New Delhi: Breaking his silence on the controversy over the common entrance test (CET) for graduate and postgraduate medical courses, health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said Medical Council of India had jumped the gun without taking into consideration apprehensions expressed by states.

Calling the apprehensions against CET “fair and genuine,” Azad told TOI in an exclusive interview on Tuesday, “The ministry totally supported CET. But states had genuine concerns again at CET which have to be addressed before a clearance is given. MCI should have looked at the bigger picture and addressed all concerns before issuing the notification. The ministry therefore asked MCI to withdraw it which they have done.”

According to Azad, most private colleges are spread across southwestern India. “Some governments had reservations that CET would tamper with state reservations. Some states thought CET would benefit students from urban areas and those from English medium schools. States too were keen to support the idea of CET if their apprehensions were addressed. I had told MCI to find a solution to these apprehensions and take state governments on board before any decision. But they jumped the gun,” Azad, who will discuss the contentious issue with state health ministers on Thursday in Hyderabad, added.

MCI said it issued the notification approving CET after getting a go-ahead from the Supreme Court.
8 engrs score 100 percentile in CAT '10

19 Candidates Get 99.99; IIMs To Announce Results Of 1.86L Aspirants Today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: The 100 percentile scorers in the CAT 2010 will be an all-male engineers’ club. They’ve topped the second edition of online CAT which decides admission to 11 IIMs and over 150 B-schools this year. The results will be released on Wednesday.

While Maharashtra has three toppers — two from Mumbai and one from Pune — the rest are from Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata and Indore. Breaking the myth that women rarely top CAT, two women from Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have scored 99.99 percentile. In all, 19 candidates have scored 99.99 percentile in the test, three candidates each from Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat getting the second-best score. There are two candidates from Karnataka with 99.9 percentile. The identity of all toppers has been kept confidential.

IIMs, which jointly conduct CAT, will announce the results on Wednesday. Candidates can download their score cards from the CAT website, www.cat-iim.in. Over 1.86 lakh candidates appeared for CAT 2010 held between October 27 and November 24, across 20 testing days. The CAT score is one of the inputs used by IIMs in admitting students to its flagship two-year post-graduate programme.

New IIMs join hands

The four new IIMs at Ranchi, Rohtak, Raipur and Trichy have a surprise in store for those who belied the CAT this year. They are working on what could be the next big thing among IIMs. The newly minted institutions are mulling a plan to have their own admission process and even hold joint interviews and group discussions to cherry-pick candidates for this academic year. Currently, all IIMs individually send out call letters for interviews and GDs.

This coming together will greatly ease the stress of having to hop from one interview to another. "We don’t want left any of the ems. IIM-Indore will have its own identity and admission process. The directors of all new IIMs will meet soon to decide on holding joint interviews and using those scores for admissions," IIM-Trichy director Pratap Agnihotri told TOI. There is great synergy when the IIMs come together. We have been talking about it (holding joint interviews and GDs); all we need to do now is to sit down and chalk it out," P Ramashan, director, IIM Rohtak told TOI.

Even though the idea of joint interviews and GDs is not entirely new, the older IIMs, especially at Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta, have rejected it for the sake of autonomy.

Relief for 44 ‘deemed unfit’ univs?

On SC Insistence, Govt To Examine Afresh Steps To Build Infrastructure

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Forty-four universities damned by the Tandon Committee and recommended for stripping of ‘deemed’ status will now get an opportunity to stay afloat by declaring steps taken by them to put infrastructure in place as needed under rules to deserve the prestigious tag.

Attorney general G E Vahanvati told a Bench comprising justices Dalveer Bhandari and Deepak Misra about the decision after consulting HRD minister Kapil Sibal on a two-hour notice from the court.

After the SC turned the heat on deemed universities found woefully lacking in infrastructure, the government had appointed an expert body headed by P N Tandon to evaluate them and put 44 in the category to be stripped of their deemed status and the remaining in the crucial three years to match the infrastructure required for keeping intact their status as deemed universities.

However, the bench on Tuesday insisted on giving the 44 universities another opportunity to explain the steps they had taken to improve facilities for higher education. Only 36 deemed universities had passed muster during scrutiny by the Tandon committee.

Hearing a PIL filed by advocate Vinayak Sharma, the bench felt there was scope of elevating some universities from the worst category to a rather better category to save them the ignominy of de-recognition. "Perhaps on a re-evaluation, some of the universities can be elevated to Category Two (with minor deficiencies)," the bench said.

