IIT alumni write to PM, Sibal claims senates’ nod

New Delhi: A section of the IIT alumni wrote to PM Manmohan Singh on Tuesday opposing the common IIT-JEE exam from next year even as the government said that facts were being misrepresented.

Human resource development minister Kapil Sibal said that the decision had been taken by the joint council of the IITs, NITs and IIITs and had the support of four of the seven IIT senates. Sibal said that he had categorically said at the IIT council meeting that if “there is a single dissent” he will not go ahead with the proposal. “The council consists of the IITs, the IIITs and the NITs. There was not a single dissent. It was unanimously adopted. Therefore, I went forward,” the minister said.

I was not a government decision and all directors of IIT, NIT, and IIIT sitting together said that “this was a right decision”, Sibal said.

“There is a statute. Under the statute, there is a council. And a decision is taken under the statute by the council. I, as the minister, happened to be the chairman of the council,” he said. Sibal said out of seven, four senates agreed to the decision. Senates points were taken into account.

“Guwahati, Kharagpur, Madras and Roorkee were the four supporters of it. Incidentally, as far as Bombay is concerned, they also supported,” he said. IIT Delhi and Kanpur are opposed to the move. Incidentally, over 50 senate members from IIT Delhi have written to their director asking for a special meeting.

IRESH CONTROVERSY

“I had also said the views of the senate would be taken into account. And will move forward till their views are taken into account. Their views were taken into account,” he said.

Last week, Sibal had said that from 2013, aspiring candidates for IITs and other central institutes like NITs and IIITs will have to sit under new a format of common entrance test which will take plus two board results into consideration.
The IIT-Delhi Alumni Association has written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, attacking HRD minister Kapil Sibal over the national entrance test for engineering courses. In its letter to the PM, the association has said that “IITs are being destroyed by mindless tampering by people in the HRD ministry.”

The association has warned that decisions like forcing a common entrance exam for all engineering colleges not only affect the autonomy of IITs, but its world-renowned brand as well. The association has sought the intervention of the Prime Minister in resolving the issue. However, reacting to the letter HRD minister Kapil Sibal term said, “I have not failed on my promise. This is a misrepresentation of facts.”

“Had said even if there is one dissent in the IIT Council, will not take the proposal forward. This is not a government decision. It was a unanimous decision taken by the council,” he added. He said the council also had the approval of four of the seven IITs’ senates Kharaagpur, Guwahati, Roorkee and Chennai who are in favour of the new exam. “Incidentally, as far as Bombay is concerned, they also supported,” Mr Sibal added.

The association has been threatening to take the government to court for impeding upon the autonomy of IITs and introducing a national entrance test for engineering courses.
New JEE got council nod: Sibal

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Wednesday rejected criticism of a decision to have a common IIT-JEE examination from next year, stating that it was approved without dissent at an IIT Council meeting, and had the backing of the senates of four of the seven IITs.

Even as IIT alumni wrote to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh against the move, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal said, "The council consists of IITs, IIITs and NITs. There was not a single dissent. It was unanimously adopted. Therefore, I went forward."

According to sources, some ministerseven opined that IITs in the long term, should adopt the same format as other central educational institutions.

The states have been asked to convey their decision on the year of joining in the common admission process and the relative weightages to normalised Class XII Board marks, performance in JEE-Main and JEE-Advanced by June 30.

Sibal, however, was non-committal about a demand to make the selection criteria for IITs the same as that for other institutes.

WITH PTI INPUTS

JEE will hurt IIT autonomy, alumni tell PM

Hindu, ND 7/06/2012  P-14

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The Indian Institutes of Technology alumni association here has written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh seekig his intervention in keeping the IITs out of the purview of the joint entrance examination (JEE) lest it "undermine the autonomy" of the premier institutions and also "adversely impact" standards of students.

"Since you are the executive head of the country, we feel we shall be failing in our duty to the nation should we not apprise you of our concerns on this matter and earnestly expect a solution to the same in a democratic and transparent manner," said Somnath Bharti, co-ordinator, IITians for IITs Autonomy and president, IIT Delhi Alumni Association.

On May 28, Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal announced a JEE for admission to all undergraduate courses in engineering including the IITs, claiming all IIT Councils had agreed to the proposal. The IIT alumni and faculty, though, have been opposing it.

