Newspaper Clips

April 12, 2011

Statesman kolkata 09.04.11 p-4

Delhi police asked to probe ED threat to IIT professor

NEW DELHI 8 APRIL: The Supreme Court today asked the Delhi police commissioner to apprise it of the action taken on the complaint of an IIT professor that he had been threatened by the Enforcement Directorate chief for writing to the PMO, accusing him (ED chief) of wrongdoing in the black money case.

The director of IIT-Kharagpur, Prof SK Dubey, told a Bench of Justices Mr B Sudershan Reddy and Mr SS Nijjar that he had lodged a complaint with the Delhi Police that he had been threatened by Enforcement Directorate chief Mr Arun Mathur for writing a letter to the Prime Minister.

His complaint has alleged that an ED official has threatened him for writing to the Prime Minister against alleged cover-up in money laundering cases. Ordering the city police commissioner to probe into the allegation, the apex court bench directed him to file an affidavit stating what action has been taken on the complaint by 15 April when it is slated to hear the matter.

The court asked the police commissioner if an FIR (first information report) was filed on the basis of Dubey's complaint sent by e-mail to him and the south district deputy commissioner of police. In his e-mail, Dubey had expressed concern over the safety and security of his family members.

Prof Dubey is one of the petitioners along with former super cop Julius Riberio, and former chief election commissioner JM Lyngdoh, who wrote to the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, over the alleged involvement of Arun Mathur and other ED officers Prabha Kant and SK Sawhney in the cover-up. They are seeking investigation into the issue of black money deposited in banks abroad and their retrieval. The letter, according to the petition, said that Mathur and other officials should not be associated with the probe into money laundering through foreign banks based in tax havens.

The court was told that Prabha Kant met Dubey and asked him to withdraw the letter, failing which the ED director would send the police and the Intelligence Bureau after him. An additional affidavit filed before the apex court said that Kant repeatedly dropped the name of Arun Mathur as he kept on threatening Dubey. Taking a serious view of the threat by the official, the court said, "What has been stated in the affidavit is very serious. We are concerned about it. These things can't be allowed... more so when the hearing of the matter is going on." The Bench asked the Centre and the ED to respond to two affidavits filed by another petitioner Jasveer Singh, pointing out allegations against Mr Mathur and his two associates Kant and Sawhney. **sns**

Financial Express ND 12/04/2011 p-1

India takes a leaf from HBR, moots IIM Business Review

Kirtika Suneja
New Delhi, Apr 11

THE country would soon have a desi version of the iconic business management magazine, the *Harvard Business Review* (HBR). While the initiative has come from the human resource development (HRD) ministry, the magazine would be brought out jointly by the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and will most likely be called *IIM Business Review*. The first such publication is expected to be out by the end of the year.

The magazine would be a quarterly and comprise research papers and case studies from across the IIM system. The journal will be for general publication and draw in the best papers from all the IIMs. Though it is intended to be self-funded, the ministry is planning to kick-start it by offering a start-up grant, which could be around ₹1 crore.

The *Harvard Business Review* looks at all facets of management education like innovation, leadership, change management, business performance, strategy and research.

Apart from mooting an annual IIM World Research Conference, the Ajit Balakrishnan committee report on faculty and research in IIMs too has suggested the production of such a journal, the management of which should be handled by different IIMs in rotation.

"Though some background work has started on the journal, it will not be easy to bring it out as its structure and content are yet to be decided and it needs intellectual and good quality work. Moreover, all the old IIMs have their own journals, so to bring out another one will need simultaneous work on both of them," said an IIM director.

In fact, the IIM review committee headed by RC Bhargava, chairman of Maruti Suzuki, said that the IIMs have come in for criticism because they lag behind leading global business schools in publishing papers in internationally peer-reviewed management journals. The committee's report had stated that the quality and quantity of research papers from the IIMs were not commensurate with their status and did not enable the IIMs to become thought leaders. "The system does not encourage, or provide incentives to the faculty, to give greater attention to research and publishing papers," the report had said.

Even the rankings done by international business journals include the percentage of faculty with PhDs, opinion of recruiters and the extent of faculty research published in international peer-reviewed management journals, due to which till some years back the IIMs, India's top B-schools, didn't figure in such rankings.

Balakrishnan, the chairman of IIM Calcutta, had also suggested arranging two-three week-long interactions with successful practising managers who have innovated management.

Besides launching the magazine, the IIM council is also considering a proposal for a fellowship programme in management and making research less dependent on external scholarship.

