Newspaper Clips

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Academia, scholars laud setting up of education tribunals

Kirtika Suneja

New Delhi, Apr 6: The proposed educational tribunals Bill, 2010 is likely to have a smooth passage in the Parliament with the major stakeholders—academia and scholars—supporting it since it would fast track the settlement of disputes in the higher education sector.

As per the Bill, which aims to set up educational tribunals to adjudicate disputes in the higher education space, these tribunals will have all the powers and jurisdiction of civil courts which would help them to expeditiously resolve disputes involving teachers, students and institutions.

"It is a welcome move because any litigation related to academic institutions can now be put up in the tribunals. However, the tribunals should have people with both academic and judicial knowledge. With the size of the education sector increasing, we will need judgments based on both academics and the judiciary," said SG Dhande, director, IIT, Kanpur.

The premier business schools of the country—the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) second the thought "Students often get distraught because there is no proper grievance redressal mechanism. Same is the case with faculty because they can't work with an employer if they are not treated well despite a good moneto-


tory compensation. The tribunals will address these issues," said Devi Singh, director, IIM Lucknow.

The tribunals will be established at both national and state levels.

"Moreover, the academic calendar gets disrupted sometimes because of legal cases which will not happen once the tribunals are in place," Dhande added.

University of Delhi’s vice chancellor Prof Dinesh Singh concurs: "It is a good idea to have educational tribunals as they will be more focussed and lead to efficient disposal of education related matters." In fact, the move is also seen as a step towards the formation of an overarching regulatory body in higher education called the National Commission for Higher Education and Research.

"All these efforts are worth implementing in view of the larger goal of setting up the NCHER. The tribunals will give an opportunity to all stakeholders to speak about their grievances," said AICTE’s acting chairman SS Mantha.

"We need a forum for quick settlement of disputes related to exams and admissions especially when the government is letting all private and foreign education providers function in the country. These players might attract students by putting out desirable advertisements. Hence, the tribunals must have people who are knowledgeable of academics so that complaints related to students, faculty and management," said eminent educationist and chairman of the Centre for Development Studies Prof NR Madhava Menon.

However, there are certain doubts in the minds of teachers. "Though the tribunal will take care of the lag in time that courts usually are associated with, any recourse to legality outside the campus would be cut off," said Brinda Bose, Department of English, University of Delhi.

"The tribunals will be a good platform for an aggrieved student, employee or public at large to seek redressal of their grievances. It would also allow institutions to seek relief from the regulators," said Ajit Rangnekar, Dean, ISB.
Daily Excelsior Jammu 05.04.2011 p-1

Creation of artificial lake on river Tawi

IIT clears some designs without any change; work begins

By Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Apr 4: Within 10 to 15 days of State Government approaching it for authorization to the designs of the barrage and other structures to be raised for the creation of artificial lake on River Tawi, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has approved some drawings pertaining to one portion of the river thereby resulting into start of work on the ambitious project, which was facing delay so far.

Authoritative sources told EXCELSIOR that after in-depth study of drawings and other details and data submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir Government regarding the project, the experts of IIT Delhi cleared general drawings of Badi Tawi and the cut off wall thereby bringing an end to the uncertainty being faced over the same during the past several months.

“As the drawings have been approved without even minor change, M/s GVR Infrastructure Projects Limited has geared up its men and machinery, which was remaining idle since October last year, and started cutting of steel as per the design and plain concreting works”, they said, adding “within next two or three days, the project executing agency will start main concreting work”.

It is pertinent to mention here that the river has two portions called Niki Tawi and Badi Tawi and contrary to general perceptions, the water discharge in Niki Tawi is more as compared to Badi Tawi. Moreover, the length of barrage on Niki Tawi would be 239 meters as compared to just 133 meters on Badi Tawi.

“Now, the experts of IIT Delhi are analyzing the design of barrage and structures of the gates proposed on Badi Tawi and clearance to the same is likely during the current month itself”, sources said, adding “after approving designs related to each and every structure proposed on Badi Tawi, the IIT Delhi would shift focus on the designs of proposed structures on Niki Tawi”.