Responding to the developments, Mr. Sibal said five of the seven IIT Senates — the highest decision-making bodies — had supported the proposal. The only dispute was over IITs having control over the entrance examination, which has been agreed upon. The demand that school marks be not counted in, the final assessment for IIT admissions was also accepted. The IITians for IITs Autonomy, the support group by the IIT alumni, pointed out in the letter to Dr. Singh that the institutes were created by Jawaharlal Nehru to bring technological excellence and leadership for India.
IITs being destroyed by HRD Ministry: Alumni

Seek an urgent appointment with PM on JEE

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA
NEW DELHI

The alumni association of the IIT has written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, attacking HRD Minister Kapil Sibal over his one-nation-one-exam policy for engineering entrance. The association writes: "IITs are being destroyed by mindless tampering by people in the HRD Ministry." It also warned that decisions like forcing a common entrance exam for all engineering colleges not only affected the autonomy of IITs but also its standing as a world-class brand.

"Instead of working to improve school education, its standards have been lowered by eliminating Board examinations for Class X and now to improve the commitment of students to school education, steps are being taken which would in fact further lower the standard of intake to the IITs. The MHRD initiatives in 2005 lowered the standards of intake to the IITs. None of the reasons outlined for making these changes were achieved. Without analysing the same, changes now being pushed through in great haste, even though the Senates of IITs have opposed the same, will further create serious problems for maintaining the standards expected from IITs," the letter of the association said.

Continued on Page 4

IITs being destroyed...

From Page 1

Targeting Sibal, the association complained to the PM that the HRD Ministry in a recent meeting with the associations had agreed he would not go ahead with the new format even if there is one dissent. "But he went ahead in an autocratic manner," the letter said.

Seeking an urgent appointment with the PM for a solution in a democratic and transparent manner, the association said that IIT alumni across the world were deeply aggrieved with this situation and have given them the mandate to do all that is necessary to remedy the situation.

Sibal rejected criticisms of the decision to have a common IIT-JEE examination from next year, saying it was approved without dissent at the IIT Council meeting and had the backing of the senates of all of the seven IITs. "The council consists of the IITs, the IITs and the NITs. There was not a single dissent. It was unanimously adopted. Therefore, I went forward," the Minister

added out of seven, four senates agreed to the decision formally. Senates points were taken into account. Guwahati, Kharagpur, Madras and Roorkee were the four supporters to the plan. Incidentally, as far as Bombay is concerned, they also supported," he said.
Common entrance exam
- Respect IITs' autonomy

Our roads remain workable, thanks to the patchwork done here and there to avoid catastrophes. So can our higher education system, believes Human Resource Development Minister (HRD) Kapil Sibal, who is adamant about implementing the common entrance examination for all engineering colleges from 2013. This insistence on his part ensures that premier institutions like IITs resort to patchwork in a rush to implement his will. The faculty for 14 IITs, barring Guwahati and Patna, their administrative bodies and powerful alumni associations have opposed the decision of the minister, stating they are not prepared to implement the new one-nation, one-exam policy in a rush.

Every year over five lakh students take the entrance exam for 10,000 seats in IITs. The proposed common entrance exam will have two steps — 'main' and 'advanced'. The results of class 12 board exams will also play a decisive role. The ministry had proposed a 40:30:30 formula - with class 12 board results counting for 40 per cent, and the two stages of the entrance exam counting for 30 per cent each. However, IIT officials objected and won the right to form their own formula. Starting next year, IITs will give equal weight (50 per cent each) to class 12 results and to the performance of the candidate in the main exam. Some 50,000 short-listed students will then move on to the advanced exam.

The assurance given by Sibal that the common entrance exam will reduce the pressure on students and discourage coaching centres has met with resistance from the faculty of IITs. They say both the processes and content of the new examination will not be clear to them any time soon and insist that in no case the new system should be introduced before 2014. The HRD Ministry should at least respect the wisdom of existing institutions of excellence by not meddling in their autonomy to implement its 'political will.'
COMMON AMBITION

States' call for common entrance exam is a welcome move for both students and student quality

