Before key meet, 
IIT head questions 
new exam plan

NEW TWIST IIT-Guwahati’s director 
says Sibal’s compromise formula could 
burden students; IITs to meet today

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NEW DELHI: Indian Institute of 
Technology (IIT) Guwahati 
director Gautam Barua has 
questioned a compromise 
proposal on IIT admission reforms 
ahead of a key meet aimed at 
hammering out a consensus 
between the government and 
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In an email to the IIT-Guwa-
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Barua’s email raises questions 
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Under the compromise pro-
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Barua is arguing that the IITs 
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He is the first director to 
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The IIT Guwahati director has been one of the staunchest 
supporters of Sibal’s original 
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IT-G director slams govt’s compromise plan

27 Jun 2012, Hindustan Times (Chandigarh)

NEW DELHI: IIT-Guwahati director Gautam Barua has slammed the Centre’s compromise proposal on admission reforms, saying it would make life difficult for students by making them sit for “one more exam”.

NEW DELHI: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati director Gautam Barua has questioned a compromise proposal on IIT admission reforms ahead of a key meet aimed at hammering out a consensus between the government and protesting faculty.

In an email to the IIT-Guwahati faculty on Monday, Barua argued that the new proposal to make eligible students appear for two entrance tests for the IITs will “make life difficult for students by making them sit for one more exam” than necessary.
Barua’s email raises questions over whether a hastily called meeting of the IIT Council on Wednesday will end a monthslong tussle between HRD minister Kapil Sibal and IIT faculty over admissions. It also represents the latest twist to a battle that has left thousands of students confused about admissions in 2013, and driven a deep wedge between teachers and Sibal, who may not attend the council meet to avoid criticism that he has hurt the autonomy of the IITs.

Under the compromise proposal that Sibal wants the Council to agree on, the Board percentile scores will be used to screen top 20% students from each Board. These students will then have to clear a mains test to be eligible for an advanced test for selection into the IITs.

Barua is arguing that the IITs should just conduct the Joint Entrance Examination in its current format, with the eligibility bar raised from 60% in the Board exam to a top 20 percentile score. Aspirants then won’t need to appear for two tests.

He is the first director to question the latest proposal, which was accepted by other directors last Saturday. Barua did not attend that meeting, and was not reachable for comment on Tuesday.

The IIT Guwahati director has been one of the staunchest supporters of Sibal's original proposal to weigh Board percentile scores in selecting students to the IITs. But after the senates of IIT Kanpur and IIT Delhi resolved to conduct their own admission tests in protest against the move to use Board performances, Sibal agreed to the compromise plan.
Govt-IITs standoff may end today

Aditi Tandon
Tribune News Service

New Delhi, June 26
Standoff between the government and IITs over the structure of the proposed common engineering entrance test (CET) from 2013 is expected to end tomorrow, with the IIT Council to take a final view at its special meeting.

HRD Minister Kapil Sibal, who chairs the council, told The Tribune today that the school board marks of Class XII would count in IIT admissions from 2013, though not in the manner the IIT Council had approved under the proposed CET on May 28.

The Minister said he was hopeful of ending the confusion over CET tomorrow when the council takes a final decision on its structure. IIT senate had objected to the CET approved by the council on May 28 under which school board marks were to be incorporated in the determination of the IIT admission merit list. Now, school marks will be considered for admission eligibility.

At the heart of the issue is the manner in which marks of school-leaving exams (Class XII) will be counted in the results of CET, which will have two parts - main and advanced, the latter to be conducted exclusively for admission to IITs.

For students, there is no cause for worry except that they must do better at school and be among the top 20 per cent in the Class XII results of their respective boards in 2013 to be eligible for admission to IITs.

The new formula will be simple - students will appear for the CBSE-conducted JEE main (which will look like the current AIEEE) at a fixed date in 2013. After four to six weeks (period to be decided by IIT Council tomorrow), IITs will conduct JEE advanced for admission to their system. Only the top 1.5 lakh scorers of JEE main will get to take JEE advanced.

