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AIMING at building on their
global reputation and ranking,
the Indian Institutes of Man-
agement (IIMs) plan to woo
foreign students. Starting off
with a series of global road
shows to create a buzz around
the IIM brand, the business
schools will also introduce a
qualitative improvement in
the facilities offered at the
campus, so that it suits inter-
national students.

All the IIMs will be “en-
hancing facilities” in order “to
attract foreign students” over
the 12th plan period. Funds
for improving residential fa-
cilities at the premier B
schools will be sourced from
the University Grants Com-
mission or All India Council
of Technical Education
through interest free loans or
their own resources. The Hu-
man Resource and Develop-
ment (HRD) Ministry has
asked IIMs to send Detailed
Project Reports for this
makeover plan.

The IIMs have got a go
ahead to hold road shows
across the world. Each IIM is
in the process of finalising
date and venue of these road
shows with their Board of
Governors, said ministry offi-
cials. Incidentally, the IIMs
will also host the first IIM
World Conference in Kolkata
in May.

The ministry will hold a
meeting with all IIM directors
on April 1 on a range of issues,
including the foreign student
plan, the contentious draft
IIM Bill that seeks to confer
degree granting powers to all
IIMs and to set up a pan IIM
Council.

Also slated for discussion
is a proposal to set up an ac-
creditation organisation that
can conduct accreditation of
management institutes and a
national management acad-
emy to work on management
reform, focussing on gover-
nance, policy making, faculty
development, introduction of
global managerial standards
and global best practices.

The HRD ministry, it is
learnt, plans to take to the Fi-
nance Ministry a proposal for
tax breaks for philanthropic
contribution to public funded
institutions. Based on recom-
 mendations of a committee,
headed by IIM-Raipur chair-
man Hari Bhatia, fund raising
options like naming rooms/
classrooms after donors are
under active consideration.

In another move, aimed
as much at reform within the
system as at earning greater
international credibility, the
IIMs have indicated they are
agreeable to an external peer
review. The first such external
peer review will roll out soon.

The move to go global fol-
ows from the autonomy road
map for IIMs rolled out by the
HRD ministry in November
2011 permitting IIMs to admit
10 per cent foreign students.
To ensure that new IIMs
do not get left behind, the
HRD ministry has approved
a Rs 300 crore interest-free
loan to help them attract qual-
ity faculty and advised them to
opt for open course ware,
smart classrooms, sharing fac-
ulty and library resources.
The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are gearing up to make a bigger mark in the global arena in order to attract more foreign graduates and make the country’s top business schools operationally and financially more autonomous.

The IIMs plan to conduct road shows abroad to attract talent that will make the batch of students more diverse. Some foreign students are already studying at some IIMs, but the government expects the number will rise after the proposed law empowers them to award MBA degrees instead of the diploma currently offered.

The majority of the IIMs agrees that the power to grant degrees will make the institutes more attractive to foreign students. Currently, many foreign students come to IIMs in exchange programs and a few of them also take regular courses.

To cater to international students, the IIMs plan to upgrade residential facilities and the standards of faculty and academics, particularly at the new IIMs. This would be financed either through a grant from the UGC or through interest-free loans. The human resource development ministry is keen to set up a $300-crore fund to attract world-class faculty to the newer IIMs, government officials said.

The IIMs are also focusing on steps to become financially more independent. While older IIMs do not depend on annual budgetary support from the government, the new ones get government grants. The IIMs will consider recommendations of the committee headed by Hari Bharatia, such as naming classrooms and buildings after major donors.

The Bharatia committee had been appointed by former HRD minister Kapil Sibal to look into the aspect of fund raising as part of an effort to improve the autonomy of the IIMs. The IIMs have suggested that the HRD ministry should pilot a proposal to provide tax breaks for philanthropic contributions.

The IIMs have suggested that workshops be held for each of the institutes. International consultants such as William J Conner and Julian Marland, who have years of experience in improving the fund-raising potential of organisations, will conduct these workshops. IIM Raipur has already conducted a workshop on fund raising.

