Academic, Delivery and Interface Group which will continue to deliver. "It will all depend on the conduct of the 2013 CET. Candidates should not be in dilemma about the pattern of exams because an entrance test for IIT and due weightage to Class XII results will co-exist since Council of IITs have agreed on this point forever," added the official.

Starting 2013, a single entrance examination will be held for admission into IITs, NITs and IIITs and marks obtained in Class XII examinations by students will be taken into account. While JEE Mains (just like AIEEE) will be conducted by CBSE and JEE Advanced by IITs jointly.

The selection of the candidates for the IITs and other centrally funded institutes (CFIs) would be different even as all the aspirants for year 2013 will have to go through two exams - JEE Mains (common for all like present AIEEE) followed by JEE-Advanced for entry to IIT. The new pattern has been put in to replace the present IIT-JEE and AIEEE and that there should be one test for all engineering institutes, making it easier for the aspirants.

IIT entrance examination has seen several changes during the past four decades. Earlier the intake was based merely on Class XII results. Then entrance test was introduced. When number of applicants swelled up to over five lakh the two-tier system - prelims and main - was introduced. Owing to confusion JEE was restored. A separate AIEEE was introduced in 2002 by the CBSE for other engineering institutes.

Due to the deteriorating quality of students' intake, a new formula was devised to give considerable weightage to aspirants' performance in Class 12 board results and the first exams on this pattern will be in 2013. To bring in this system, the HRD Ministry had to face an uphill task as there was opposition from within IITs.

The incumbent Minister had to face a lot of resistance during the consultation process from the IIT system before deciding to be prepared for 'One Nation One Test' theory, the HRD Ministry has decided not to burn its fingers.

Amidst the controversy, the first CET will be held in April 2013 and second in November/December 2013. This decision was taken keeping in mind that those who fail to sit in the April 2013 JEE due to unavailability of board results may appear for winter slot.
IIT-K SUGGESTS 60% ELIGIBILITY FOR SECOND TRY

Vanita Srivastava  
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NEW DELHI: The IIT Kanpur on Saturday accepted the percentile-based entrance test, but just as an ‘interim’ measure.

The institute’s senate, however, made some major recommendations. One of them was to retain the existing eligibility condition for students who passed their board examination in 2012.

It means that students who will take the exam again next year, should have minimum 60% marks in their board exams as defined by JEE 2012.

The senate also said the number of students to be short listed for JEE 2013 should be based on available data and the nature of the advanced paper. “If the advanced paper was theory-based then it will not be practical to filter 1.5 lakh students,” an IIT-K professor said.

Percentile ranking gets thumbs-up from IIT-Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE • KANPUR/NEW DELHI

A
ter IIT-Mumbai, IIT-Kanpur too on Saturday decided to accept the common entrance test based on percentile ranking. The decision was, however, taken as an “interim” measure only for 2013.

“The Senate recommended the IIT Council’s decision keeping in mind the urgent need to remove uncertainties from the minds of students. There is less time gap to put forth any objections,” said an official.

At a day-long Senate meeting of IIT-Kanpur — which had rejected the single entrance test format proposed by HRD Ministry in May — it was resolved to accept as an interim measure for JEE 2013”.

Further, it said the number of students to be filtered for the advance exam in 2013 under the new two-tier format should be decided based on the nature of the test. According to the format adopted by the IIT Council, about 1.50 lakh students are to be screened. “The Joint Admission Board is expected to meet soon to decide whether the test would be subjective or objective type,” said a faculty member of IIT-Kanpur.

Saturday’s meeting was called to examine IIT Council’s decision of June 27, which adopted the common entrance test under a compromise formula for admission to undergraduate programme based on percentile ranking in boards.

The senate decided that students who have passed their board exam in 2012 should be allowed to appear according to existing eligibility conditions in 2013 too. Currently, students are given two chances to clear IIT-JEE.