Following the IITs' May 28 decision to alter the structure of their entrance exam to include a subjective component, and taking into account the recommendations of the T Ramasami committee, calling for a common engineering entrance exam, all Indian states (bar one) have backed the new IIT Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) format and have called for a common entrance exam for all engineering colleges in the country. This proposed solution to the problem of falling standards of IITs and implementing a fair and equitable test, all the while trying to reduce aspiring students' stress, is a good one. A uniform national test will certainly make life easier for the students—at present, prospective engineering students have to sit for a large number of tests at national (eg, BITSAT, AIEEE), state (eg, Karnataka CET, CEE Delhi) and institutional (eg, IIT-JEE, Manipal UGET) levels. In total, there are around 150 different engineering entrance exams to choose from. Further, the renewed emphasis on the class XII board exams will undermine the growing influence of coaching centres—a key reason given for IITs' falling standards. And in favour of a subjective exam, is that coaching centres teach students to crack the multiple-choice exams without demonstrating their knowledge or ability.

According to the new proposed system, which most states say will be implemented by 2014, selection will be based on three parameters—the class XII board exam, the JEE main exam and the JEE advanced exam, with a 40:30:30 weightage, respectively. This might prove to be a rigorous and equitable solution, since the board exam ensures uniformity, and the multiple-choice main exam and subjective advanced exam both should ensure a high quality of students selected.
States ‘fail’ Sibal’s no fail policy

By Mail Today Bureau in New Delhi

The ‘No Detention’ rule under the Right to Education (RTE) came under attack from the states on Wednesday as they blamed the policy of unhindered promotion till Class VIII for adversely affecting the interest of students in academics.

The issue was raised during the 89th meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), the highest consultative body advising state and central governments on education, where the education ministers of several states such as Bihar, Assam, Tripura and Chhattisgarh used the platform to inform HRD minister Kapil Sibal that their students, especially from backward and rural areas, were not studying seriously as the Act fords detention.

“Parents in our rural and tribal areas are not taking the initiative to teach children at home as they knew the child won’t fail.” Chhattisgarh education minister Brittaman Agrawal said.

However, it seemed that the minister misunderstood some of the provisions of the Act as they revealed that the government schools have stopped conducting examinations, although the RTE Act does not mandate so.

“There’s no reason why they should stop conducting exams elsewhere in the Act is fordetention.”

The law only states that they cannot fail a student on the basis of an exam. It’s worrying if education officials are interpreting it wrongly,” CABE member and educationist Virod Raina said.

Nevertheless, the dissent spurred Sibal into setting up a committee under Haryana education minister Geetan Bhargava to “review the implementation of the Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE)” in the context of the ‘No Fail’ policy.

Sibal said after the meeting, commenting on the states’ misgivings, Arun Kapur, CABE member and Vaishnavae School director said, “Today we were reminded that policies are implemented by bureaucrats and politicians, not educationists. Maybe the ministry should train them.”

The CABE members also endorsed the concept of meta-university and the initiative to create a credit guarantee fund and have a corpus of 50,000 crores to ensure better flow of credit to students. Under this scheme, to 25 lakhs will be given without any collateral security and third party guarantee, only parents have to execute the loan documents as the co-borrower.

IT alumni criticise the HRD ministry's letter

Angry IITs write to PM

A RATHER caustic letter written by the alumni of IIT-Delhi to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Wednesday forced HRD minister Kapil Sibal to break his silence over the backlash from the IIT fraternity regarding the introduction of the common engineering entrance test from next year.

Dismissing allegations levelled against him, Sibal said the alumni and certain members of the faculty were misrepresenting facts and that everyone’s views were taken into consideration before the joint meeting of the council of the IITs, NITs and IIIs arrived at a decision. In the missive sent to the PM, the IIT-Delhi alumni have asked him to intervene, alleging that 15 premier engineering institutes are being destroyed by mindless tampering of people in the HRD ministry.

It further states “changes are now being pushed through in great haste, even though the senates of the IIIs have opposed the same.”

Mail Today
COMMON ENGINEERING EXAM

New and improved?

Here's a look at the proposed format of the common engineering entrance exam 2013 that will cover centrally-funded technical institutions in its first year.

Saurabh Khullar
paul.hindustantimes.com

The first edition of the common engineering entrance exam (JEE) was introduced last year. However, the format will now be revised for the second year of the exam. It is likely that the exam will now be conducted in two parts - one on the basis of the school board result, and the other on the basis of the JEE Main examination. The merit list will be based on the combined marks obtained in the JEE Main examination and the annual board exams.