"Anyone could get 60 per cent marks in Class XII. But when you are talking top 20 per cent in each board, you are looking at around 87 per cent marks. So students have to take school exams seriously," Sibal said.

The IIT faculty said it was not possible to factor school marks in rankings because some boards award marks more generously than the others.

Business Line ND 27/06/2012
P-14

Sibal to meet IIT directors today

New Delhi, June 26

The HRD Minister, Mr Kapil Sibal, will meet IIT directors on Wednesday to resolve the common entrance exam row as the Government proposal is being resisted by some of the IITs. Mr Sibal will chair the meeting of the IIT council, the highest decision making body of these elite institutes comprising IIT directors and heads of other educational bodies, deliberating on a resolution adopted by the IIT Joint Admission Board (JAB) which met here last Saturday. The resolution was adopted by the JAB after discussing a compromise formula which was supposedly floated by the HRD Ministry to end the current impasse.
IIT alumni appeal for status quo on JEE till 2014

BS REPORTER  □ Mumbai
The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) alumni on Tuesday appealed to the IIT council to maintain a status quo on the existing joint entrance examination till 2014. "It is heartening to know that IIT council is scheduled to meet on 27 June to discuss the way ahead on the issue of proposed common entrance test. IIT alumni appeal to them to defer any change in the existing JEE and maintain status quo until 2014 in the interest of IITs, lakhs of aspirants and the nation," said Somnath Bharati, Secretary, IIT Delhi Alumni Association. The statement also said that since IIT council does not have the legal mandate to decide the structure and style of the admission process to IITs and it rests only with the IITs' senates, any deviation thereof will be strongly protested.

IIT COUNCIL TO DISCUSS COMMON ENTRANCE TODAY

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

The controversial "one-nation one-examination" decision of the HRD ministry will be put to the test on Wednesday at the emergency session of IIT Council. Union human resources development minister Kapil Sibal is scheduled to meet IIT directors on Wednesday to resolve the row.

The IIT council, the highest decision making body of these institutes, is expected to deliberate on a resolution adopted by the IIT Joint Admission Board (JAB) which met here last Saturday. The resolution was adopted by the JAB after discussing a compromise formula.
**IIT entrance exam row**

NEW DELHI, 26 JUNE: HRD minister Kapil Sibal will meet IIT directors tomorrow to resolve the common entrance exam row as the government proposal is being resisted by some of the IITs. Mr Sibal will chair the meeting of the IIT council, the highest decision making body of these elite institutes comprising IIT directors and heads of other educational bodies, deliberating on a resolution adopted by the IIT Joint Admission Board (JAB) which met here last Saturday. pti

**Sibal to meet IIT directors today**

New Delhi: Human resource development minister Kapil Sibal will meet directors of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) on Wednesday to resolve the common entrance exam row as the government proposal is being resisted by some of the IITs.

Sibal will chair the meeting of the IIT council, the highest decision making body of these elite institutes comprising IIT directors and heads of other educational bodies, deliberating on a resolution adopted by the IIT Joint admission board, which met last Saturday. pti
Now, Sibal Knows Why IIT is a Hard Nut to Crack

URMI A. GOSWAMI
NEW DELHI

HRD minister and IIT Council chairman Kapil Sibal is caught in a tight spot. If the government thought that reworking its "one nation, one examination" proposal to accommodate the concerns of protesting IIT faculty would resolve the imbroglio, then it is in for a surprise.

Now, some of the IIT directors are questioning the need to abandon the 2012 IIT-JEE if the proposal suggested by the Joint Admission Board (JAB), and its meeting on Saturday, is to be adopted. As per this proposal, only those students who score in the top 20 percentile of each board will be eligible to apply to the IITs, and admission will be on the basis of the JEE Advanced examination. The special meeting of the IIT Council, to be held on Wednesday, will discuss this proposal. In the formulation agreed to on May 28, the normalised class XII results and the JEE Main, in a 50:50 ratio, are to be used for shortlisting students. Sources said the JAB proposal gave no weightage to the Class XII board results. Since it suggests a system of shortlisting students by introducing an eligibility criteria — only those in the top 20 percentile can apply — the JEE Main is rendered useless.