IIT-Bombay had resolved to keep at 50,000 the number of students who would be screened for the advance test. IIT-Kanpur’s Senate, however, felt that a more broad-base decision should be taken.
IIT Kanpur accepts JEE '13 compromise formula

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI 1 JULY 28

SIGNALLING an end to the turf war between the Union HRD Ministry and IITs over the common entrance examination for all engineering courses, IIT Kanpur senate on Saturday accepted the compromise formula for JEE 2013.

IIT Kanpur, the most vocal of the IITs in its protest against the new test, had announced it would conduct its own JEE in 2013. On Saturday, however, it accepted the compromise formula "as an interim measure for JEE 2013 keeping in view the urgent need to remove uncertainties from the minds of students".

The IIT, however, said that instead of allowing just the top 20 per cent 10+2 students to sit in the exam, JEE 2012 eligibility criteria should be retained, and instead of screening 1.5 lakh students for JEE Advanced, as proposed, the decision on the number of students to be shortlisted should be based on available data and the structure and nature of IIT-JEE 2013. IIT Bombay has demanded that no more than 50,000 students should be screened for JEE Advanced.

IIT-K also called for a greater role for the senate in the admission process. "For JEE 2014 and beyond, a senate committee should be constituted that will study all aspects of the admission process and arrive at recommendations based on sound methodological principles supported by data collected from appropriate original sources," it said.

HRD Minister Kapil Sibal had on May 28 announced a new entrance exam for admission to IITs, NITs, IIITs from 2013. This exam was to have two components — JEE Main for screening and JEE Advanced — and proposed to give 50 per cent weightage to Class XII scores at the screening stage.

Faced with resistance from IITs, the minister on June 27 announced a compromise formula — class XII marks won't have 50 per cent weightage but an IIT aspirant must be in the top 20 per cent of his board. Besides JEE Advanced, which will be conducted by IITs alone, will decide the IIT merit list while JEE Main will only serve to screen the top 1.5 lakh students who will then appear for JEE Advanced.
‘Interim’ measure only for ’13

IIT-K accepts common test

Kanpur/New Delhi, July 20: IIT-Kanpur on Saturday decided to accept the common entrance based on percentile ranking as an “interim“ measure only for 2013 and retain the existing eligibility condition for students who passed their board examination in 2012.

“For JEE 2014 and beyond a Senate committee be constituted that will study all aspects of the admission process and arrive at recommendations”

Further, it said the number of students to be filtered for the advance exam in 2013 under the new two-tier format should be decided based on the nature of the test. As per the format adopted by IIT Council, about 1.50 lakh students are to be screened for the advanced test.

“The Joint Admission Board is expected to meet soon to decide whether the test would be of subjective type or objective. After that we can take a view about the number of students to be screened for the advance,” said a faculty member of IIT-Kanpur on Saturday.

A meeting on Saturday, IIT-Kanpur senate, which was the first to reject the common entrance under a proposed format, resolved to “accept as an interim measure for JEE 2013 the IIT council’s decision keeping in view the urgent need to remove uncertainties from the minds of students”.

The meeting was called to examine IIT Council’s decision of June 27 here which adopted the common entrance test under a compromise formula for admission to undergraduate pro-

ogramme based on percentile ranking of students in their boards.

The senate decided that students who have passed out their board exam in 2012 should not be disturbed with the new format and allowed to appear as per the existing eligibility condition in 2013 also. As per the existing criteria, students are given two chances to clear the IIT-JEE.

IIT council, at its crucial meeting here on June 27, had adopted the percentile ranking system under a compromise formula, bringing to an end the deadlock between the government and the IITs which had been opposing giving weightages to board results.

Under this formula, those students will be taken into account for admission to the undergraduate programme having top 20 percentile of their respective boards.

IIT-Bombay had adopted this format at a senate meeting earlier this week but resolved to keep at 50,000 the number of students who would be screened for the advance test.