As part of its efforts to attract students abroad, the IIMs plan to bring out a management journal, IIM Business Review. This effort will be spearheaded by IIM Bangalore while IIM Calcutta will take charge of a world management conference to be held during May 31-June 1.

The heads of all 13 IIMs are scheduled to discuss these issues at a meeting with HRD Minister MPM Paulam Rajan on Monday. The issues include external peer review from attracting foreign students to improving fund raising capability to improving the quality of faculty and teaching. As part of a roadmap to greater autonomy, IIMs had agreed to institute a system of periodic external peer review. In the next few months, with the approval of the council of IIMs, the modalities for conducting such a review will be worked out.

The meeting will consider setting up a system of accreditation for management institutes. Though initially opposed to the idea, the institutes will strive to put in place an annual work plan to standardise and some standardisation of teaching hours to ensure maximum flexibility.
‘MIT can find solutions to key future challenges but need global partners’

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 26

WATER, food, energy, health, healthcare and manufacturing are the key challenges of the future, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology can help the world find solutions but not without the help of global partners, said Dr L Rafael Reif, president of MIT.

Addressing a gathering in Mumbai at an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) presided by Adi Godrej, Chairman, Godrej Group, Dr Reif spoke on “MIT: An Instrument for Inventing the Future”.

Dr Reif, president of MIT said he does not see a possibility of opening a MIT campus in India but he likes the idea of collaborating with people to build their own institute.

“Water could be the next oil,” said Reif adding that it's a looming geopolitical issue and MIT can work towards reducing the burden of water-borne diseases, making mega cities water sustainable, among others.

He highlighted issues of health, healthcare and manufacturing and emphasised, “we need global partners.”

Dr Reif is in India for a week to meet representatives from the government and industry to discuss and explore opportunities and areas around which MIT can collaborate with India.

He said that MIT has the potential to help invent the future as it is different and has a culture of research and invention.

He, however, added that while MIT’s problem-solving ambitions are global, it can’t solve them alone and needs global partners.

While the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been working in Singapore, Abu Dhabi, Russia and other countries in setting up their institute, he said that while he does not see a possibility of opening a MIT campus in India, he likes the idea of collaborating with people to build their own institute.

“It's conceivable that we can do something like that in India but it will be an Indian institute,” said Dr Reif.

Dr Reif said that India can do more on research and invention and it has the potential for it as it has human capital.
JEE’s online format finds favour with IIT aspirants

Students appearing for online test claim they get more time to prepare for entrance exam

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CHANDIGARH: Class 12 students about to appear for CBSE’s Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) have found a friend in the online format of the test. While many aspirants are gearing up for JEE’s offline exam on April 7, those who have opted for online tests from April 8 to 25 say they will get more time to prepare.

They feel they’ve got a breather, while their counterparts appearing for the offline exam are struggling to cope with the pressure after a series of exams since January.

Talking to HT, students say there has been no respite since January— they at first had to appear for pre-board exams in January, followed by practical exams in February. Class 12 exams in March and now the all-important JEE in April. Not to mention the combination of entrance tests they need to take just in case they don’t make it to JEE main.

Ayam Patti, 17, a student of Ajit Karam Singh International Public School, Sector 41 here, says he is taking the exam offline and fears the duration that students have got to prepare between the entrance and board exams is less this time.

“There is extra pressure on us to do well in the board exams as 40% weightage of our board result will be given at the time of the entrance. It is difficult for us now. Students wrapped up with the Class 12 examinations of the Central Board of Secondary Education on Monday.

Earlier, students concentrated more on engineering entrance examinations as compared to the board exams as their performance in the latter had no bearing on the entrance exam result. But now it is mandatory for students to do well in both the exams. The difficult part is changing track as the board exams are subjective, while the engineering entrance exam is based on objective questions,” says Ayam.

Most students Hindustan Times spoke to have opted to take the IIT entrance test in the online format this year. The main reason they cite is more time to prepare and flexibility the format offers. In the online format, aspirants get three exam dates to choose from.