IIT clears some designs without any change; work begins

same would be Okayed by the IIT Delhi experts on the basis of water discharge level in the river during the past 100 years”, sources said.

According to the design, which was earlier submitted to CWC and now IIT Delhi, total length of the barrage would be 373 meters—133 meter on Badi Tawi and 240 meter on Nikki Tawi. There will be a total of 34 gates—21 on one side and 13 on another side and all would be mechanically and electrically operated.

Had there been no delay in authentication of designs by the Central Water Commission, the project-executing agency could have created structure above the river bed level so far, sources said while disclosing that the men and machinery of M/s GVR Infrastructure Projects Limited has been remaining idle since October last year when it had made all arrangements in anticipation of prompt clearance to the designs of the project.

“Keeping in view the fact that discharge of water is more in Niki Tawi as compared to Badi Tawi, the designs of gates differ from each other and the

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)
 MANAGEMENT SCHOOLS IN INDIA DRIVE GMAT GROWTH

In three years, number of Indian B-schools accepting GMAT score is up from 20 to 45

KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai

In a bid to take their schools international and make them comparable to world class B-schools, more and more Indian management institutions have begun accepting the Graduate Management Aptitude Test (GMAT) as an admission criteria.

Consider this: In 2007 around 20 B-schools in India were accepting GMAT scores. In 2010, 45 B-schools are accepting GMAT scores.

According to Ashok Sarathy, Vice President GMAT programme, "Part of the value proposition of GMAT is that it is an internationally recognised test. And as B-schools in India desire to be comparable to the best in the world, GMAT provides them with that opportunity."

Mumbai-based Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies' Vice Chancellor, Rajan Saxena, agrees with Sarathy. "GMAT will help us improve our admission process and learn from the global best practices in the world. It will also help us accept international students in future," says Saxena. NMIMS is already using GMAT scores to admit students for its executive management programme delivered in Bangalore. The B-schools in future, plans to use the same for its two-year management programme.

At the SPJain Institute of Management and Research, accepting GMAT scores will help the school be counted among the world's best, according to its dean M L Srikant. This means that B-schools in India plan to accept GMAT along with other examination scores like the - Common Admission Test (CAT), NMIMS Admission Test (NMAT) and Xavier Admission test (XAT) - among others used.

GMAC has also invited various Indian B-schools to be its member. These include - Indian School of Business, Hyderabad; Indian Institute of Management - Ahmedabad and Bangalore; SP Jain Institute of Management and Research (S PJM R); Great Lakes Institute of Management and Narayen Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS).

"One of the primary reasons for Indian students opting for Indian B-schools is that more number of institutes are starting one-year management programmes. The numbers could go up further, with institutes increasing the sizes of their batches in the future," said Samir Barua, director, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A). IIM-A runs a one-year post graduate programme in management for executives, with a batch size of around 100 students. "The institute may look at increasing the batch size in the future, as the programme is well established," Barua said.

GMAC, which opened its India office this February, has its headquarters in Virginia (USA) and an office in London and Hong Kong, is looking at growing its GMAT volumes in India and also get more Indian B-schools to begin using GMAT for admissions.

The council says it would look at creating India specific research and data so that it can provide some value to Indian B-schools.

"In India we are looking at doing things that we have done successfully across the globe. We do volumes of research on management education and related trends. We also do professional development programmes. So being a part of GMAC allows B-schools an opportunity to network, educate themselves and bring up to speed with other B-schools," adds Sarathy.

The council plans to grow GMAT volumes by marketing at different levels including web based and digital communication to candidates.

According to the Asian Geographic Trend survey report released by GMAC last month, GMAT exam takers from India declined by 12 per cent between testing year 2009 and 2010. The same increased by 29 per cent for Chinese candidates.

The council says it is also looking at expanding access to the test in India and make it much easier and available to Indian candidates.