— PTI
सिंगल एंट्रेंस टेस्ट का प्रस्ताव मंजूर
आईआईटी कानपुर की एकडेमिक सीनेट बैठक में लगी मसौदे पर मुहर

अमर उजाला ध्यान

कानपुर। ज्याईट एंट्रेंस एजूम (जेएई) 2013 में बदलाव के प्रस्ताव को आईआईटी कानपुर की एकडेमिक सीनेट से मंजूरी मिलने के बाद अब सिंगल एंट्रेंस टेस्ट होने का राशा साक्षी हो गया है। सीनेट को सीनेट की बैठक में सदस्यों ने इस पर मुहर लगाई। सीनेट ने कहा है कि मानव संसाधन विकास मंडल एवं आईआईटी कार्यकाल के नए फास्टल के अनुसार होने वाले सिंगल एंट्रेंस टेस्ट पर यह आमल करेगी। दरअसल यह सीनेट का फैसला होगा। इसमें सफल अंपा विद्यार्थियों को एडवांस टेस्ट में शामिल होना पड़ेगा। इसका आयोजन आईआईटी करेगा। इसमें पहले शुरू होने और प्रवेश परीक्षा को पूरी प्रक्रिया आईआईटी की देखरेख में पूरी की जाएगी। एडवांस टेस्ट में सफल अंपा विद्यार्थियों को ही देश के 16 आईआईटी, एनआईटी और स्पेस आईटी संस्थाओं में दिखाई मिलेगा। आईआईटी कानपुर ने 100 सदस्यों वाली एकडेमिक सीनेट ने सीनेट को छात्रों के भविष्य की देखरेख में बदलाव के सभी प्रस्ताव मान लिए हैं। निदेशक प्रोफेसर संजय गोविंद भार्गव की अनुमति दी गई है। प्रस्ताव मानने को भी कहा गया है। इससे 2013 में, एंट्रेंस पश्चात वाले छात्रों का नुकसान होगा। उन्हें इस व्यवस्था से मुक्त रखा जाएगा। कारण अगले तक एंट्रेंस परीक्षा में बैठने को आर्थि 60 फीसदी निरालाई थी।
Space rocks are easy

FINAL FRONTIER Eric Anderson, who has launched tourists into space, now wants to mine asteroids for minerals

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For as long as he can remember Eric Anderson wanted to become an astronaut. But knew his short-sightedness would prevent him from joining NASA. Instead, he has made it his mission to take others into space. He kick-started the space tourism industry at the age of 23 — so far his company, Space Adventures, has sent seven millionaires into space on Russian rockets.

Anderson, who developed his love of space from stargazing in the Rocky Mountains as a child, would love to go on a trip around the moon himself. But he hasn’t got enough money.

However, he reckons he’s worked out where he’s going to make the billions needed: space, of course. Turning mineral-rich asteroids into the next frontier of mining, to be more precise.

Anderson says the asteroids, which range in size from 10 metres to 60 km, are full of expensive metals — gold, silver, diamonds.

“You have to go back to the beginning of the solar system to understand why,” he says. “Asteroids were formed at the beginning of the solar system hundreds of millions of years ago — they are planetary cores, basically. The Earth has lots of these metals, but they all sink to the middle, here (on asteroids) all the super-heavy metals remain at the surface.”

It may sound like an idea that came to him while watching Bruce Willis in Armageddon, but Anderson, who studied aerospace engineering, is serious. He has got a string of serious businesses — including Google bosses Larry Page and Eric Schmidt, Titanic director James Cameron, and Ross Perot Jr (son of the ex-presidential candidate) — to invest into his new company, Planetary Resources. A “$100 billion global mining company”, which Anderson refuses to name, has also signed up for rights to the first minerals recovered.

He claims to have the backing of the White House for his out-of-this-world plan. “You say it’s impractical, but people thought it was impossible to put private citizens on rockets — and we did that,” Anderson says.

He also counters fears that bringing back cheap metals to Earth will lead to a spike in pollution. “Would you rather we dig up all the mountains on Earth to get to the last 1% left there or go to space, find a rock that’s 30 million miles away, and use everything on it?” he asks. “This is no life on these objects.”