"Some universities have enjoyed deemed status for more than 20-25 years. Just because they have added two courses, they are being de-recognised. Either you give them time to upgrade their infrastructure or permit them to continue by cancelling these courses, but in the garb of these two-three courses, denuding them of their deemed status will not be fair,"

The AG, after consulting the HRD minister, informed the court that the Bench’s proposal for giving one more chance to the worst category universities was acceptable to the government.

The court gave the Centre two weeks to issue notices to the 44 worst category universities and another two weeks for them to respond. However, the Bench clarified, "These institutions will be entitled not only to give reply but make a representation on status of deficiencies. Thereafter, each university will be separately heard. Any university still in the worst category will be heard before any action is initiated by the Centre." The case will be heard on May 3.
Zoho brothers on cloud 9

I
t was October, 1996. Sridhar Vembu had completed his PhD at Princeton University, US, a year ago and was involved in wireless research at Qualcomm in San Diego. His younger brother Kumar was also a software engineer at Qualcomm, a promising startup at the time. The
youngest of the three brothers, Sekar, had just arrived in the US for a PhD at Rochester University in New York. It was then that Kumar suddenly decided to quit his job and head back to India to create a company.

Sekar also quit his PhD and accompanied his brother back to India to help. “We used to have these startup discussion at the dinner table and one morning Kumar just took the decision to move to India,” says Sridhar. “He was also feeling very homesick. And they had no clearance what they were going to do.”

The Vembu brothers had little idea then, but in these moves lay the beginnings of Zoho Corp, which today employs close to 1,300 people with offices in Chennai, US, Europe, Japan and China, and the main development centre in Chennai. Its entire suite of productivity and collaboration tools called Zoho.com competes with Microsoft’s and Google’s offerings in the space, including word processor, spreadsheet, presentation, as also customer relationship management (CRM) tools, where it competes with Salesforce.com. The suite has over 30 million users around the world. Zoho also has a tool for IT administrators to manage networks, called ManageEngine. This has over 40,000 customers, including 60% of the Fortune 500 companies, and is the company’s biggest revenue earner.

Kumar and Sekar set up their first office in their father’s home in Chennai with two computers, and called it Vembu Systems. Sekar, a BTech from IIT Madras, got his IIT friend Shailesh Kumar to join the startup. In the US, Sridhar put all his belongings in a car and drove to Silicon Valley to drum up business for the startup.

“After 3-4 months, I had nothing to show for my sales effort and I ran out of money,” says Sridhar.

But he quickly recovered from that to set up a network management product company that did very well until the tech bubble burst in 2001. Later, Sridhar, together with Shailesh, reinvented that business, which became Zoho.

“We have been really good at riding technology waves,” says Shailesh. “First was the Java wave and then we saw cloud computing coming. Combining that with our new strategy of getting close to end users, we ended up with Zoho.” The Zoho Office suite was launched in 2006, at a time when cloud computing was barely heard of. Cloud computing refers to the access of software applications over the internet, instead of from your PC’s hard disk.

Sridhar and Shailesh also started a unique initiative called Zoho University that takes in 12th standard and polytechnic students, trains them for 18 months in English, mathematics and computer sciences, and on performance, absorbs them into the company. “It gives an opportunity to students living in interior parts of India who otherwise wouldn’t have been able to pursue such education. It is also good for us as they are more dedicated and loyal,” says Shailesh. 120 students have so far passed out of it and comprise about 10% of Zoho’s workforce today. The goal is to take it to 30-40%.

The strategy is working well. Zoho’s clients include such names as Coca-Cola, Nortel, Motorola, Deutsche Bank and Cisco. But the focus is on smaller enterprises for whom cloud offerings are cheaper, since it obviates investment in hardware, software licenses and IT infrastructure management.

Zoho may not have the marketing budget of a Google, but it’s hoping its products will continue speaking for themselves.

“We have started moving some of the ManageEngine products to the cloud and are seeing good regular improvements in all our services. We intend to make the most of the cloud,” says Shailesh.

Cloud computing services, like Zoho’s, can obviate the need for small enterprises to invest in IT infrastructure. Smart startups are seeing significant gains from it.
Lancet says sorry for ‘Delhi bug’

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: Naming the drug resistant superbug New Delhi Metallo Beta Lactamase-1 (NDM-1) after India’s capital city was a “big mistake”, Dr. Richard Horton, editor of prestigious British medical journal ‘The Lancet’ said on Tuesday.