"We are looking at the fact that candidates who travel long distance could they be better served if we were to put up centres in those locations. We would be looking at secondary market where significant volumes come from," adds Sarathy. GMAT administers test at 18 centres in India.
IIMs: The Other 99 Per Cent

Ongoing reform seeks to energise the IIMs to compete globally, not to privatisate them as some fear

DEBASHIS CHATTERJEE
DIRECTOR, IIM KOZHIKODE

A recent article in this space (Privatising the IIMs, Mar 25) on the threat of privatising IIMs created more sensation than sense. The IIM brand has flourished in the last 50 years as a successful experiment in management education. IIMs were established by the government with public funds and are perceived as public institutions of national importance. It is inconceivable how IIMs can become private schools fully independent of the government and lose its public character just because the three panels that highlighted the following broad needs:

- The need for greater accountability and long-term sustainability of IIMs;
- The need for faculty performance and appraisal; and
- The need for gaining financial autonomy through aggressive fund raising.

The committees were set up to explore ways through which IIMs would evolve into self-governing institutions, where the self-governing nature would permeate the entire system. One wonders why the author of the article conjures up a scenario of selling out the IIMs to private donors and thereby causing the demise of brand IIM. In fact, the demise of the IIM brand can only happen if IIMs continued to be governed by an archaic and obsolete vision stuck in the past — however glorious that past may have been. Set to compete in the global education space, IIMs would fare pretty much like Indian hockey did on modern Astro Turf fields unless they acquire new ability and agility in their functioning and governance structure.

To the best of my knowledge, in constituting the committees, the HRD minister was simply making room for IIMs to be able to re-invent their own future inspired by the leadership and management academics and management practitioners of considerable reputation and integrity who run these institutions.

In the past, the IIM success story has been scripted largely through exclusive elitism and selection excellence. The hallmark of this generation’s takeover, CAT-scanned for admission in the ratio of 1:100, guaranteed that eager companies could bet on Analytical and verbal skills of those admitted and hire them for salaries that are best left unmentioned. I would leave out that 1% of the IIM dream and focus instead on the other 99% of the ground reality that needs considerable tweaking if IIMs really aspire to lead in the future.

First, great institutions are led by demand but by knowledge. IIMs have to emerge as schools for new ideas rather than high-profile employment exchanges. In order to remain relevant, our faculty will have to create cutting-edge knowledge and communicate their ideas in simple language to the world of practitioners so that they can be applied to solve management problems in corporate and civic life. Current IIMs are more driven by market demand for MBAs than are by the urge to create original knowledge. The existing performance and reward structure within IIMs are not geared toward knowledge creation either. The Ajit Balakrishnan committee set up by the ministry of HRD (MHRD) justifiably recommended various ways and means to step up knowledge creation in the IIMs.

Second, the primary role of an institution such an IIM is the conceptualisation and creation of managers of the future. The core value of IIM graduates will be in their broader social capital rather than just analytical ability. In this, the very character of the MBA curriculum, the composition of the IIM classroom and the admissions process will have to undergo systemic change. This is not possible unless there is a convergence of ideas from the government, business and society about what IIMs ought to shape up as going forward. The Bhargava Committee set by the MHRD recommended a new governance structure of IIMs, making it accountable to the society that would represent its inclusive long-term interest.

Third, as public institutions, IIMs have to remember that not-for-profit does not imply 'for-loss' institutions. Looking toward the future, IIMs have to build professional fund-raising capabilities that may not be a core competence of its faculty or even its directors who are largely academics. Hari S Bhartia presented the recommendations of his committee on fund-raising by IIMs as a specialised activity within IIMs. It suggested setting up a development office and campaign committee in each IIM. The committee enumerated possible ways of fund raising like solicitation of mass alumni, campaign committees, academic seminars, etc. There was nothing in these recommendations to suggest that the control of the IIMs would go to private donors.

Finally, does the IIM mission need an overhaul? Our current missions do not represent the urgency to establish global footprints in research, learning and teaching. Do we have the kind of institutional and instructional leadership that would help us negotiate the paradox of IIMs being globally competitive schools yet serving local geopolitical interests and sensitivities? It seems that the missing link between the IIMs of the past and those of the future is leadership. These great icons of independent India cannot long remain leaders by just declaring themselves as leaders. They have to create exceptional value for new generations. At IIM Kozhikode, the new mission is captured in three simple words: globalising Indian thought. Indian thought is about celebrating the power of pluralism, inclusion and wholeness. It is about creating value for money even as we create value for many. The debate is not about public versus private character of IIMs — it is about crafting a performing system that embraces the best of both and remains relevant to the world that we are privileged to serve.
Meditation helps reduce pain.