In a nutshell:

JEE Main shall be conducted based on the "normal" school board marks and the marks obtained in the JEE Main examination. The merit list shall be based on the performance of the candidates in the JEE Main examination. The merit list will be based on the combined marks obtained in the JEE Main examination and the annual board exams.

The JEE Main examination shall be conducted in the following two parts:

1. Paper I: Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry
2. Paper II: Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry

The JEE Main examination shall be conducted in the following two parts:

1. Paper I: Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry
2. Paper II: Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry

What experts feel:

As far as conducting the test is concerned, the new format will take away the autonomous status enjoyed by JEE. The merit list will be based on the combined marks obtained in the JEE Main examination and the annual board exams. The merit list will be based on the combined marks obtained in the JEE Main examination and the annual board exams. The merit list will be based on the combined marks obtained in the JEE Main examination and the annual board exams.

If all the new system is to be implemented, it should be from 2014.

Suresh Bhardwaj, president, IIT Allahabad Alumni Association

The format to normalize Class 12 marks from different boards is not appropriate.

Suresh Bhardwaj, president, IIT Allahabad Alumni Association
THE no-detention policy for school children right up to Class VIII under the Right to Education Act as well as the CBSE’s Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) system came under attack from state education ministers Wednesday at a meeting of the newly reconstituted Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE).

Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Kapil Sibal announced that a CABE committee under the leadership of Haryana Education minister Geeta Bhukkal would assess implementation of the CCE in context of the no-detention provision in the RTE Act, hold talks with experts, and submit a report in three months.

However, Sibal emphasised: “The no-detention policy is probably not understood by schools as understood by us. Everyone agrees that not having board examinations is a good idea, but no examinations at all is not acceptable. Some people think no detention and CCE mean no exams—that is not the case.”

HRD Minister Kapil Sibal with Planning Commission member Narendra Jachav on Wednesday. RINU K PURI

IIT EXAM: SIBAL REGRETS ‘COMPLETE MISREPRESENTATION OF FACTS’

CABE MEMBER and activist Habnam Hashm alleged that schools in Gujarat have been refusing admission to Muslim children since the 2002 riots. Gujarat Education Minister Raman Lal Rama was quick to dismiss her allegations. Sibal refused to comment, asking Hashmi to send him data on the issue.

SIBAL REGRETTED that there was “completely misrepresentation of facts” on the new JEE format of common entrance exam and that it was “not a government decision” but one taken unanimously by the IIT Council. Speaking on the sidelines of the CABE meeting, he said that at the core were two points raised by IIT Senates—ensuring that the test for admission into IITs was controlled by IITs alone and that school board weightage should not be part of the final assessment. “These were their core demands and we have agreed to them. The only area where there was variance was that the Senates wanted the new exam format to come into effect only in 2014 while the IIT Council said they were ready to hold it in 2013 itself.”

Several ministers argued that not “failing” students as a matter of policy was affecting the quality of students and must be reviewed. Bihar Education Minister P K Shahi felt that the residing habit of students had suffered as a result, while Chhattisgarh’s Brij Mohan Agrawal contended that the impact was being seen in the “dwindling intellectual quality” of those clearing schools. Shahi said the system should be abolished and more attention given to exams.

While educationist Vinod Raina clarified that no detention did not mean no examination, Secretary, School Education, Anshu Vaish pointed out that detentions resulted in increased school dropouts.

Others, like Assam Education Minister Himanta Biswas, raised the issue of CCE implementation in the context of lack of teachers in rural areas. So there was little scope of implementing the CCE format—involving year-round assessment of student performance—Biswas said.

CABE, the apex educational body, also deliberated on the proposed National Mission on Teachers and finally resolved to set up a committee under HRD, MoS, D Purandeshwar to develop the mission framework. Sibal ruled that even candidates with B.Ed and D.Ed qualifications were unable to clear the Teachers’ Eligibility Test.