Manpreet Kaur, a student of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Senior Secondary School, Sector 36, says though there is tremendous pressure on them to prepare for JEE, they are lucky to have a choice between the two formats of JEE. “Students who opt for the offline exam are generally those who are not as tech-savy. Coaching centres and schools should educate them on how to take the exam online,” Vincent Kumar, another IIT aspirant, agrees the online option gives students additional days to prepare. Anil Verma, the director of a city-based coaching centre, agrees that more students are opting for the online test. “It gives them the convenience to give the exam when they are prepared.”
Countdown to IIT-JEE

With IIT-JEE entrance exam just a few days away, students are studying hard to give their best.

AAKASH CHAUDHRY tells you that proper strategy and planning, especially during last minute helps ace the exam.

The final and crucial day has arrived and the IIT-JEE aspirants are all set to give their best shot as they know that this is the "big chance" for them. Nowadays, the IIT-JEE entrance exams are structured with respect to testing students’ aptitude, analytical, logical and reasoning skills. Therefore, it is imperative for students to plan a right strategy ahead of the test. Even though the syllabus of Class XII and the new IIT-JEE is similar, the pattern of the exam is quite different. Many students get jitters and go sleepless on the thoughts of understanding formulas, equations and theorems. Now that not many days are left, they don’t have to lose sleep and mind over what and how to study.

Here are some important tips and last minute strategies to make sure that you come out with flying colours.

**JEE MAIN**

**The JEE Main paper is an apt example of time management for exams. It’s crucial to optimise your performance by practising a good number of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs).** There are 90 questions in all to be done in three hours duration. So on an average, you must aim to devote two minutes per question. But there are questions which may consume more time than others. That means one must be able to solve some other questions in lesser time so as to manage time well. This could be achieved by going through a good number of MCQs.

**IMPORTANT TOPICS (MAIN)**

- **Physics:** You should have a clear understanding of Kinematics and Dynamics and it is essential to be able to solve a strong problem solving ability. Also, the Theory of Fields (Electromagnetism) is very important.
- **Chemistry:** Physical chemistry can fetch you good scores and hence all the units in it must be done carefully. Students tend to neglect Inorganic Chemistry but just a proper understanding of it can prove beneficial.
- **Mathematics:** Calculus forms a base for almost every part of mathematics. Other important and scoring topics are determinants, sequences, permutation and combination. The student must be able to relate the complex numbers with coordinate geometry and vectors. Three dimensional should be practiced to get that additional or compensating score.

**JEE ADVANCE**

**General preparation strategy**

For JEE (Advanced) one should build a strong foundation of concepts and developing skills to tackle numerical problems, that need calculations as well as a good aptitude. For this one needs to be thorough with theory pertaining to each topic, test the understanding of the theory by solving short answer type and assertion-reason-based questions. Also, the aspirant should be able to solve a good number of subjective type problems. This would certainly help in developing even deeper understanding of the subject. Finally, a student must practice a good number of MCQs to build up speed and accuracy.

**Topics of Importance**

- **Physics:** In addition to mechanics and electrodynamics, enough time must be allotted to heat and thermodynamics, optics and modern physics. These topics are generally the most neglected topics, which can prove to be fatal factors. But they are the easiest and scoring topics and share a good percentage of total marks of the exam.
- **Chemistry:** Enough time should be devoted to general principles of organic chemistry, as this will make the remaining part easy to comprehend. Physical chemistry is important as numerical problems asked from this section are scoring and not too difficult. Pay special attention to learn inorganic chemistry as there are many facts and figures to be remembered. One can learn this topic by continuous revision.
- **Mathematics:** One must be able to understand the relationship between various topics so as to know their importance. The knowledge and skills developed by understanding and preparing for Coordinate Geometry, can be used to solve problems in complex numbers. The knowledge of vectors is also very helpful in these topics. To solve problems of probability, the student must be strong in permutation and combinations. Formulas and problem solving skills developed by thorough practice of trigonometry are useful in almost all topics.

**LAST MINUTE TIPS**

- Don’t touch any new topic. This is the time to revise and go through already prepared topics. Taking up new topics will only lead to a panic situation. It’s advisable to be thorough with whatever you know from the previous examination.