Washington: Meditation can deliver powerful pain-relieving effects to the brain with even just 80 minutes of training for a beginner in an exercise called focused attention, a new study has found.

“This is the first study to show that only a little over an hour of meditation training can dramatically reduce both the experience of pain and pain-related brain activation,” said Fadel Zeldan, lead author of the study.

“We found a big effect—a 40% reduction in pain intensity and a 57% reduction in pain unpleasantness. Meditation produced a greater reduction in pain than even morphine or other pain-relieving drugs, which reduce pain ratings by about 23%.”

Researchers looked at 15 volunteers who had never meditated. The subjects took four 20-minute sessions on meditation. Before and after sessions, their brain activity was monitored with arterial spin labeling magnetic resonance imaging (ASL MRI). When ASL MRIs were being taken, a small area on the volunteers’ skin was heated to 46 Celsius for five minutes.

Scans taken after meditation showed that all of the volunteers’ pain ratings were reduced, with drops from 11 to 93%, Zeldan said. APP

Govt control of B-Schools - The big questions

Why can't various committees in AICTE have proven leaders from the field of management education? Why should not the unaided B Schools enjoy the same freedom like the fully-aided IIMs? Why should the AICTE target mostly those who advertise? The educational institutes in the country are seeking reply from the government on some of the burning issues concerning them.

Prof (Col) A Bainsobraman

Bharat Mata got freedom from the hands of British on 15 August 1947. But the freedom of India has not been achieved yet. Forgetting the Revolution brought in the field of education in the private sector in the country, education system are absurdly taken by authori- ties to close these education insti- tutions who have invested millions of rupees through the means of true entrepreneurship. The state government and the administra- tion both have given their consent to such educational insti- tutions by the unaided priva- te sector, which has been re- sponsible to solve the major issues in the institu- tions. The state government is sub- jected to formal and informal methods and means of the people. Their overreach of authorities commit transgressions and brought bad fame to the educa- tion system, where to slip and cry.

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Most powerful rocket gets ready for 2013 liftoff

Washington: A high-tech entrepreneur unveiled plans to launch the world's most powerful rocket since man went to the moon.

Space Exploration Technology has already sent the first private rocket and capsule into Earth's orbit as a commercial venture. It is now planning a rocket that could lift twice as much cargo into orbit as the soon-to-be-retired space shuttle. The first launch is slotted for 2013 from California with follow-up launches from Cape Canaveral in Florida.

Space X's new rocket called Falcon Heavy is big enough to send cargo or even people out of Earth's orbit to the moon, an asteroid or Mars. Only the long retired Saturn V rocket that sent men to the moon was bigger. "This is a rocket of truly huge scale," said Space X president Elon Musk.

The Falcon Heavy could put 117,000 pounds into the same orbit as the International Space Station. The space shuttle hauls about 54,000 pounds into orbit. The old Saturn V could carry more than 400,000 pounds of cargo. The old Soviet Union had a giant moon rocket bigger than the Falcon Heavy, but it failed in all four launch attempts. Another Soviet rocket, also bigger than Falcon Heavy and designed to launch its version of the space shuttle, had one successful flight more than 20 years ago.

Musk said if Nasa does buy rides on commercial rockets, he would be able to fly astronauts to the space station in his smaller Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon capsule within three years. He said Falcon Heavy will be far cheaper than government or private rockets. Launches are about $100 million each. AP
Virgin voyage: ‘Flying sub’ to plumb ocean depths

Newport Beach (California): British billionaire Richard Branson unveiled plans to pilot a “flying” mini-submarine down to the furthest depths of the oceans, in his latest record-breaking adventure.

The single-seater Virgin Oceanic craft will try to reach the deepest points in each of the world’s five oceans — in what would be the first such feat — starting with the deepest of them all, in western Pacific later this year. “More men have been to the moon than have been down further than 20,000 feet,” Branson said, announcing Jules Verne, “20,000 Leagues under the Sea”-style project at Newport Harbor south of Los Angeles.