Dr. Horton told TOI “it was an error of judgment” on their part to allow the article to get published with the name NDM-1 as “we didn’t think of its implications for which I sincerely apologize.” He said it “unnecessarily stigmatized a single country and city”.

Dr. Horton, however, strongly felt the science “was strong, sound and correct” and that the name “distracted people from the important science”.

“I would welcome if researchers changed the name of the superbug but it is in the hands of those who named it in the first place,” Dr. Horton who is in India said.

The journal, he said, had learnt to be more careful with new inventions or conditions named after a country or city after this experience. P11
New Delhi: The death of a restaurant manager at Khan Market in a road rage incident has once again brought to fore issues of increasing violence and decreasing tolerance in cities. Psychologists say high level of stress and personal conflicts — family related or over professional matters — often affect people’s behaviour on roads and make them brawl on frivolous issues. They say stringent laws are needed to induce fear among people against committing such acts.

Said Dr Jitender Nagpal, consultant psychiatrist at VIMHANS, “Roads are becoming a forum for neurotic catharsis. When on road, people often tend to think about frustrations of home or of the office. The slightest of provocation in such circumstances leads to momentarily loss of sanity. People fall prey to reactive anger and later regret it.”

According to the experts, even young executives and educated people are getting involved in such incidents. “It is worrisome. Earlier, we would see gangsters or poverty-stricken people trying to vent their anger and frustration over others. But with the change in social equation and lack of family communication, people from good family backgrounds are also involved. On many occasions, youngsters with powerful connections commit these crimes with a sense of belief that they can easily escape. In some cases, road rage is result of accused trying to assert their identity,” said Nagpal.

Dr Nimesh Desai, director of Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, said anger by itself may not be avoidable but one should know the limits.

“There should be stringent laws against traffic violations. We need enforcement and the guilty should be booked so that people committing road rage incidents can’t get away,” said Dr Desai.
Nesting place for tech-birds

Our professors ensure open communication with them, says an Indian studying in Germany

Vikas Shahdai is pursuing a fast-track PhD programme at the Institute of Materials Science, Technische Universität Darmstadt (TUD) Germany. A BTech from the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal, he talks about his experience so far in Germany.

Germany is a great destination for engineering sciences and technological studies. The Federal Government of Germany and the European Union are investing increasingly large amounts of capital into technology-based research and product development.

The excellence centres at the Universities of Technology are all world-class with state-of-the-art research facilities for all branches of study, including technology, social sciences, humanities, literature, health and life sciences. The teachers are indeed among the world's best in their respective fields. With all this on offer and my personal motivation to pursue technological studies, choosing Germany was indeed a straightforward decision.

Since 2008, I have been a visiting student at the TU Darmstadt working as a part of a research group here. In 2009, I was awarded the DAAD WISE Fellowship, which supported me to continue my research during the summer. Those short periods of study in Germany have also been a great source of exposure to German universities, German culture and lifestyle. And this has also been one of the main reasons for me to return to this country to continue my education. It was also a part of my personal strategy to stay close to India, with a time difference of just 5.5 hours.

In Germany, your classmates are from different parts of the world like USA, Australia, Spain, China and Russia. Classes are highly discussion-oriented. And every theoretical lesson is equally followed up with practical testing. Especially interesting is the intercultural training about cultural and social habits of different parts of the world.

My study experience is very good and with our professors, no question remains unanswered. Students can communicate with the professors at a very personal level. If a professor agrees with the views of the students he/she can face-to-face discuss teaching system according to the students’ needs. The education system is very flexible.

Communication channels and methods of approach with the faculty differs with the universities and their long-established systems. In my case, it is very good and transparent. One thing I like is the respect that the faculty gives to students' needs. The teachers speak to students with a lot of personal concern and regard.

When it comes to the language, as long as you are a part of an international study programme, it is not mandatory to know German, since classroom teaching is usually conducted in English. Also in research departments these days, there is a huge mix of students from all around the globe. Most administrative processes are standardised. However, it is always recommended for students to pursue language courses during the study period in Germany to be able to integrate into social life. Once you register as a student at a German university, in most cases you are offered a professional and free language course through a semester parallel to your core study.