The Purandeshwari committee will especially look at ways to train teachers for inclusive education and for children with special needs. Disability activist Mithu Alur, who is a CABE member, had pointed out that its agenda had no mention of disabled children.
आईआईटी को बर्बाद करने पर तुला मंत्रालय

अमर उज्जाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय बिना सोचे समझे आईआईटी की स्वायत्तता में हस्तक्षेप कर इन संस्थानों की बर्बाद करने पर तुला हुआ है। आईआईटी एलुम्नाइ एसोसिएशन ने इंजीनियरिंग के लिए 2013 से कमांड प्रवेश परीक्षा को लागू किया जाने के फैसले के विरोध में प्रधानमंत्री मोदीन हिंद की पेजे रेत ने यह आरोप लगाया है।

एसोसिएशन ने कहा कि मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय एवेल्यू शिक्षा के स्तर को सुधारने के स्थान पर आईआईटी जैसी संस्थाओं की स्वायत्तता को अवैधातिक तरीके से प्रभावित कर रहा है। उन्हें यह तक पता नहीं है कि इस तरह के संस्थान कैसे शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में एक्सेलेंसी हस्तिल करते हैं तत्काल अमेजिंग लगाया गया है कि हाईस्कूल में बोर्ड परीक्षा की अनिवार्यता समाप्त किया जाने से शिक्षा का स्तर गिरा है और अब जो कदम (कमांड प्रवेश परीक्षा) उठाए जा रहे हैं वह पर आईआईटी के स्तर में भी गिरावट करेंगे।

एलुम्नाइ एसोसिएशन ने प्रधानमंत्री को भेजा पत्र में कहा है कि मंत्रालय प्रवेश परीक्षा में कोई आईआईटी एलुम्नाइ एसोसिएशन ने प्रधानमंत्री को भेजे पत्र में कहा है कि मंत्रालय प्रवेश परीक्षा में कोई आईआईटी एलुम्नाइ एसोसिएशन ने प्रधानमंत्री को भेजे पत्र में कहा है कि मंत्रालय प्रवेश परीक्षा में कोई आईआईटी एलुम्नाइ एसोसिएशन ने प्रधानमंत्री को भेजे पत्र में कहा है कि मंत्रालय प्रवेश परीक्षा में कोई आईआईटी एलुम्नाइ एसोसिएशन ने प्रधानमंत्री को भेजे पत्र में कहा है कि मंत्रालय प्रवेश परीक्षा में कोई आईआईटी एलुम्नाइ एसोसिएशन ने प्रधानमंत्री को भेजे पत्र में कहा है कि मंत्रालय प्रवेश परीक्षा में कोई आईआईटी एलुम्नाइ एसोसिएशन ने प्रधानमंत्री को भेजे पत्र में कहा है कि मंत्रालय प्रवेश परीक्षा में कोई आईआईटी एलुम्नाइ एसोसिएशन ने प्रधानमंत्री को भेजे पत्र में कहा है कि मंत्रालय प्रवेश परीक्षा में कोई आईआईटी एलुम्नाइ एसोसिएशन ने प्रधानमंत्री को भेजे पत्र में कहा है कि मंत्रालय प्रवेश परीक्षा में कोई आईआईटी एलुम्नाइ एसोसिएशन ने प्रधानमंत्री को भेजे पत्र में कहा है कि मंत्रालय प्रवेश परीक्षा में कोई आईआईटी एलुम्नाइ एसोसिएशन ने प्रधानमंत्री को भेजे पत्र में कहा है कि मंत्रालय प्रवेश परीक्षा में कोई आईआईटी एलुम्नाइ एसोसिएशन ने प्रधानमंत्री को भेजे पत्र में कहा है कि मंत्रालय प्रवेश परीक्षा में कोई 
देश में पहली बॉट यूनिवर्सिटी को मंजूरी, डीई, जेएनयू, जानिया और अईआईटी दिल्ली करेंगे संचालन
आदर्श वालों को मिलेगी बीटेक की डिग्री

वहाँ दिनों | विशेष लेखन
कलेक्टिव आर्यीय ऋषि कवितावादी ज्योति, विद्वान रहन्मुखी, यज्ञवल्लभ जी ने रचनात्मक कार्य का पूरा कर दिया है। अध्यात्म और वैज्ञानिक धर्म के मिलाकर उनकी रचना है।

यह वहाँ अपने जहाँ तक है, लेकिन एक या किसी दूसरी बॉट यूनिवर्सिटी के लिए आवश्यक होगा। यह बॉट तत्कालीन विश्वास का अनुभव है।

इसलिए, दुनिया में विज्ञानीय विकास का समय आया है।

मनुष्य संसाधन एवं कीटनाशक रोगों की चिकित्सा में नवीनता को रखने के लिए आगरा विश्वविद्यालय के दौरान, रोगों के लक्षण और उपचार का समय आया है।