Another problem his ambitious project could throw up is who owns space and its resources. Could it lead to an international fight for control as witnessed in Antarctica and the Arctic? “Nobody owns it right now,” Anderson says. “If we get to it, we basically own it. So once we own it, I don’t think there’s much we can do.”

“If you go out into the ocean and go fishing, nobody says you own all the fish in the ocean. If you build a boat and go out and catch a fish, you own it.”

GUARDIAN NEWS SERVICE

THE PLAN: MINING OF ASTEROIDS FOR METALS IN FOUR StAGES

1. Exploring the asteroids
   - The first stage of the project — sending up hundreds of rockets with telescopes to find the best asteroids — should be underway within two years. The rockets will piggyback on Sir Richard Branson’s Virgin Galactic spacecraft.
   - When we have a set of them (space telescopes), we will use them to create a constellation of telescopes which will be able to explore the near-Earth asteroids,” he says.
   - Anderson says the asteroids, which range in size from 10 metres to 50 km, are full of expensive metals — gold, silver, diamonds — “all the fun stuff”.

2. Looking for platinum
   - Of most interest to Anderson are the asteroids’ huge reserves of platinum, the world’s most expensive metal.
   - Though he admits it will cost “hundreds of millions of dollars” just to find the right asteroids, Anderson says the value of the platinum from just one asteroid will be enough to cover the cost of the whole project.
   - Platinum prices would crash if so much is sold on the market. “If the price of platinum group metals dropped by 100 times we would still make money. We think we can produce platinum for about $300 an ounce.”

3. Bringing the asteroids back
   - Anderson reckons his team of 40 mostly ex-Nasa scientists has already worked out how to reach the asteroids, but figuring out how to make the return journey will take quite some work.
   - Anderson believes that his chief engineer Chris Lewicki successfully handled a far more difficult task as Nasa’s former Mars mission manager.
   - Eventually we would like to bring the material back to Earth, but the very first thing we will do is use the resources on them to create fuel depots in space,” he says.

4. Petrol stations in space
   - To go after asteroids deeper in space, says ex-Nasa scientist Koons has already worked out how to reach the asteroids, but figuring out how to make the return journey will take quite some work.
   - Anderson believes that his chief engineer Chris Lewicki successfully handled a far more difficult task as Nasa’s former Mars mission manager.
   - Eventually we would like to bring the material back to Earth, but the very first thing we will do is use the resources on them to create fuel depots in space,” he says.

What are asteroids?
- Asteroids are small astronomical bodies that never grew large enough to become planets.
- They are in orbit around the Sun.
- A large majority of known asteroids orbit in the asteroid belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.
- However, other orbital families exist with a significant population, including near-Earth asteroids.

You say it’s impractical, but people thought it was impractical to put private citizens on rockets — and we did that.
— Eric Anderson
In the last few years, computer science & engineering has emerged as a popular discipline among students in IIT-Delhi. Vishakha Sharma reports

Computer science and engineering is a discipline, which is constantly aligning itself with the future, presenting intellectual challenges and developing new knowledge on a day-to-day basis. This is why, for the last few years, this branch of engineering has been a favourite with an increasing number of students who have been coming to study at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-Delhi). According to M Balakrishnan, professor, computer science and engineering, IIT-D, like previous years, computer science and engineering has been the most sought-after course at the undergraduate level at IIT-D in 2012 as well.

He adds, "Although there are a fixed number of seats (around 100) for all the courses on offer at IIT-D, be it civil engineering, mechanical engineering or computer science and engineering, this particular year, students with high scores have chosen to opt for computer science and engineering."

Balakrishnan attributes the discipline's popularity to research scopes (bio, mechanics, neuroscience, etc), besides good career opportunities, remuneration and challenges.

However, most students who opt for this discipline at an undergraduate level are not much aware of the kind of research opportunities the field offers. Instead, most of them usually choose this field because of the wide range of career opportunities it offers, adds Balakrishnan.