This is because the expense of funding doctoral programmes is substantial, with the cost for each four-year doctoral student in the IIMs coming at approximately ₹30 lakh in revenue expenses, apart from the capital investment required on providing on-campus housing and library facilities.

The report has also suggested that IIM faculty should serve on company boards and policymaking committees of industry associations like CII and Assocham, among others.

NEW CHAPTER

- Research papers and case studies from IIMs
- Quarterly to be produced by IIMs in rotation
- Management magazine to be self-financing
- HRD ministry to offer startup grant of ₹1 crore
- Magazine to come out by the end of this year

DIT policy for mobile governance

The department of information technology is formulating a policy framework for mobile governance. The framework looks largely at ways in which mobile phones can be used to provide government services, reports **Kirtika Suneja** in New Delhi. As part of the policy, all government websites will be made mobile enabled and a Mobile Service Delivery Gateway will be developed. This will be fully integrated with existing infrastructure created under the National e-Governance Plan and all ministries and departments will be able to start offering their services on this platform. **Details on Page 3**

Hindu ND 12.04.11 p-1

Court reprieve for 44 deemed universities

Allowed to admit students for the academic year 2011-12

J. Venkatesan

- New panel gets 6 weeks to examine responses submitted by the DUs
- Four weeks thereafter, the reconstituted panel shall submit a report

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday gave a reprieve to the 44 deemed universities (DUs) facing de-recognition on the basis of the deficiencies pointed out by the Tandon Committee, by extending the status quo order (viz., restraining the government from taking further action on the basis of the report). This would mean that these DUs would be at liberty to take admissions for the academic year 2011-12.

A Bench of Justices Dalveer Bhandari and Deepak Verma also directed the Centre to reconstitute the three-member committee to examine the responses submitted by the DUs to the deficiencies pointed by the Tandon Committee. The Bench passed the orders on the writ petition filed by JRN Rajasthan Vidyapeeth Deemed University challenging the three-member committee headed by Ashok Thakur to examine the responses after senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for the petitioner, pointed out that one of the members, Sunil Kumar, had requested the government to relieve him.

Additional Solicitor-General Indira Jaising read out a brief affidavit on behalf of the Human Resource Development Ministry that the responses would be examined by the three-member committee and thereafter they would be sent to the Tandon Committee for its comments vis-à-vis the deficiencies. Thereafter each institution would be heard and orders passed.

Mr. Dhavan objected to this method contending that since the basis of the Tandon Committee's report had been questioned, the same committee should not examine the report of the expert panel, which should submit the report directly to the government. He also wanted Mr. Sunil Kumar to be replaced by another suitable person.

The Bench, in its order, said: "In our considered view, the HRD Ministry ought not to have insisted on Mr. Sunil Kumar to be a member of the committee when he himself did not want to be a member. We direct the HRD Ministry to appoint another member in the place of Mr. Sunil Kumar."

The Bench said the new committee would give a hearing to the 44 DUs and submit its report to the government. Looking at the urgency, the Bench granted six weeks for the committee to examine the responses of the DUs and four weeks thereafter for submission of the report by the committee and the recommendations on the report by the government. Justice Bhandari made it clear to the ASG that it would be open to the government to recommend the JRN Rajasthan Vidyapeeth Deemed University for upgradation to category 'B' (according to the Tandon Committee colleges in category B can continue to have DU status and were granted three years to rectify certain requirements) from category 'C'. The government would then be left with only a few institutions and their cases could be taken up separately, he said. The Bench directed the matter for further directions on July 19 along with advocate Viplav Sharma's main writ petition, on which earlier orders were passed.

Times of India ND 12/04/2011 P-19

A phone app that calculates calories through food pics

New York: Worried about how many calories you are going to consume in that slice of pizza, chocolate cake or bag of fries? A new iPhone application may help.

After taking a picture of the meal with the phone, the app gives a calorie read-out almost instantly. The app, called MealSnap, was developed by DailyBurn, a fitness social network that has created several other fitness and diet-related iPhone applications.

Within minutes of taking a picture of a meal and matching it to a database of some 500,000 food items, the app sends users an alert with a range of calories for the meal that was photographed.

"The database can quickly help identity the food, how many calories there are, proteins, fat, carbs, vitamins, whatever you may want to know," said DailyBurn CEO Andy Smith. "Users can then choose to share what they've eaten on Twitter or FourSquare, leading to social accountability."