What about everyday life? Once you have lived in India, then coping with life here is relatively easy. Your days usually go quite smoothly. The public transport throughout the country is excellent. So, you don’t waste much time in commuting. Sometimes weekends could be quite hectic and it could sometimes get tough to balance your time between academics and chores like cooking and cleaning. But you can make up for this during the weekends.

Weekends in Germany are a great opportunity to enjoy the culture and relax. Most weekends usually have some vibrant fests in the city centres with music, food and wine. Even shopping at the weekend markets or shopping centres in the countryside is fun.

Being a university student in Germany gives you a lot of perks. You usually get a semester card with which you can freely travel with all public modes of transport throughout your federal state. Universities have very good facilities for sports and games. In the summers, we often have barbeque parties at universities which are attended by the faculty as well. These are good icebreaking sessions. Sometimes you also have day-crisis for hiking or also extended student holidays where the faculty and students go out for a trip. Not to forget that there are a lot of campus parties which are great to relax and interact with friends without hitting the big cities like Berlin, Hamburg or Frankfurt. A student may require anywhere between 500 to 700 euros a month. In terms of food, interestingly I have never felt far away from India. If you wish to cook at home, you can mostly find everything you need to cook typical ‘Indian khana’. There are also many Indian stores around where you can buy things like spices, wheat flour, pickles and everything else you need. At restaurants, the vegetarian options might have fewer things to tuck into but the options definitely exist, although eating out too often may break your pocket.

What about career prospects? If you perform well at the university and back up your applications with an impressive project, you usually stand a great chance of finding a job. A lot of newspaper articles indicate that Germany needs a lot of qualified engineers and professionals. To find a job, knowing German language is preferred as it can greatly increase your chances of employment. In special cases, multi national organisations ignore applicants who do not have knowledge of German, but you are surely expected to "pick up Deutsch soon so as to be able to integrate well in this environment, especially if your job involves communication with local people."

An IIT Delhi alumnus

As told to Vinod Chandru Jasti
‘India trains only 500 designers, requires 10,000’

There is an urgent demand for nearly 10,000 designers across 250 sectors. No wonder the government has given approval to four new National Institutes of Design in the country and the existing one at Ahmedabad also has plans to increase its intake by over four times this year. On the occasion of its golden jubilee, NID Ahmedabad director Pradyumna Vyas speaks to Neha Pushkarna about the increasing role and effect of design in industry.

What are the opportunities for young designers in the industry?

Design is what makes a technology contextual & usable. There are nearly 250 sectors—from automobile to hospital equipment—which are looking for designers in the country. These sectors have created a demand for 10,000 designers but we produce only around 500 designers across India every year. There is a big gap at present.

So what is being done to fill this void?

A. Four new NIDs are coming up in the country, including one at Jorhat in Assam. The idea of setting up a design institute there is to put traditional knowledge of locals to thorough use. We have 100 seats in undergraduate courses and around 250 in the post-graduate disciplines. In fact, we get a lot of people in the PG courses who are passionate about design.

What kind of placements do UG and PG students get after the course?

A. This year we had nearly

Indian Express ND 12/01/2011

SOFT HYDROGEL PARTICLES HAVE SIZE AND FLEXIBILITY OF RBCS, COULD LEAD TO UNLIMITED MAN-MADE BLOOD

Scientists inch closer to artificial blood, mimic RBCs

In a possible breakthrough in developing artificial blood, scientists have created jelly-like spherical particles which they claim mimic some of the key properties of red blood cells. Researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who made the discovery believe this could lead to more effective treatments for life-threatening medical conditions such as cancer.

Detailing their study in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the team reported that they used a technology known as PRINT ( Particle Replication in Non-Setting Template) to produce very soft hydrogel particles that mimic the size, shape and flexibility of red blood cells, allowing the particles to circulate in the body for extended periods of time.

The scientists are yet to test the particles' ability to perform functions such as transporting oxygen or carrying anti-cancer drugs. But early experiments indicate they have existing medical potential. One possible application is unlimited supply of man-made blood.

Over their 120-day lifespan, real cells gradually become stiffer and eventually are filtered out of circulation when they can no longer deform enough to pass through pores in the spleen. To date, attempts to create effective red blood cell analogues have been limited because the particles tend to be quickly filtered out of circulation due to their inflexibility. Beyond moving closer to producing fully synthetic blood, the findings could offer approaches to treating cancer. Cancer cells are softer than healthy cells, enabling them to lodge in different places in the body, leading to the disease's spread.