He informs that computer science and engineering graduates can choose their career in different areas. They can work on web applications, computer graphics, video games, enterprise computing, embedded systems, network administration, mobile applications, computer vision, computational biology, super-computing, scientific modelling, computer security, database systems, animation, wireless network, artificial intelligence, core companies, computational skills, computer manufacturing, computer programming, bank sector, and more.

"Also, there is a growing industry-demand for computer engineers. Job profiles of computer scientists and engineers exist in almost every industry. The remuneration is attractive. Though it is not true that other branches of engineering have less to offer, options as perceived by students in computer science and engineering are immense, which is why they tend to opt for the programme," he concludes.
IIITians join anti-graft campaign at Jantar Mantar

chandan prakash singh

NEW DELHI, 20 JULY: Providing a mass-mob support to Anna Hazare’s anti-graft movement at Jantar Mantar, a large number of youth including IIITians from across the country staged a rally at the vast venue from early morning and expressed their discontent over the players of corruption by shouting slogans till late evening here today.

The students gathered apparently after modalities of the “one nation one test” idea and recommended ways to implement it across disciplines in a phased manner.

Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister Dr. C. N. R. Rao is expected to head the committee which will have, as members, representatives from IIIT faculty and IIIT Council.

The move comes after the proposed single test for admission to engineering courses fell flat and the IIIT’s blocked it seeking an add-on test for entry to their system. The new government panel will have IIIT teachers as members to

Continued on page 11

arrived at Jantar Mantar early this morning carrying placards, national flag and spoons articles which added light environment to the agitation. Another group of 29 students from IIIT Bhopal reached around noon and shouted patriotic slogans in front of the stage.

“We belong to different regions of the country and decided to join the fast together as we have been sharing same classroom in the Institute for the last two years,” said a student.

He added that the IIITs tweaked the originally agreed upon one test formula for admission to technical courses, the HRD Minister said, “I wanted one test. I didn’t succeed in that. The IIITs tweaked the formula. I opted out of the final IIIT Council meeting and said they could decide whatever they want for admission to their system.

“The single test resolution is not my resolution. It is the resolution of the PM’s Council. It is the view of CRR Rao, who symbolises excellence in education. Clearly, what I was trying to do was consistent

“We have broken classes to take part in the agitation because Anna Hazare and his team members have been fighting for the sake of our country not for their bank balances,” said another student.

“Our friends said that there is poor response to Anna’s agitation as shown in the TV. So we decided to reach the spot in large numbers because we don’t want the campaign to flop as it is not Anna’s campaign but ours too,” said Mohit Chakravorty, a student.

We have come to the conclusion of the country were thinking.”

Smriti Irani had promised a single test, but efforts towards a single test could not be given up.

“We now have a single engineering test for all central institutes except the IIITs. Deemed universities have agreed to join it. The All-India Council for Technical Education has passed directions to affiliated technical colleges to join after their states concur.

“The states are writing to us to join the single test. West Bengal will come on board in 2014. So, in principle, we have succeeded to have one test for technical courses,” Sibal said.

Mehamedha ND 30/07/2012 p-16

छग में आईआईटी खड़गपुर के विस्तार केन्द्र का शुभारंभ

रायपुर (छग)। छग रायपुर के तकनीकी शिक्षा मंडल द्वारा उद्घाटन नेताओं ने भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) खड़गपुर के विस्तार केन्द्र का शानिंगर का शुभारंभ किया। इस विस्तार केन्द्र की स्थापना के लिए भुमिकाएं राम सिंह के भी जौनपुर में जन 17 अगस्त को राज्य सरकार और आईआईटी खड़गपुर के प्रतिनिधियों के बीच समझौता ज्ञापन पर स्वागत किया गया था। छग में जीना माफ के कम समय में शानिंगर को यह विस्तार केन्द्र शुभारंभ के साथ ही असिकित में आ गया। श्री नेताम ने शुभारंभ समारोह में कहा कि आईआईटी खड़गपुर देश ही नहीं बल्कि दुनिया का प्रतिनिधित संस्थान है। छग, इसका विस्तार केन्द्र मील का पतर विस्थापित होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि इस संस्थान से विद्यार्थियों का शिक्षा विकास होगा और उन्हें पूर्वकालीन संस्थानों के छात्रों में मिलेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि इस विस्तार केन्द्र से प्रदेश के विद्यार्थियों को आईआईटी जैसे उच्च तकनीकी शिक्षा संस्थान में पढ़ाई कराने का अवसर मिलेगा।
आईआइटी का मोह त्याग चले अन्ना की राह