- Be well versed with physics, chemistry, and mathematics. Keep a track of all the topics in the respective subjects, as there are certain topics that make for an entire subject. Application based chapters are very important to be looked upon. It is essential to pay equal weightage to physics, chemistry and mathematics as the exam constitutes questions based on the same. Always remember that you must prepare keeping in mind the exam notification, syllabus, pattern and importance of chapters so you can give special attention to topics of utmost importance.

Refer to NCERT Textbooks. Treat NCERT textbooks as a bible. Going through the concepts and key points of this textbook makes for a strong foundation for entrance exams. Several illustrated examples are very well explained to clear all doubts.

- Mock test papers: Run through last few years’ mock test IIT-JEE test papers. This will help you understand the pattern and complexity of an entrance paper. Also, practising them will enhance your skills to appear for the entrance exams. A student should have taken at least 15 to 20 full length tests before taking the actual exam.

- Rest and Relax: It is good to take some time off and do things that rejuvenate you and keep your mind cool. Watching a movie, meditation, jogging or playing football is advisable.

- Don’t lose mind and be confident: The IIT-JEE is just like any other exam. As long as you are doing your bit and keeping yourself disciplined & motivated about your preparation, clearing the entrance exam will appear to be a cakewalk!

The writer is Aakash Chaudhry, Director, Aakash Educational Services Ltd.
WELCOME TO JAMIA MILLA

The varsity plans to allow transfer of credits across departments and hold common entrance tests for a cluster of courses from 2013-14, says Gauri Kohli

When Delhi University’s Asish Arora, said Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) to fill in its form for the bachelor in business studies (BBS) programme, three years ago, he was amused to see the size of the campus. “The infrastructure is good too with lots of greenery around a heritage building. Being a Central university, JMI’s resources and potential are huge. I had a great holistic learning environment,” he says. Besides the excellent infrastructure, Jamia also has a lot to offer to its students, especially at the undergraduate level.

Options galore

Jamia offers as many as 31 bachelor’s programmes, which are a fine mix of science, commerce, arts and humanities. Shifting to a semester-based mode last year for its undergraduate programmes, this shift in curriculum assessment and academic structure has given students the option of twinning their courses. The varsity also introduced the credit transfer system last year.

What to expect

“With the students who come to Jamia to have a holistic learning experience. Not only are the courses twinned regularly to make them more contemporary but the subject sensitivities are also there in terms of social sciences and humanities and languages. There are plans to introduce it across faculties and departments from 2013-14. For example, a student who is majoring in history will be able to transfer credits from the Islamic architecture. Similarly, a civil engineering student can take electives in architecture and social sciences,” says SM Sajid, registrar.

Students can thus develop a multidisciplinary approach in their studies. All the departments and centres at Jamia are independent and run their own courses and exams of their syllabus, their own mode of evaluation etc.

Beyond books

JMI is popular for its outreach and extra-curricular activities. "Organized TEDx JMI, an event that included a series of talks on successful career switching featuring speakers from different fields, in 2013. The university organized its first cultural festival called Mirnas in 2013. The university's culture is very appealing and exposes you to interdisciplinary interactions," says Ayesha Hameed, an electrical engineering student.

Other changes

The university has restructured some of its courses recently. A MoU was signed with York University and a joint exercise conducted for re-mapping the course structure of the programmes on offer at Jamia’s School of Communication and Research Centre. Some of the diploma courses have been upgraded to degree courses for the next session. There are plans to hold common entrance tests for a cluster of courses as part of the university’s efforts to make the admission process smoother this year. For instance, three will be common entrance tests for courses offered at the Faculty of natural sciences such as physics, chemistry etc and the students will have to indicate their choice of preferences. "This will reduce the burden on the students who will have to take fewer entrance tests," says Jung.

The university got a grant of US$ 50,000 for girls hostel from the ministry of human resources development. "We are committed to providing living facilities, especially to girls on campus," adds Jung.