कॉम्प्यूटर औद्योगिका संबंधी विषयों के लिए नवीनता की आवश्यकता आयी।

‘छोटे बच्चों के लिए उचित नहीं है कंप्यूटर शिक्षा’

जनता विश्वरूप

• रैली समाबेस के दौरान वो ने कहा कि प्रामाण्य से भी अधिक नजर नहीं।

• नागरिक समाजकर्ता ने उनके अनुसार भाभी हर पर कंप्यूटर शिक्षा का विषय लेकर एक दौरे का लॉग सादगी की मनोज व स्वागत की।

स्वतंत्रता समाज का दृष्टिकोण बताया गया।

Business Line ND 7/06/2012 p-1

PayPal zooms in on IITs for ‘hi-tech’ hires

T.E. Raja Simhan

Chennai, June 6

PayPal is on a hiking spree from the Indian Institutes of Technology. During its first campus recruitment, it hired 80 graduates from the country's premier institute.

This is one of the largest number of hires by a multinational product company from the IIT's this year.

The US-based company has around 2,250 employees in its Chennai centres. It plans to add another 900 people before the first quarter of next year. It has also announced the opening of a

Mr Anupam Pahuja, Head, India Development Centre, PayPal

Bangalore centre; nearly 1,000 employees will be working there in the next 3-5 years, said Mr Anupam Pahuji, Head, PayPal's India Development Centre.

He did not reveal salary details but industry sources said a fresher from an IIT would earn approximately Rs 7 lakh a year. The new recruits are ‘high-end technologists’ and will focus only on product development. This could be in areas such as payments architecture and middleware, he said. “From now on, we will visit the I Ts and other top engineering colleges every year,” he said.

On Monday, the new recruits joined PayPal's centre at Sholinganallur on Chennai's IT corridor.

An electronic board at the reception displayed the names of all the recruits, who also got lap tops on joining.

"They are an eight-week 'boot' camp with 12/14-hour daily training before being associated with various centres of excellence in centres at Chennai, San Jose, Boston or Shanghai.

DIGITAL WALLET

The Chennai centre contributes near 60 percent of PayPal's global product development work. eBay acquired PayPal in 2002. With 110 million active accounts in 190 markets and 25 currencies globally, PayPal enables global e-commerce. It acts as a digital wallet, where one can store all payment options, such as bank account and credit card.

Chennai used to be a delivery centre, taking orders from architects located in other centres.

However, things have changed now. The centre will now design, develop and deploy the products to be used globally.

On attraction, Mr Pahuji said it was 'unhealthy low' at around 4 per cent, while it is almost in double digits at other product companies. raja@ethereal.com.in
'We are also looking at tying up with Indian universities'

Resolution of the six-year battle between the US-based Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute and the All India Council for Technical Education has provided the much-needed relief to the former. Ashvin P. Vibhakar, its managing director, Asia Pacific Operations, tells Kalpana Pathak about the institute's expansion plans in India and how it is hoping for an early resolution of its case with ICAI University. Excerpts:

Did the AICTE verdict come as a surprise?
At AICTE, its new committee and a new administration, we have been continuously making our case on who we are and what we are, and comparing that against the regulations that they have. We are very thankful to AICTE for re-examining the situation. And it was the executive committee of AICTE which concluded that what we do, does not fit into the regulations. Thus, there was no reason for the court case and it was resolved.

What does this mean for you?
There are multiple things. From a candidate's perspective, there is no uncertainty now. Earlier, when we opened the registration for exams, candidates had no idea if we would get the nod to take the exam in India or not, as the court waited until practically the last minute to let us know. Our exam has a cost structure based on when you enroll for it. So, the impact on many Indian students was higher expenses. This will allow them to enroll early at a lesser cost and also they will have time to prepare for the exam. If you don't receive the material early enough, you will not be able to begin preparing early. Also, resolution of the case eliminates the problem of going to another country to write the examination.

This also means more investments in India?
One aspect is we are opening a test centre in Pune. This will take our test centres to 31 in India. We will continue to examine where candidates are coming from and add centres accordingly. The next potential centre could be in Gujarat.

On the academic front, we continue to work with the Securities and Exchange Board of India, and we have an agreement with the National Institute of Securities Market. We will be making investments in India to provide a better market and better transparency for a stronger market. We will see many such engagements going forward.