PICTURE THIS

Smith added that calorie counting can be a very time consuming process. But the app makes it easier to track the calories in food.

"The pure act of tracking something can cause a psychological change that can help people on their health and fitness journey," he explained. "Just the simple fact of logging it makes me more aware of what I'm eating."

Additionally, MealSnap can serve as a food diary, allowing users to keep a visual log of the meals they have eaten. "It's like a food journal, but easier. All you do is take the picture," Smith said. MealSnap is available on the iTunes store for $2.99. REUTERS

Spinoff of space programmes: 'Heavenly' gadgets

Paris: What do ceramic teeth braces, artificial hearts, airbags, insulin pumps and Olympics-calibre swimsuits have in common? Answer: they originated in space.

All these gadgets and hundreds more are spinoffs from technologies developed for the multi-billion-dollar space programmes that kicked into high gear 50 years ago when Yuri Gagarin became the first human catapulted into orbit.

Many of these offshoots began with a quest by American, Soviet and European engineers for materials that could perform new tasks or withstand extreme temperatures, cosmic rays and the stresses of high or zero gravity. So-called memory metals, for example, that flex and recover their shape in response to heat are used for shower valves to prevent scalding, surgical staples and tubing for reinforcing arteries called stents. Sharper-than-steel scalpels, medical implants and even performance-enhancing golf clubs — stronger than titanium as elastic as plastic — are today derived from a related class of space-age alloys called liquid metals. Likewise the flexible wire rims of your sunglasses... which may also feature a glass coating, developed to protect astronauts' eyes from glint and glare. Often the product seems quite remote from the technology that spawned it.

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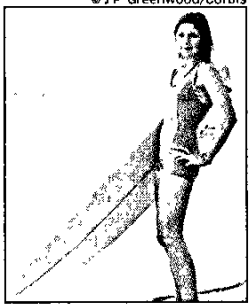


COLLATERAL BENEFIT

When swimwear maker Speedo set about making a faster suit, it turned to experts at Nasa Langley Research Institute, who had specialised in studying friction and drag. The resulting LZR line, launched in February 2008, quickly became de rigueur for competitive swimmers. AFP

Scientists discover 3rd cannibal virus in Antarctica

Washington: Scientists claim to have discovered a cannibal virus that "eats its own" and encourage faster growth of the host algae population in Antarctica. An international team, led by prof Rick Cavicchioli of University of New South Wales, has found the virus, called Organic Lake Virophage or OLV, in a hypersaline lake near the Davis station in the white continent, the 'Proceedings of the National Academies of Science' journal reported.

The virus is only the third "virophage" discovered. The first one, called Sputnik, was discovered in 2008 and the second one, Mavirus, was discovered earlier this year. Viruses reproduce by infecting host cells and using cell's molecular machinery to make multiple copies of their own genome and to package these genomes into protein shells. A virophage is different in that it targets a host cell that is already infected by a "regular" virus.

Prof Cavicchioli's team found OLV associated with a group of giant "phycodnaviruses", or PVs, that infect algae and consequently help control algal blooms. PTI

Times of India ND 12/04/2011 P-1

DU to change admission norms, principals worried

Colleges To Announce Own Cutoffs

Neha Pushkarna | TNN

New Delhi: From this year, there will be no forms for applying to the various courses and colleges in Delhi University. The admission process is set to go through a sea-change from 2011-12 session as DU is doing away with the current application process.

Instead, colleges would

▶5 cutoff lists, P 2

be announcing cutoffs on the basis of their past experiences and students who have made the cutoff would be applying to the college of their choice. The university is likely to notify the new system within the next two days while the cutoffs may be released only after June 15.

Although the process appears simple at first look, several college principals visualized complications. They said cutoffs would now be done on guesswork and if a college didn't guess right, it would have to take in many more students than it can accommodate.

The ostensible reason for the new system is to save time and the time saved would be used to finish semester teaching. DU received around 1.2 lakh OMR (centralized) forms last year for a total of 54,000 undergraduate seats.

DU officials announced this decision to principals of its constituent colleges in a three-hour meeting held on the North Campus on Monday. DU V-C Dinesh Singh told TOI after the meeting, "We will shortly announce a new process for applying to colleges which has been designed to ensure greater transparency and efficiency. Students will be put through far less trouble. Our decision will be notified in a couple of days." Stunned principals raised doubts about the feasibility of the process, but DU officials assured that the process will save time and make it much easier for students.