Using the percentile approach some 1.5 lakh students will be shortlisted. Some IIT directors are questioning the need for JEE Main and even the need to migrate to a new system for admissions in 2013. A section is questioning the efficacy of making students appear for a three-hour exam. As per the JAB proposal, it has little value in determining eligibility. Instead, this section is suggesting that the institutes should be allowed to conduct the JEE in the same pattern as it has done in 2012, with no changes. First, the eligibility for appearing in the IIT examination be changed from the current practice of 60% marks in the boards to a percentile rank. JAB will decide the cut-off rank after detailed examination. Second, counselling and seat allotment will be held jointly with the National Institutes of Technology. This section acknowledges the need for change, but in the face of uncertainty, it suggests that JAB should begin the discussion on the post-2013 plan. This change could be set in motion from 2014. Meanwhile, sources indicated a sense of unease over the proposal to allow only those students who rank in the top 30 percentile of each board to be considered for admission to IITs.

Kapil Sibal to meet IIT directors today

NEW DELHI: Union Human Resources Development Minister Kapil Sibal will chair the IIT Council meeting on Wednesday to end the impasse over the common entrance test.

The meeting will deliberate on a resolution adopted by the IIT Joint Admission Board (JAB), which met here on last Saturday. The meeting could also consider the feasibility of holding common counselling for all Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs).

It could further take a stand on contentious issues like the Council’s legal competence to decide on admission standards in the IITs, sources in the government said.

In an attempt to end the current standoff, the resolution was adopted by Joint Admission Board after discussing a compromise formula suggested by the HRD Ministry.

However, IIT-Delhi and IIT-Kanpur have rejected the proposed format, contending that the test was “academically unsound and procedurally untenable.”

As per the compromise formula, Joint Admission Board has sought a suitable time gap between the main and the advanced tests – so that the results of mains are available before the advanced and only the top 120,000 candidates (including all categories) in the mains appear in the advanced test.

The JAB resolution has also stressed that admission to the IITs be based on rank achieved in the advanced test “subject to the condition that selected candidates are in the top 20 percentile of successful candidates of their Boards”.

The Govt had on May 28 announced the new test from 2013, under which aspiring candidates for IITs and other central institutes such as NITs and IITs will have to take tests under a new format of common entrance test which will also take plus two board results into consideration.
आईआईटी निदेशकों से आज बात करेंगे सिब्बल

राजस्थान सरकार के विद्युत और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के निदेशक डॉ. रघुवर सुरेंद्र ने आईआईटी दिल्ली और आईआईटी कानपुर के निदेशकों के साथ बैठक की।

बैठक में उन्होंने विभिन्न प्रश्नों की आमंत्रीकरण की, जिनमें आईआईटी के अंतर्गत विभिन्न प्रोजेक्टों के अग्रदूतों की भूमिका की चर्चा की गई।

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आईआइटी काउंसिल निकाल सकती है नया हल
बोर्ड के टॉपरों के लिए आसान होगी आईआइटी की राह

* जेईई-एडवांस में बेहतर रैंकिंग के साथ बोर्ड में आना होगा अवल

राजकेश्वर सिंह, नई दिल्ली

केंद्रीय इंजीनियरिंग शिक्षण संस्थानों में दाखिले के लिए एकल संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा को लेकर भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आईआइटी) के कई विषय के बीच नया रास्ता निकल सकता है।

तब आईआइटी की बात भी रह जाएगी और स्कूल बोर्ड के अंतर्गत भरपूर तंगजो (वेलेज) भी मिल जाएगी। आईआइटी काउंसिल ने नये फार्मूले को मंजूरी दी तो संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जेईई) एडवांस में ऑल इंडिया रैंक में ऊंचा स्थान हासिल करने वाले छात्रों को स्कूल बोर्ड के टॉप 20 से 30 प्रतिशत छात्रों में सामने होना जरूरी हो जाएगा। सूरों के मुताबिक एकल संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा के विषय में आईआइटी-कानपुर समेत दूसरे भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों के तेजों को देखते हुए आईआइटी काउंसिल दुर्भावन की बैठक में नए फार्मूले पर फैसला कर सकती है।