Particles loaded with cancer-fighting medicines that can remain in circulation longer may open the door to more aggressive treatment approaches. "Creating particles for extended circulation in the blood stream has been a significant challenge in the development of drug delivery systems from the beginning," said Joseph DeSimone, co-author of the study. "Although we will have to consider particle deformability along with other parameters when we study the behavior of particles in the human body, we believe this study represents a real game changer for the future of medicine."

Professor Chad Mirkin, from Northwestern University in Chicago and one of US President Barack Obama's science advisers, said the ability to mimic the natural processes of a body for medicinal purposes has been a long-standing but elusive goal for researchers.
Fate of IISER students hangs in the balance

Law empowering the institutes to grant degrees yet to be made

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: The fate of students of the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) — designated as institutes of national importance — hangs in the balance in the absence of a law that would empower them to grant degrees.

Having failed to bring in a law to govern the IISERs for five years, the Human Resource Development Ministry has put the students in a fix, particularly those who pass out from the IISERs at Kolkata and Pune this May.

The IISER Kolkata has 38 students who would complete their five-year integrated undergraduate and postgraduate programme, while 44 will complete their course from the Pune campus. Many of the students enrolled here had left their engineering courses in other institutes.

The Ministry hurriedly moved an amendment to the National Institutes of Technology Act, 2007 in April last to bring the IISERs under its purview. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on HRD presented its report to Parliament on November 25 last year, but since the entire winter session of Parliament was washed out in the wake of 2G spectrum allocation scam issue, the amendment Bill could not be passed.

If Parliament does not function in the budget session also and the government is unable to pass the amendment Bill, the students will not get any degree — at least for now. Also, the government cannot bring in an ordinance at this stage since the Bill is under consideration of the House. It may not be “unconstitutional” but could amount to breach of privilege of the House.

Directors of some of these institutes told The Hindu on condition of anonymity that the HRD Ministry told them that they could confer degrees through an executive order. However, the Ministry has no power to issue an executive order to grant degrees, and neither have the IISERs applied for the deemed university status so far. Even if they do so now, the process may take several months.

Announced in 2005, the five IISERs were aimed at promoting research in basic science and were put on par with the Indian Institutes of Technology. The IISERs at Kolkata and Pune started functioning in 2006 while those at Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram came up subsequently. The admission to these institutes is done through qualifying the IIT-JEE or Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana or the applicant has to be among the top one per cent of students in Class XII examination of CBSE or State Boards.

A similar situation had arisen in the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing at Jabalpur but it has since been granted a deemed university status and can confer degrees.
Five reasons to scrap this right

The Right to Education Act may be a well-meaning step, but it suffers from a number of serious flaws that will poison the ecosystem by sabotaging other ways to get India educated, says Manish Sabharwal

I
t is said that one of the most damaging virtues of George W Bush was his steadiness: he believed the same thing on Wednesday that he believed on Monday — no matter what happened on Tuesday. Unfortunately, the well-meaning or self-interested people — these are the only two kinds pushing for swifter implementation of the Right to Education Act (RTE) — seem to share this dangerous steadiness despite new information. As state governments start codifying the details or plumbing of RTE, I’d like to make the case that the RTE must be scrapped or substantially modified before it causes permanent damage because of five reasons: capacity, cost, competition, corruption and confusion.

As a company at the exit gate of the education system — we have hired somebody every five minutes for five years but only 3% of the kids who came to us for a job — we see and suffer the tragic consequences of India’s education emergency. True impact in public policy — unlike election campaigns — does not lie in poetry but in plumbing. So let’s look at the plumbing of RTE through its consequences.

Lower capacity: RTE timetables the extinction of 25% of India’s 15 lakh schools that are ‘unrecognised’. These mostly low-cost schools have been an entrepreneurial response to parental choice — the antibiotic reaction to dysfunctional government schools chronicled in The Beautiful Pest by James Tooleley. Our demographic dividend — 10 lakh people will join the labour force every month for the next 20 years — would have been a bigger nightmare if these private schools had not substituted for the missing state in the last 20 years. And while it is a lie that all these schools deliver quality, it is true that a bad school is better than no school. To paraphrase a beheaded French queen, this provision of RTE effectively says “if you can’t have cake, don’t eat bread”.