Branson will share piloting duties with US sailor and explorer Chris Welsh, the chief pilot of the winged, Space Shuttle-shaped submersible, in the five dives planned over the a two-year period. If plans go well and pressure testing of the mini-sub succeeds, the first will be taken by chief pilot Welsh into the Mariana Trench in the Pacific, which goes down to 11,033 meters, later in 2011.

Branson, back-up pilot on the first trip, will then pilot the sub to the Atlantic’s Puerto Rico trench which has never been explored before at 8,605 m. If successful in reaching bottom of Mariana Trench, it would be following in wake of the US navy’s lumbering bathyscaphe “Trieste,” which got there on January 23, 1960. None has been back since.

The tiny Virgin sub can “fly” with a “completely unique flying wing” for up to 10km at the bottom of the ocean, and operate autonomously for up to 24 hours. Welsh said the potential risks of the adventure are enormous: to withstand pressures of up to 1,000 times normal atmospheric pressure, the craft is made from 8,000 pounds of carbon fibre and titanium, with a quartz viewing dome.

“No leak is tolerable. A leak would cut through stainless steel or human flesh and mean certain death,” he said.

“The depth is beyond the capabilities of any other craft, so rescue is impossible. “It’s like being on the dark side of the moon,” he added.

Branson has coined the term “aquanauts” for those who go below 20,000 feet. AFP
Student Innovations Use Simple Tech To Solve Everyday Problems

SRIVINDY AYER
BANGALORE

When Electrons Move, Current Is Born In 2011, the world was introduced to the high-speed internet, a technology that彻底 transformed the way we communicate and access information. Today, as the internet continues to evolve, new technologies are being developed that promise even greater advancements in communication and connectivity. One such innovation is optical wireless, a technology that allows for high-speed internet access without the need for cables. However, the development of optical wireless technology is not without its challenges. In this article, we will explore some of the key challenges that students are working to overcome as they strive to bring optical wireless technology to the masses.

ECONOMIC TIMES, 07-APR-11 P-4

SRIVINDY AYER
BANGALORE

Innovation gurus like Anil Gupta often say that Indian society is going through a transformation where traditional inertia is giving way to innovation and new ideas are being recognized and accepted as instruments of change. Somebody must have heard him right at the incubation centres across the country’s numerous colleges where students are creating innovations to solve everyday problems.

INNOVATION 1
18-year-old BA Guhan, a student of Periyar Maniammai University at Thanjavur, was determined to devise a solution that can detect heart failure. And within less than a year his product was ready for trials. Along with two of his classmates, Nitish Kumar Dangi and Prabakaran, Guhan developed a small rectangular Bluetooth chip - five centimetres in length and two centimetres in breadth - that has to be laparoscopically placed over any artery. When one suffers the first cardiac arrest, which is usually silent, the heart muscles struggle to pump blood and signs and symptoms are visible. The strain is communicated through the chip to a mobile phone. "We wanted to design something relevant, something for the society. But a business idea," said Guhan who attributes his achievement to the dean of his college. Soon after the chip was developed, Guhan realised that for the device to communicate with a phone, the Bluetooth needs to be switched on always. So, the team put together a low-cost phone where the Bluetooth is always active, with power-saving mode. And now, they are in the process of developing a software which can do this on any mobile device that costs Rs 15,000, has bio-compatibility coding so that it can remain inside our body. Guhan is confident that his product has its price in the market. "I am sure it will be a success. There are heavier devices in the market that cost much more, he said. The trio is looking at a go-to-market strategy through doctors and government organisations.

INNOVATION 2
In Mumbai, dental college student Samir Jain has devised a low-cost machine that can perform root canal treatment effectively.

This 21-year-old student of MGV Dental College in Nasik felt that during root canal treatments, the portals are not filled properly which allows microorganisms to grow again and cause infection. The problem was very clear: I was wondering why hasn’t anyone addressed it yet," says Jain who started researching to find out a solution. He realised that most machines just fill the gutta-percha - a thin, fibrous material which is essentially a sealing agent that has to be filled in the part which is diseased.