इसके तहत जेईई-मुख्य और जेईई-एडवांस की परीक्षा आयोजित की जा सकती है। बात बनी तो अखिल भारतीय इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा (एआईईई) की तरह पर केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (सीबीएसई) अगले साल अप्रैल में जेईई-मुख्य परीक्षा का आयोजन कर सकता है। इसके बाद आईआइटी अपने स्तर पर जेईई-एडवांस का आयोजन कर सकता है।

सूरों का कहना है कि चूँकि आईआइटी अपने यहां सर्वाधिक प्रतिभाशाली छात्रों को ही दाखिला देना चाहती है। तिहार, जेईई-एडवांस में बेहतर नतीजे वाले छात्रों में से ऑल इंडिया रैंकिंग करके आईआइटी अपने लिए छात्रों का चयन कर सकती है, लेकिन उनके दाखिले का दारोगादर उन छात्रों के स्कूल बोर्ड के अंतर्गत पर निर्भर करेगा। बताते हैं कि जेईई-एडवांस में टॉप रैंकिंग हासिल करने वाले उन्हीं छात्रों को आईआइटी दाखिला देगी, जो अपने स्कूल बोर्ड के 20 से 30 प्रतिशत छात्रों में सामने होंगे। नए फार्मूले के पीछे तरक यह है कि इससे सभी स्कूल बोर्ड के टॉप करने वाले 20 से 30 प्रतिशत छात्रों के लिए आईआइटी जैसे देश के हाई प्रोफाइल संस्थानों में दाखिले की रह खुल जाएगी। जबकि संस्थानों को देशभर से सबसे ज्यादा प्रतिभाशाली छात्र मिल जाएंगे।
आईआईटी काउंसिल में सिविल बनाम फेकटली फार्मूला

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिवाल की अध्यक्षता में आईआईटी काउंसिल की बैठक बुधवार को होगी। इसमें सिवाल प्रेस टेस्ट पर आईआईटी फेकटली फेडरेशन की आपाततियों पर चर्चा होने है। संभाव्य है बैठक में फेकटली फेडरेशन की ओर से पेश किए जाने वाले नए फार्मूले पर चर्चा होगी। फेकटली बोर्ड अंकों को वेटेज देने के सिविल के फार्मूले की बात करूँगे एवं अपने करने को पर्सेंटेज फार्मूले पर ध्यान देंगे है।

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<td>यह आईआईटी में प्रवेश की स्थिति में योग्यता होगी। हालांकि अभी बोर्ड में 60 प्रश्नों का लागू है आईआईटी का प्रेस टेस्ट देने पाए हैं। मेन टेस्ट की मैट्रिक्स के आधार पर क्रिया 50 हज़ार छात्रों का चयन किया गया। ये एडवांस टेस्ट में शामिल होंगे जिसमें मैट्रिक्स से 10 हज़ार छात्रों का चयन आईआईटी के लिए होगा। उसके बाद 12वीं के अंक और मेन के 50-50 प्रश्नों के वेटेज पर 50 हज़ार छात्रों को छात्र जाएगा। एडवांस टेस्ट की मैट्रिक्स के आधार पर 10 हज़ार छात्रों को आईआईटी में भर्ती मिलेगा। सूचना अंक सीमा की बायधता नहीं।</td>
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सरकार के फार्मूले पर आपात