The International Summer School (ISS) was launched recently to bring students together from across the world. Each summer, the ISS will be in session for six weeks as a part of the university in association with the ministry of tourism. It offers intensive, undergraduate level course modules and experiences that focus on India and reflect the country's growing influence on the world stage. The programme will be divided into two components — a four-week academic session held on campus at Jamia and a two-week India experience which will be held after the academic session. This will include excursions to Agra, Jaipur and other locations and offer students the opportunity to volunteer for social causes.

The programme is meant for undergraduate and postgraduate students of all nationalities, including Indians. The courses on offer include MSc in economics and management, MBA in early childhood development. Recently, courses on Afghanistan studies and Chinese studies were also set up.

Courses on offer

- BSc (honors) in arts, BSc (honors) in science, BSc (honors) in pharmacy, BSc (honors) in technology
- BA (honors) in history, Arabic, English, French, German, Chinese, Japanese, Japanese
- MA (honors) in arts, BBA in business administration
- Master’s in business administration, Master’s in computer science and technology
- PhD in arts, sciences, arts, humanities, and social sciences
- Master’s in technology and MA in early childhood development.

The university also offers master’s, doctoral, certificate, diploma, advanced diploma, and postgraduate diploma courses in the regular and distance modes.

For more, visit jamia.ac.in
More than one hundred educators and experts from prominent Asia Pacific countries gathered at 8th Adobe Education Leadership Forum 2013 in Phuket, Thailand on March 20-22, 2013 and deliberated upon the need of modern learners vis-à-vis the unprecedented possibilities technology is presenting them with. The educators shared interesting anecdotes based on their experience and expressed a deep concern for exploring contemporary pedagogies in a technology-rich world.

Speaking on the subject ‘creativity no more an elective, it’s the future’, Peter McAlpine, senior director, education (APAC), Adobe, said, “Creativity is no longer an elective for educators, students and the education organizations. It is a mandatory requirement for a successful future. The classroom is evolving from the traditional notions of learning to a more creative platform of understanding. Educators and students are realising how knowledge is acquired and shared.”

Other senior officials from Adobe showed how the company partners with institutions around the world to support creativity at the heart of learning.

“Our digital platforms are enabling creative collaboration, making new learning tools possible and discovering new ways of measuring success. But in the process, we have to overcome a lot of challenges. The biggest of them is to change the mindset of educators who are reluctant to come out of their comfort zone to learn modern methods,” said Trevor Bailey, director, worldwide education, Adobe Systems Incorporated, United States.

Bruce Dixon, co-founder of Australia-based Anytime Anywhere Learning Foundation, raised a foundation, “Why aren’t we setting the bar higher, so that our students are able to show how ubiquitous access to technology allows them to be more creative, and build more powerful ideas from much broader, deeper and more complex experiences than has previously been possible?”

Educationalists feel that the modern teacher needs to connect with the communication tools that their students are using outside of school. Otherwise the disconnect between students and teachers will be detrimental to both the parties.

Today’s secondary and higher education students want to connect with content in a continuous manner with multiple screens and devices anytime and anywhere. Timelapse structures such as seven 45-minute periods from 8.30am to 3.30pm and up to seven different areas of unrelated content per day as well as rules like no access to smartphones in class heighten the disconnect between students and teachers,” said Tim Kitchen, director of learning technologies, St Bonaventure Grammar School, Australia.

He said further, “Today’s students want to share their ideas with their peers, their teachers and a worldwide audience. Structures like locking down control of internet downloads and uploads and using paper and pen as the main form of learning construction also encourage the disconnect.”

Amidst concerns for implementation of modern methods, many experts feel the need to maintain a balance between traditional and modern methods of teaching as both have their limitations. “When I teach my students through e-learning, I don’t get relevant feedback that I normally get from classroom teaching. Similarly learning from your peers is another excitement that modern teaching hasn’t,” said Tribh Roy Choudhary, senior director of products, Adobe Systems Incorporated, India.

Another Indian participant Nuriya Ansari, vice president, Learning Links Foundation, while speaking on creativity and technology — crossing the chasm, highlighted how on one hand, there are various initiatives in India driving the adoption of absolute cutting-edge technologies which nurture creativity, and on the other hand, there are issues of getting basic education to remote areas.