Higher cost: RTE essentially mandates a huge rise in school fees. It micro-specifies salaries, qualifications and infrastructure. Delhi schools that don’t pay a minimum of ₹23,000 per month to teachers will not receive recognition and specifies that primary teachers must have a two-year education diploma: this means that 35% of teachers have to be fired. RTE specifies that every school must have a playground: Delhi specifies 900 sq yards but I know a state that is considering 1,500 sq yards. The 25% children from disadvantaged groups will require massive cross-subsidisation because state governments propose to reimburse way below cost, e.g. Karnataka caps it at ₹7,000 per student per year. All this micromanaging of schools — to the delight of teachers and the real estate mafia — hits middle class parents with higher prices for essentially the same quality product.

Lower competition: A big driver of higher quality and lower costs in higher education has been competition. The 70% vacant seats of 1 lakh capacity IIT, Technological University are forcing engineers to offer free hostels, English training, only M.Tech faculty, and much else. About 15,000 of the 45,000 Karnataka MBA seats are vacant, these colleges are reducing fees, guaranteeing internships and embedding soft skills in their curriculum.

RTE makes it impossible for education entrepreneurs to compete on price since many states propose to regulate fees and uncertainty has paused the Cambrian explosion of energy in school entrepreneurship. This means lower capacity and lower competition. And that means schools don’t have clients, but hostages.

Back dropouts: How will teacher student ratios be calculated? The BEO, long a thorn in the flesh, now has powers to be a dagger in the heart. RTE provides the BEO’s ability to convert every school into a personal ATM. Not all, but most will.

More confusion: Does changed evaluation mean no exams? What does immunity for government bureaucrats mean? Is incompetence a good faith? How will mid-day meals be handled for the 25% in private schools? Where will these 25% go after Grade VIII? Will the 75% parent-populated government school management committees have the power to hire and fire teachers?

RTE prohibits schools from admission procedures and forces them to select students on a random basis within a policy that ‘includes criteria for the categorisation of applicants in terms of the objectivity of the school on a rational, reasonable and just basis’.

By definition, don’t random, rational, reasonable and just mean different things to different people? Why take away the right to detain or expel till Class VIII? Can we be equal and excellent?

RTE does not pass the Hippocratic Oath of every doctor, ‘above all, cause no harm’, and has three birth defects.

First, the doctors in this case — civil servants — are unwilling to take the medicine they prescribe as they shamelessly and explicitly exempt the government schools they run (70% of all schools) and the walled gardens where their children study (Kendriya Vidyalayas and the elite Sanskriti that is now national) from RTE. Second, RTE values hardware over software but what can easily be measured may not matter. Third, as enrolment ratios cross 100% it fights yesterday’s war of quantity and fails to focus on quality and learning outcomes.

We don’t need more cooks in the kitchen but a different recipe. RTE not only fails this test but poisons the ecosystem by sabotaging other ways to get India educated.

(The author is chairman, Teamlease Services)
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IIMs' student exchange programme grabs increasing eyeballs

Sreejitha Mitra

Bangalore

THE student exchange programme at the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) is grabbing eyeballs with the number of management graduates and students opting for these programmes having almost doubled over the last year.

The reason behind this significant jump has been doubly attributed to the keenness on global exposure as well as the swiftly changing work scenario.

Global exposure is considered invaluable to any management graduate as even employers prefer students with some experience working in a cross-cultural environment, says Ganeshak Lakhwani, student exchange programme representative at IIM Calcutta.

At IIM-C, the number of students going to foreign universities for the three-month programme has shot up to 95 as compared to the 60 students sent last year. Similarly, the number of foreign students joining the campus has risen to 56 from 49 students in 2009-10 academic year.

“Exposure to a globalised world always works in the favour of the students and therefore with every passing year, we see a growing demand to participate in this programme. Students looking to grab jobs in foreign locations find this programme beneficial as along with the work experience they are also exposed to cross-cultural activities,” explains Sanjay Kumar Singh, chairman, student exchange programme at IIM Lucknow.

The institute has sent 52 students this year as compared to 43 last year. The final year students take part in the exchange programme which runs usually between September to December every year.

At IIM-Bangalore, the situation is no different. A total of 106 students were sent on exchange programmes against 94 students in 2009-10. The number of incoming students also rose to 136 this year from 117 last year.

According to Sabarthan S, associate professor and chairperson, office of international affairs, IIM Bangalore, there was a dip in the number of those applying for the course in 2009-10, probably reflecting the overall economic situation when the students made their choices in early 2009. The situation, he says, is now reverting to normal.