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<th>फेकटली की अन्य गांवों</th>
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<td>पूरी तृप्ति आईआईटी के लिए विभिन्न बोर्ड के अंकों के सामान्यकरण का फार्मूला कार्यक्रम नहीं। बोर्ड का वेटेज से छात्रों पर दबाव बढ़ेगा। बोर्ड की कोचिंग बढ़ेगी। एडवांस टेस्ट में निकलने वाले 50 हज़ार छात्रों को देना वाले। मेन में अधिक प्रदर्शन नहीं करने वाले। अधिकतम अंक 15% होगा। एडवांस टेस्ट वर्ग कैंसल करें। 11.50 lakh छात्रों को एडवांस टेस्ट के दबाव से मुक्तिमिलेगी</td>
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<td>एडवांस टेस्ट के आयोजन का पूरा किया आईआईटी के पास रहे। सिविल के फार्मूले में पेपर आईआईटी तैयार करने और आयोजन तैयार करने वाले इनपुट दियें।</td>
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Yes Minister! You’ve got it right

Pradipta K. Mohapatra

Kapil Sibal needs to be commended for upholding the importance of Class 12 marks for admissions to institutes of higher education.

After visiting New Delhi in the mid-1970s, the editor of an important American newspaper, the story goes, wrote that only in two places are Indians not permitted to have a drink at a five-star hotel — South Africa, and India!

Sadly, some 40 years later, that story could well be about Indian degrees and diplomas. India’s Class 12 certificates issued by the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and various State Boards are accepted as a qualifying score for an admission to undergraduate classes in more than half of the top 200 universities in the world. The only country where these certificates are not accepted (or scores not recognised) is India itself. Why else would we run a plethora of entrance tests for admission into universities or institutes, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) included? It is well recognised that there is great discrepancy between boards. The Odisha Board of Secondary Education may not be comparable to say, Delhi. But going by the number of students from Odisha crawling around Delhi University, this may not be entirely correct.

Coaching industry at Kota

Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD) Kapil Sibal has now got it right by recognising that the Class 12 score must be considered, at least in part, for admission into higher education including the IITs. This, I hope, is the first step towards abolishing all entrance tests and recognising the certificates that are in any case issued by the government. By not recognising the Class 12 score we have created what we would call “Kota style education,” which at the last count was a Rs.50,000 crore industry.

To elaborate: some 1,00,000 students on completion of Class 10 carry their bag and baggage, and at times, alongwith one of their parents, and travel to Kota, Rajasthan. The back-breaking two years involve admitting themselves to one of the several hundred coaching classes for the IITs, National Institutes of Technology (NIT) or medical colleges, where they work for about 18 hours a day. Neither the soaring temperatures in Kota nor the appalling living conditions bother them. As passing Class 12 is mandatory to get into the IITs, these students get admitted to one or another board as distance learners. They need only a pass certificate — the scores are unimportant.

“Kota style” education now thrives in the backstreets of Bethia, Berhampur and Tirunelveli. It is a $10-billion industry,
and is now run by many public limited companies, some hugely funded by overseas private equity funds — $10 billion is more than the government’s annual funding to the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Mr. Sibal needs to be complimented for bringing sanity into higher education by recognising that our own degrees and diplomas must be counted in admissions to our own colleges and universities.

As for the hue and cry created by IIT alumni associations about the Minister’s proposal to democratise IIT admission, you don’t have to be a genius to appreciate and understand the sentiments of the IIT alumni. Let us not forget that they are all born and brought up in the same country as us and have grown up in the same feudal culture. They are the neo-Brahmins. After all, how can they permit children of lesser castes to get into their temples? This is the overriding sentiment. The purported line is that we must protect quality of education of the IITs. But the real need is to protect the IITs from “Kota style” coaching classes.

**Five-point agenda**

Here is a five-point agenda to improve higher education, particularly technical education, in India.

Create capacity: Permit private institutions to significantly increase capacity. It is well known that the school to college dropout ratio is 70 per cent. The moment we say this, the bogey raised is that quality will fall. Therefore, what is required is a strong autonomous regulator that will certify the quality of education, like in all developed parts of the world. Encouraging quality, removing bottlenecks, and enhancing capacities should be the cornerstone architecture of the regulators rather than “control.”

Government managed (read controlled) technical education is now about 10 per cent of the total number of seats. Increase the capacity of the IITs and NITs by 5x. People ask, where are the teachers (of “quality”)? The answer is to increase the compensation package of teachers by 5x. Many corporate organisations are willing to sponsor chairs in much the same way as it happens in the western world, to pay deserving teachers.