Do you plan to work with Indian varsities?
Yes. Other than tying up with our local member society and Sebi, we are also looking at tying up with universities. We recognise that universities as an academic entity cannot spend a lot on resources. One of the things we are trying to do is provide resources to faculty so they can see what CFA practitioners are thinking and how they can combine academic and practical material. We want to offer faculty members scholarship to do CFA programme. They can look at it, and combine with their academic literature in terms of how they teach and what they teach. I think we can create a better industry with better practice, and particularly emphasise on ethics, which is the last thing academics emphasise. That is an area we are looking at. We are also looking at engaging our practitioners with universities as counsellors and mentors. We are also examining what we are doing in other countries. So, we will be bringing that to India. We would also be giving away scholarships. With resolution of the AICTE case, we will be offering 200-215 scholarships.

Enrollment numbers for the CFA programme have been going up in the past years. Where do you see that going forward?
Well yes, the numbers should go up in the long run, but with some of the recent events in India, it is difficult for me to say what would happen. Three events which have taken place in the recent past in India may be negative for our business. One is the exchange rate. Since our cost is in dollar terms, the cost for Indian students have gone up due to declining exchange rate. Secondly, India's inflation and unemployment rate has gone up dramatically in the recent times. Also, the recent tax regulation has shaken the finance industry with many of the hedge funds leaving India. So, we are not sure what kind of an impact that will have on the finance industry, and we are cognisant of that. In the short run, the numbers may not go up but it may in the long run.

What is the update on your case with ICAI University?
We hope to have some news. We continue to work on that. We are much and much closer to a resolution. Our legal side and their legal side continue to work together.
India, US can cooperate in education

WASHINGTON, JUNE 3

AHEAD of the next week’s India-US education dialogue, the United States Education Secretary Arne Duncan has said there is chance to provide a much better education for thousands of young people in India.

"I think the challenges India faces are huge - make our look relatively simple. But, there's a chance to provide a much better education for hundreds of thousands of young people in India," Duncan told reporters at a White House news conference yesterday.

"Whatever we can do to help as they build the next system of community colleges as they scale up what's working, as American institutions start to set up campuses in India, we want to be a great partner," he said.

"I just absolutely believe that a rising tide lifts all boats. And the more young people across India are getting a world-class education, that's a great thing for your country and for ours as well," Duncan said in response to a question.

The Education Secretary praised his Indian counterpart, Kapil Sibal, the Human Resources and Development Minister.

"We have a great working relationship with my counterpart in India. He is a man, I think, of tremendous vision and courage," Duncan said.

Next week, Sibal and the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will host the next round of India-US Education Dialogue.

The Education Summit will focus on two key areas: advanced research and innovation and workforce development, specifically, community colleges, the Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Robert Blake said at this event on Monday.

"With respect to higher education and collaboration, I am delighted that we will announce during the Dialogue the first eight partnership projects to be funded jointly by the United States and India through the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative.

These three-year, approximately quarter-million dollar grants will be used for joint projects between American and Indian universities in the areas of food security, energy, climate change and public health, among others," Blake said at the event organised by the US-India World Affairs Institute.—PTI
Singapore is new B-school hub

Nearly 3,000 Indian students go to that country every year to pursue management courses

SINGAPORE, a small island with a 62 sq km area, about half the size of Delhi, is becoming a hot destination for Indian aspirants of management education and at the same time it is getting greater attention from the global educational fraternity.

Siew Khong Kang, Regional Director, Singapore Tourism Board says, "In its totality, there are about 70,000 international students in Singapore. About 3,000 Indian students go every year to study in Singapore. The number of such Indian students has been growing steadily by a 20 per cent year-on-year." A report by the British research institute, Observatory on Borderless Higher Education (OBHE) said education hub status has become an aspiration of many Asian governments, particularly in East Asia. "International business campuses are the most visible and crucial element of this aspiration," the OBHE said, adding: "The new data suggests that Singapore is meeting its aspirations most successfully." OBHE said the number of international branch campuses in Singapore "shot up" from 12 in 2008 to 20 in 2012. Newcomers include EDHEC Business School of France, Insead by the Monetary Authority of Singapore, UK's University College, London and Manchester and, from the US, MIT and Stanford research centres. Scotland's Glasgow and US Yale are also planning campuses here.