अनिल कुमार

जगन्न संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: अन्ना आंदोलन के समर्थन में उपस्थित नौजवानों की दलील साक्षात हकराना के खिलाफ भारी असंतोष दर्शन कर रहे हैं। व्यवस्था के खिलाफ गुरुसे का आलम यह है कि छात्र आईआइटी जैसे प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान की छोड़कर आंदोलन की यह पकड़ रहे हैं। जंतर-मंतर पर 25 जुलाई से अन्षान्त पर बैठे अनिल ने आईआइटी दिल्ली से एमटी की पहाड़ी छोड़ अन्ना की यह पर चलने का फैसला किया है। वहीं डूबरी और 30 आईआइटी छात्रों का समूह रविवार को अन्ना के समर्थन में जंतर-मंतर पर पहुंचा और एक दिन का अंशान्त किया।

उत्तर प्रदेश के सहारपुर निवासी अनिल कुमार एमएससी और नेट (पाईवी) कर चुका है। फिर से कह कह बाग में हुए अन्ना के अंशान्त से जुड़े अनिल का कहना है कि आईआइटी में शर्कर भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ जंग लगने में दिक्कत आ रही थी, इसलिए आईआइटी छोड़कर अन्ना की यह पर चलने का फैसला किया। अनिल कहते हैं कि भ्रष्टाचार मुझे बदामिया नहीं। इसलिए मैं चल निकला हूँ और अपने जैसे सार्वजनिक से इस अपूर्णता का आगे तो बढ़ाकर, अन्यथा देश की तकादी व तस्वीर पर हमी तह बदल लगाना रहेगा।

इनका दर्द

आप,

एक कुपवाला अपने वाली पीढ़ी के लिए व्यवस्था परिवर्तन की लड़ाई चढ़ रहा है और युवा पीढ़ी पर में ही, इससे ज्यादा उस क्रय होगा का। अन्ना युवाओं के बेहतर भविष्य की लड़ाई चढ़ रहे हैं और हमें इसे आगे बढ़ाने वाला जीतना भी है। जससे पत्ता तो हम फिर आएंगे।

गौरवा कौशल (आईआइटी, दिल्ली)

मेरी युवाओं से इस अंशान्त में भाग लेने की आशा करता हूं। यह एक पर भारत की तस्वीर है। भले ही हम आईआइटी में हैं, लेकिन हम भी देश में व्यापक भ्रष्टाचार से उत्तर ही पूछते हैं। जितना आम तोग। इसे खाना निश्चित शामी, (आईआइटी, दिल्ली)

राज हमारे लिए भी पढ़ाई, टेक्नोलॉजी और रिसर्च वर्क से कहीं ज्यादा भ्रष्टाचार के गुरुदत्त अम नहीं। देश का प्रीमियर इंस्टीटुट भी इससे अलग नहीं।

अमित निमाई (आईआइटी, दिल्ली)
Euro trip turns sour for 5 Indian profs
Miss Seminar, Spend Night In Custody In Madrid, Pay More For New Visas

New Delhi: It was meant to be a week-long trip to Europe for five professors from various Indian universities. After presenting papers at a seminar in Madrid (Spain) they were supposed to travel to Barcelona (Spain), Paris and Helsinki (Finland) before returning back to India.