Introduce for-profit higher education: The best kept secret is that the currently structured trust managed educational institutions are truly not “not-for-profit.” We must acknowledge that and ask the regulator to grant, say, a 12 per cent equated return to investors in these institutes and universities.

Create a band of adjunct faculty: Top educational institutions all over the world operate with a strong partnership with industry and business. The starting point is to get a large list of volunteers from industry who are willing to devote time as adjunct faculty. Clearly there are issues of consistency in education delivery but industry bodies like the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) can very well be motivated to provide this thrust. We need to work on a model of how academics can work hand in hand with practising managers.

Privatise some IITs and NITs: privatising a non-profit organisation is bound to stir up a hornet’s nest. But some IITs and NITs can be privatised on an experimental basis.

Create competition: Before the private universities bill has even been passed, the HRD Ministry is already talking about controls. The anti-competition lobby is already working to eliminate future competition. If our objective is to create capacity, let us welcome any registered university from any respectable part of the world. Competition will decide whether the students want to go to Delhi University or Hawaii University’s campus in Delhi!

Amartya Sen, the Nobel laureate, said when asked about the large number of rural schools in India that have only one room and one teacher, “I will have a school with only one room and one teacher rather than no school at all.” We can’t change overnight our higher education to match MIT, Harvard or Oxford. Let’s start with capacity creation as the top most agenda. In the meanwhile, congratulations Mr. Minister for the first, forward-looking step.

*(Pradipta K. Mohapatra is a Chennai-based executive coach for corporates.)*
IIT to work on drainage master plan

New Delhi, June 25

To rid the city of the perennial problem of water logging, the Delhi Government has decided to come out with a new drainage master plan to streamline the entire sewerage network and tasked the Delhi IIT with working on it. A meeting of the Delhi Cabinet, presided over by the Chief Minister, Ms Sheila Dikshit, gave its nod for appointing the IIT Delhi as a consultant for preparing a scientific master plan to improve the drainage system. After the meeting, Ms Dikshit said the last drainage master plan was finalised in 1981 and government felt it was time for coming out with a new plan. She said the drainage system has been upgraded in piecemeal manner from time to time by the civic agencies. The Chief Minister DDA has already notified the Master Plan of Delhi 2021 which sought a fresh approach to drainage problem. — PTI
Dating an IITian just a click away

M SARASWATHY
Mumbai, 26 June

Are you an IITian looking for some quality time, as a welcome break from the drudgery of studies? Or, put differently: Are you looking to date none else but the brilliant IIT-types?

If the answers are yes, help is at hand — or, rather, a mouse. Three Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, engineers have come up with a first-of-its-kind dating platform, called dateiitians.com. The brainchild of Layak Singh, Kinshuk Bairagi and Nikhil Kaushik, the website says it "attempts to connect IITians with non-IITians through a social networking medium".

The objective of the website, however, is far more ambitious than just "connect". The first stage is the 'buddy' request. Once that is accepted, comes the 'flirt' request, with facilities like sending virtual gifts and customised messages. Once a registered user crosses that stage, you get access to the 'crush' request. If that is also confirmed by the intended recipient, you move on to the final stage — called 'proposal'. If the 'proposal' isn't accepted — you can still send similar proposals to another person after five days.

With a new version of the site coming in August, users would also be able to avail many "premium" services, such as 3D chat, on the portal. Set up a few months earlier, the site has a little over 10,000 registered users, 40 per cent of whom are IIT and IIM students, current and former. The rest are students from NITs, medical colleges and other engineering colleges.

The website developers are now spreading the net wider. An international version of the site, called cogdio.com, targeting global universities, is expected to be launched in the next few weeks. "IITians are considered the most techies, geeks and nerds in India, so our aim was to connect IITians to others, so that both can interact with each other," said Layak Singh, co-founder of the site. About 30-35 per cent users are females, he says.