Jain had to improve on the existing machine to ensure that the gap is filled fully leaving no room for bacterial regrowth. He thought that adding sonic vibrations during the filling up process would do the trick. And his hypothesis proved right. "During my lab study statistics showed that my method was 57% more efficient than the conventional treatment," said Jain who then took help of a local electrician to put together the machine.

What Magic, the brandname Jain gave to his machine, does is to heat up the gutta percha to 70 degrees so it flows smoothly and the vibrations allow it to form a proper layer leaving no air spaces. It costs a measly Rs 1,000 against other machines in the market which are priced anywhere between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 2 lakh.

INNOVATION 3
J Rakesh, who grew up near the Ordnance factory in Tiruchirappalli, saw that old people found it difficult to ride their bicycles over the steep terrains of the village. This goodled Rakesh and his classmate Rajesh to design a bicycle that can be driven without having to pedal continuously. This is done by placing two compressors in the rear wheel of the cycle which control the air flow. This air flow passes through a cylinder which converts the pressure into rotational motion. One only needs to turn the handle to direct the cycle which now costs approximately Rs 4,500 is expected to be cheaper once it can be mass produced. "Not many people can afford an automobile in the small towns and use bicycles to commute. We wanted to design something for them," said Rakesh, a student of Mookambigai College of Engineering in this southern Tamil Nadu town.

POTENTIAL
Experts feel that the environment for ideas to bloom exists now. "Creativity is chaotic by nature. We should not have a managerial view about creativity. We just need to provide the environment for it. Market is a natural leveler," said Professor S Sadasivan, founder director of International Institute of Information Technology in Bangalore.

There is interest among the investor community to identify and promote such projects, mostly being developed at colleges and institutions backyards. "Most students, who are in the incubation centres of popular colleges, have been approached by venture capitalists. Students have become aware of new technologies and are constantly innovating," said Shraddha Sharma, founder of Yourstory.in, a website that tracks start-ups in the country.
South Korean tutorial to coach students in IIT-JEE

PIYALI MANDAL
New Delhi

SOUTH KOREA based coaching institute Etoos Academy will set shop in India with its first IIT-JEE coaching institute in Kota (Rajasthan) to be operational from next month.

Known as South Korea’s biggest coaching conglomerate, Etoos plans to train at least 5,000 students in the first year of their operations.

Etoos which provides coaching for Korean Scholastic Aptitude Test (KSAT)—the common entrance exam for professional colleges; much like Indian entrance exams like IIT-JEE, has set up its hundred percent subsidiary in India with its headquarter in Gurgaon, Haryana.

“We are planning to train 5,000 students annually from our Kota centre. Next year we are planning to open centres in Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai,” Etoos Academy CEO Park Seong Bok said.

Backed by SK Group, one of the biggest industrial conglomerates in Korea, Etoos focuses on two major businesses in South Korea—e-learning website etoos.com and offline coaching centres. It is also exploring opportunity to offer training courses via mobile phones.

“We will partner with telecom companies to offer the course content to students in the rural India,” he said.
Over 40,000 pledge support on Facebook

Durgesh Naandan Jha | TBN

New Delhi: The public movement against corruption initiated by Gandhian leader Anna Hazare has become rage among netizens. The Facebook page created by the group has registered over 43,000 followers in one day, while more than seven lakh people from across the country have pledged support to the cause through mobile phone registration. According to activists, Arvind Kejriwal, a leading campaigner for the movement against corruption, the response from youngsters in particular is enormous.

"The social media is buzzing with our movement against corruption. Thousands of people from across the country are connecting us through Facebook and Twitter. In at least 100 cities, youngsters are continuously joining in to help us with the logistics," said Arvind Chatterji, "I said on Wednesday, students from several Delhi colleges and universities among others joined the agitation. "In the US, Australia and several other countries, Indians are joining in to support the public movement against corruption," Kejriwal added.

On the Facebook page, minute-by-minute updates on Anna's messages, support to the cause from different sections of the society and government's response to the same are posted. "It is the beginning of a new chapter in the history of India - a freedom struggle for freedom from corruption," posted one Asha Singh on Facebook.