However, an alleged error by their airline on their visa landed them in an overnight preventive custody in Madrid. Not only did they miss the seminar they had travelled for, but after being issued fresh visas, they were not permitted to travel to any other Schengen state and lost money on hotel bookings and travel.

"The professors were travelling to Madrid to attend the World Conference of Political Science. On their way back, some wanted to travel to other countries and I finalized all their bookings. Seven of them were travelling together and had a 31-day single entry Schengen visa, which meant that they were permitted into the Schengen zone only once for a maximum stay of a month," said Satyajit Roy, their travel agent.

Their flight to Madrid via Helsinki on Finnair was scheduled to depart at 10.30am on July 7. However, due to a delay it left at 1:30pm. "We told the airline staff that we only had a two-hour window at Helsinki before our connecting flight but we assured them the airline would make alternate bookings for us. When we landed in Helsinki, the airline said we would have to stay overnight and would be sent off the next day. They put us up in a hotel outside the airport because of which we had to get our passports stamped. That is where the problem started," said Jayanta Sarmah, a Gauhati University professor.

The next morning, two professors were routed through Geneva on Swiss Air. The remaining five were given tickets for a flight via London. "However, an immigration official raised an issue. He said that England was not a Schengen state and since we had a single entry visa, we would not be permitted into Spain. The airline staff agreed and gave us tickets to Moscow instead. Even Russia is not a Schengen state but the staff assured us that everything had been taken care of," said another professor who did not wish to be named.

When they landed in Madrid around 11pm on July 8, the five were taken aside by security personnel and kept in a separate room. Their passports and other belongings were taken away. "The security officer spoke to us in Spanish and we couldn't understand him. With the one call that was permitted, we called our colleagues and told that we were at the airport. It was next morning when someone came to help us," said the professor.

On July 9, the detained passengers were visited by a social worker. Only then were they informed of the faux pas and were permitted to call their family. "At 11am, the authorities told us that our visa was invalid. Once they were convinced that the airline had defaulted, they issued us fresh Spanish visas after a payment of 60 euros each," said Sarmah.

A Finnair official said: "As soon as we were made aware of the problem we got in touch with the Spanish Embassy in Delhi and the border guards in Spain. The circumstances leading to this incident are being investigated."

No end to admission tussle
DU colleges defy HRD order on SC/ST admissions, activists irked

NEW DELHI: Activists working for SC and ST category students admissions in Delhi University have objected to university not following directives of the ministry of human resource development regarding admitting students - general and reserved category in equal proportions or the actual intake.

"Usually there are three cut-off lists which used to come out for the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) students. This year DU closed all admissions after the second cut-off list. When the human resource development (HRD) ministry has already stated that if there are over admissions in general category students, then the admissions for reserved category students will also be increased accordingly, still the university chose not to follow the directive," said Sujit Kumar, activist and DU student.

Around 24,000 students from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes category applied this year. DU closed its admissions after filling 12,000 reserved seats in various colleges.

"Most colleges in the courses over admit students in general category, however, when it comes to reserve categories they close admissions. If a college is over admitting 30 students in general category why can't it increase the intake of six-seven students in reserved category?" said Kumar.

He added that DU colleges followed the HRD directive, at least 40 per cent more, which comes to around 6,000-7,000 more students could have been given admissions this year.

The cut-offs for the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category are still coming out as per the order of filling all OBC seats on actual intake given by the HRD ministry.

The principals' association has been raising concerns over calculation of total intake with over admitting students from general as well as reserved category.

"Students from general category drop their admission after getting through medical, engineering, management colleges. We don't know how to reduce the number of the reserved category students then. Now that the OBC cut-off is still going on, we are still unsure when the admissions will finally stop for us to calculate the total intake," added a member.

The members also cited reason of colleges lacking infrastructure for not carrying over admissions in general as well as reserved category.

"When they can open admission 30-40 students above the sanctioned seats in general category, why does the infrastructure question comes only when five-six more students from reserved category ask for admissions?" added Kumar.