The first step, the registration process, has various steps. After an email verification and a mobile number verification, the personal identity is also verified. To restrict creation of fake profiles, one needs to send a scanned copy of the taxpayer PAN card or school/office ID. Only after the details are verified is the account activated, in the next 24 hours.

Once registration is complete, it works like a social networking site. One can upload pictures, put up status messages, write testimonials and send private messages. Chat options are available and comment on status updates.

The portal has tie-ups with a few service providers, wherein one can buy real gifts. In progressing from one stage to the other, a user can collect points which can later be exchanged for real gifts from the portal.

It generates revenue through gifting services and advertising options. "The present portal is only 20 per cent of what the final version in August will offer. The new version will have more interaction options. However, the process of verification will also get stricter," said Singh.

He added the portal would look for funding after the new version was launched. "People in this country fear dating. If we are able to remove that fear, our job is done," he said.
IIMs will soon give degrees, not diploma

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JUNE 26

INSTEAD of diplomas, Indian Institutes of Management across the country would soon start giving degrees to their students. The decision was unanimously taken at the quarterly meeting review meeting of all IIMs, called by the Union Human Resource Development Ministry here on Tuesday.

Union Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal, who attended the meeting which was held at the IIM Lucknow campus, said the need for issuing degrees was felt because when Indian students go abroad, “some of the recruiters do not treat diplomas at par with degrees”.

“Our students have to face this after going through two years of rigorous course,” he said.

Usually the review meetings are held in Delhi. This is the first time it was held in Lucknow. Apart from directors of all 13 IIMs in the country and the minister, chairmen of the Ahmedabad, Rohtak and Kolkata IIMs were also present.

The meeting also discussed a proposal to set up a National Academy of Management on the lines of the National Academy of Law which could act as a think-tank for all the IIMs.

The participants agreed to start a world class journal of all the IIMs on the lines of the Harvard Business review.

Some of the new IIMs also raised the issue of their inadequate infrastructure and the need to have better facilities.

Sibal assured that he would look into the matter.

Asked about the shortage of teachers at premier institutions, Sibal said there was no shortage as far as IIMs were concerned. He said that IITs were facing some shortage as their intake of students had increased after the introduction of the OBC quota but added that this shortage could be removed with the use of technology like video and tele-conferencing.
President signs bill to make IT-BHU an IIT

HT, Lucknow

VARANASI: President Pratibha Patel has put her signatures on the bill paving way for the conversion of Institute of Technology (IT), Banaras Hindu University (BHU), into an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). VARANASI: President Pratibha Patel has put her signatures on the bill paving way for the conversion of Institute of Technology (IT), Banaras Hindu University (BHU), into an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

The union human resource development (HRD) ministry has received the gazette and in the next two-three days the BHU is expected to receive communication in this regard.

According to sources, the President had signed the bill on June 21 and had forwarded it to the HRD ministry. If the BHU receives communication in this regard in the next two to three days, then Prof JN Sinha, existing director of the IT-BHU, would become the director of the IIT-BHU.

Sinha’s tenure as director of the IT-BHU would end on June 30. But if the BHU receives the notification of conversion of IT-BHU into IIT before June 30, then Prof Sinha would continue as working director of the IIT.

According to rules and regulations of the IIT, the existing director of the institution, which is being upgrade into IIT, continues to be the director of the new IIT. He is replaced only after the IIT board appoints a new director.

The IIT-BHU bill was passed in the Lok Sabha in March 2011 and in the Rajya Sabha in April this year. The President would have signed the bill much earlier but the union law ministry had detected several anomalies in the bill. The original bill was sent to Lok Sabha speaker Meira Kumar for making necessary corrections in it. On June 3, the Lok Sabha speaker had made the necessary corrections in the bill and had sent it back to the union HRD ministry. The conversion of ITBHU into an IIT was a contentious issue. Some former students and teachers of the BHU were against this conversion stating that the IITBHU’s control would rest with the IIT board and not the BHU. However, the BHU vice chancellor assured that the IITBHU’s control would remain with the BHU. Karan Singh, chancellor of the BHU, has also assured that the control of the central university would remain with the vice chancellor.