Anna Hazare told Times City that the positive response and active participation by so many youngsters is incredible. "It will help us make the country clean of corrupt politicians and bureaucrats. When I see the young faces and go through the messages of support posted by them through different social networking sites and other communication media, it really heartens me. It fills me with more energy and enthusiasm to carry on the crusade against corruption," he said.

Bollywood actor Aamir Khan and cricketer Kapil Dev have also pledged support to the cause. Khan wrote to the Prime Minister on Wednesday, requesting him to agree to the legitimate demand of Anna. "I am one of over a billion citizens of this country who is affected by and most concerned about corruption...I request you to pay heed to the voice of Anna Hazare in appreciation for what he is fighting for," reads the letter. The actor said he went through the Internet to read about the Jan Lokpal Bill and agrees with its recommendations.
Management education: Dynamics and challenges

The demand for management education is poised to increase in near future. Collectively, all business schools must strive to attain excellence in educating students to be effective in their professions.

Dr Parag Kalkar

The MBA word is getting smaller. The graduate business degree started in the US at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth in 1900 and in Europe at INSEAD in 1957, can now be found in every part of the world. Management education has witnessed tremendous growth in the current scenario. This is primarily due to the global economic integration and advances in information and communication technology. The demand for this form of education is currently not only at a high level but is poised to increase much more in near future. Prospective demand not only comes from the college level students but also from working professionals who want to progress in their careers. Collectively, all business schools must strive to attain excellence in educating students to be most effective in their chosen professions, while advancing business theories and practices that support the ability of business enterprises to successfully achieve their strategies and goals.

There is a need, therefore, to understand the dynamics and challenges in this area. The foremost and the most significant challenge relates to the quality and delivery of academics. Curriculum, industry relevance of the curricula, the intellectual capital and the academic delivery are the key issues that need to be examined. Academic collaborations, faculty development and industry-academic interface can prove to be of great assistance in strengthening the quality of academics. Quality standards need to be defined and they need to be designed in such a way that the expectations of the students and the industry are met. Students need to be made proficient not only in their respective domains but also in fields such as corporate ethics, social awareness and foreign languages.

Another challenge is the recruitment and retention of qualified staff. An effective human resource department can take care of the same. Recruitment procedures, faculty training programmes, faculty exchange programmes and research-based activities need to be designed and implemented so as to ensure the development of these change agents.

Third major area that needs to be examined is the increasing diversity of management education across the world. Varied cultures and business practices have given rise to this diversity. The manager today is not a local manager; but a global manager and therefore the future business leaders need to be exposed to this diversity.

Last but not the least is the challenge posed by physical infrastructure. The colleges and universities would have to provide adequate infrastructure in terms of classrooms, library, laboratory facilities and multimedia. Management education today needs to incorporate information technology.

The 21st century is, and will continue to be, an entirely different world for management education. Students must understand that joining the best business school cannot guarantee a fat salary placement if they are not prepared to work hard, exhibit negative attitudes and attributes, although the brand of the institute may attract great companies to the campus placement. The students aspiring to become manager / leader must be equipped with competitive skills, analytical ability, research attitude, and ready to learn from the surrounding situations.

(The writer is Director, Sinhgad Institutes, Pune)

"The placement scenario at business schools is finally back to normal, with the big recruiters hiring en masse. However, recruiters are being more choosy than before, looking for real potential and a 'learn to lead' attitude among MBA grads."

- Nitin Putcha
आईआईटी जेईई के परिणाम 25 मई को कानपुर। आईआईटी की 10 अप्रैल को पूरे देश में एक साथ होने वाली संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जेईई) के परिणाम 25 मई को पोषित कर दिये जाएंगे तथा परीक्षा में बेडने वाले सभी छात्र-छात्राएं प्रश्न पत्र के सही उत्तर 15 मई के बाद आईआईटी वेबसाइट पर देख सकेंगे। 25 मई के बाद छात्र-छात्राएं अपनी-अपनी उत्तर पुस्तिका भी वेबसाइट पर देख सकेंगे।