Proximity to India is one of the critical reasons for the popularity of Singapore, say industry experts. "Singapore is in close proximity to India, being a drug-free and low-crime country is the favoured destination in the eyes of the parents," said Naveen Chopra, chairman, The Chopra Consultancy, New Delhi. He said the cost of living and tuition fee was approximately 20-25 per cent cheaper as compared to other premium institutions like IIM and IIM C. At Asia Institute of Management, there has been a significant spike in the intake of Indian students over the past three years, especially in postgraduate programmes. Travis Koh, senior marketing & communication executive, said that, that an intake of 26 Indian students in 2009 in postgraduate programme, the intake increased to 60 students by 2012. "As the Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh Business School, MBA is the programme of choice among Indian students," said Koh.

He said apart from being a metropolitan city and one of the safest countries in the world, a recent listing by London-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) had ranked Singapore as the top Asian city for university education and 12th in the world. Another institute, Shanghai Management University (SMU), has also been a popular destination for students. SMU is one of the youngest universities to have been awarded long-term, five-year AACSB accreditation. In addition, we have an important partner in the Intensive but well-balanced business education, high quality of faculty members, a campus located in the heart of the business community facilitating close interaction with the business community and a diverse mix of nationalities," said S N Venkat, senior associate director, Office of Postgraduate Programmes. SMU also listed three parameters of understanding (QGS) in May 2012 with JIM, IIM Bangalore, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and IIMB, respectively. This one with the BSE Institute is for collaboration and conducting training programmes and research on Asia's financial and capital markets. The LoC with FT is to collaborate on conducting training programmes and research, while the one with IIM-H is for conducting joint research and publication. Venkat informed they had a 50 per cent increase in enrolment from 2011 to 2012, which includes Indian students as well. The exact figure for the number of Indian students on campus was not available. "Major Singapore companies recruit students in SMU. Some of our Indian students are back in India and are working for leading MNCs and Indian companies," he said.

He said Indian students have always sought SMU's programmes like MBA, Master of IT in Business (Financial Services). The fee for the full-time MBA programme is Singapore $70,000 (54.5 lakh). He said, Indian students have also explored new programmes like PhD in Business (General Management). As there is an overall growth in the number of masters programmes in SMU, there is an increase in number of students from other countries and other countries. He said, the fee for this PhD programme is Singapore $5,26,000 (43.4 lakh), excluding 7 per cent service tax. Industry experts believe systemic changes were also required with increased funding and support from the government. Another reason for the popularity of Singapore is its policy that is conducive to students. Singapore has undergone a dynamic change in its Private Education Act. It now requires all private education institutions (PEIs) to be registered with the Council for Private Education (CPE), a statutory board under the Ministry of Education, before commencing operations, said Chopra. The validity period of PEI registration status varies (one, four and six years), based on how well a PEI measures up to CPE's registration criteria. This provides private education institutions with the incentive to improve their standards to attain a longer period of registration. Shivani Dewan, country manager, Business of Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS), said PEIs, which want to take in international students, must meet even higher standards, laid down by the EduTrust, a quality-assurance mark of the CPE. "The EduTrust certification scheme awards three ratings: 'EduTrust Star for excellence', 'EduTrust' for satisfactory and 'EduTrust Provisional' for minimum level of performance. Till date, no institute has been able to achieve the EduTrust Star certificate. Institutes awards are made known publicly on the CPE website, so students can take the necessary precautions when choosing the private education institution to enrol in," said Dewan.

Another benefit from the introduction of EduTrust is the protection of students' fees. Private schools that are EduTrust certified can collect a maximum of 12 months fees, which will be protected. The fees will be kept either put into a Escrow bank account or the school will have to buy insurance from the insurance companies appointed by CPE. Over 600 private schools were forced to shut down over the past two years for not meeting the criteria stipulated by the Private Education Act. Now, only around 328 schools remain - one-third of the estimated 1,000 schools in December 2009 according to CPE.

However, experts say what proves to be a deterrent to students is the fact that Singapore does not allow them to work while pursuing their studies. This is to keep dynamics of their labour market intact. Also, the curriculum is so intensive that there is hardly any time for students to take up part-time jobs. Singapore doesn't have a central authority that accredits recognition to courses certificates or qualifications issued by PEIs.