Interestingly, the feedback from incoming exchange students indicates a very high level of interest to gain direct exposure to India and/or China during their MBA programme. Also a segment of students prefer shorter, alternative formats over regular full-term student exchange programme. This helps them to gain international exposure without having to miss a full term at their home institution,” he pointed out.

France, Germany and the USA see the highest flow of exchange students from IIM-B. Others opting for the exchange programme include students from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland.

IIMs across the board send about 300 students for this foreign exchange programme every year and are also looking to increase the number of seats in the coming years.

Debashish Chatterjee, director of IM-Auti, said that the institute’s count of students opting for the exchange programmes has doubled. “These three months experience allows a student to acquire business knowledge in a different context. We have sent 25 students last December and we expect this number to cross 50 in the coming academic year,” he points out.

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HOT SHOTS OF 2011

Recession has changed the job market over the last two years. With fear in mind, future aspirants have many doubts about the safest job route they should take now. NIDHI MITTAL tells you about the six safest and most rewarding sectors in India this year.

In the past two years, the job market has been hit by a recession, making it difficult to find work. However, there are still some sectors that are relatively stable and offer good job opportunities. Here are the six sectors that are expected to have the most job openings in the near future:

1. Technology: The technology sector is expected to continue to grow, with companies looking to hire more IT professionals to keep up with the demand for new technologies. This sector is also known for offering good salaries and benefits.

2. Healthcare: The healthcare sector is expected to see growth as the population ages and demand for healthcare services increases. This sector is also expected to have a high demand for skilled professionals.

3. Finance: The finance sector is expected to continue to grow, with banks and financial institutions looking to hire more employees to handle their growing portfolios.

4. Retail: The retail sector is expected to continue to grow, with more people looking to shop online. This sector is also expected to have a high demand for skilled professionals.

5. Energy: The energy sector is expected to continue to grow, with more people looking to use renewable energy sources. This sector is also expected to have a high demand for skilled professionals.

6. Government: The government sector is expected to continue to grow, with more people looking to work in the public sector. This sector is also expected to have a high demand for skilled professionals.

These sectors are expected to have the most job openings in the near future. However, it is important to note that the job market can be unpredictable and that there may be other sectors that may also have job openings. It is important to keep an eye on the job market and to stay informed about the latest trends and developments.
युवा ऊर्जा को ताकत में बदल दालो

अनगिनत देरी के पुकारात्मक चित्र एक युवा देश है। काफ़ी 40 पीसी के अंतर्गत 20 साल से कम उम्र की है, लेकिन इस पुकारात्मक का नया महान भावना संदर्भ में पढ़ाई, तीन दिन में सर्व ही निराकरण जीवन के असूची से गुज़रते हैं। 4 तक से 14 साल के बच्चों को गुज़रते हैं। इसका देश के अलग अंतर्गत एडीएडो, अर्जुन एडो जैसे संस्थाओं में शुरू है, लेकिन उसका देश में इसका तीन सफ़लता की उपलब्धि के साथ आता है। स्वतंत्रता में अपना काम करने वाले के लिए उद्धरण लागू है। पत्रकारों का भी उन पर काम पूरा होता है।

भारत का इतिहास जीवन की यह उदय नहीं रहता है। एक जो इतिहास हर किसी तक नहीं पूरा है और जिन लोगों के पास पुर्ण है, वह उसका उदय समस्तीय संकल्प के जनता जीवन पर आधारित चलता है।

पत्रकार और युवा अभिकल्प भी यहाँ है। हैरानी और इतिहास के अंतर्गत यह देश में इंसान के साथ और आधुनिकता का समाप्त नहीं होता। इसलिए इसका चिंतन से इसका मुद्दा पर अपना चिंतन नहीं जाता। इसलिए सातीशचन्द्र ने वह नहीं लिखा है, कि इसका सातीशचन्द्र ने इसका सातीशचन्द्र ने इसका सातीशचन्द्र ने इसका सातीश ने इसका निर्देशन के लिए होता है। इसलिए इस का निर्देशन के लिए होता है।

युवा ऊर्जा को ताकत में बदल दालो

हर छात्र आईआईटी से निकलकर मलदनशाल मौलिक कृतिप्रबंधक के नीचे पाना चाहता है।

समाज की व्यंग्य देना चाहिए, इस पर यह सोच नहीं पाता है। पुरुष समाज ही मनो-माइक्रो होता रहा है, युवा भी है समाज का हिस्सा है।

नस्लदार अध्ययन सही