No Forms, No Pain?

- DU is doing away with the application process for admission to colleges from 2011-12 session. The varsity is likely to notify the new procedure by Wednesday
- Students will no longer need to fill any forms – neither will there be any centralized OMR form nor will colleges be allowed to give out individual forms
- Colleges have been asked to work out cutoffs on 'past experience' which will have to be approved by the university before being made public
- Aspirants will have to wait till the cutoffs are released by the colleges. This is likely to happen only after June 15
- If a candidate meets the cut-off criterion in any college, he/she can just walk in and claim admission
- Colleges will not be allowed to keep any other eligibility riders for general students. DU plans to form a monitoring cell for this purpose
- SC/ST admissions will follow centralized procedure as in previous years

Times View

This is a step backward. Without a centralized admission system, colleges will now have to announce cutoffs on guesswork. This could lead to colleges underestimating the cutoff and ending up having to admit many more students than it intends to. That would erode the quality of teaching. It seems the university brass has made introduction of the semester system a prestige issue and is willing to do whatever it takes to ram it down the throats of the teachers. The victims, in the process, are the students who are suffering for no fault of theirs.

Pioneer ND 12/04/2011 p-9

Space race: From orbit to the Moon

During the 1960s the US and Soviet Union were locked in battle to become the world's leading space power. **Konstantin Bogdanov** recalls the competitive journey of both the nations to space

In the 1960s, the United States and the Soviet Union were locked in a fierce battle to become the world's leading space power. Countless books and memoirs (mostly contradictory) have been written on the space race's tortuous beginnings, but without understanding the spirit of the times and the limits of what was considered possible then, it is impossible to grasp the significance of the first manned spaceflight and all that it has led to.

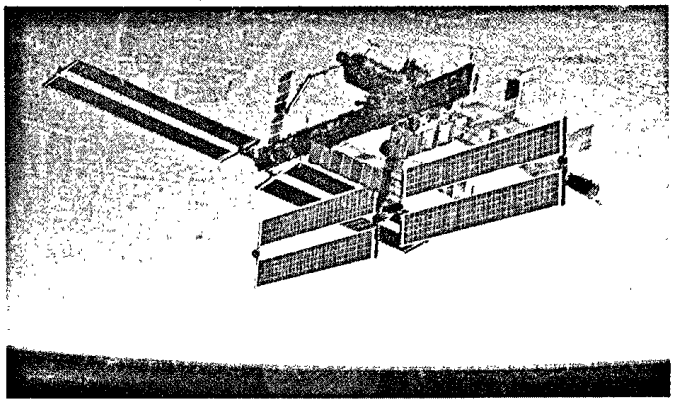
It was in the late 1940s that scientists began to seriously contemplate the possibility of using rockets to venture beyond the earth's atmosphere. During the 1950s, both the US and the Soviet Union conducted suborbital flights to gain experience in flight and telemetry and to study the upper atmosphere.

Between 1954 and 1956, the Soviet rocket designer Sergei Korolev developed a series of projects for manned rocket launches, which he claimed were sure to succeed. Meanwhile, the US was occupied with low-intensity suborbital launches. The Soviet Union had a chance to leap ahead in the space race, and the Soviet leadership took the risk.

The first major step towards launching a spacecraft into orbit came on August 21, 1957. After many mishaps, the world's first intercontinental ballistic missile R-7 lifted off from a test facility in Tyuratam (later Baikonur) and fulfilled its flight path.

Ill suited for use in combat due to its vulnerability during launch preparations, fuelling problems and low accuracy, R-7 proved valuable to the Soviet space programme. The USSR now had a tool to win supremacy in space.

The race intensified. On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union used the rocket to launch



the first man-made satellite, Sputnik. Ordinary Americans were shocked. (The famous American writer, Stephen King, has written about his childhood impressions of the launch.) The Soviets sent Sputnik into orbit, they wondered, and how about us?

It was the triumph of Sputnik that forced the US Administration to join the space race in earnest. Latecomers usually make little impact. Few can now remember the date the US launched its first satellite Explorer-1 (February 1, 1958). But it was a red-letter day for Wernher von Braun, the general designer of the Third Reich's rocket systems, the man who developed Germany's V-1 and V-2 'vengeance weapons.' At the same time, the US Administration launched the Mercury programme in a bid to speed up US efforts towards a manned orbital flight.

But time was running out. In 1959, the USSR set its sights on the moon: First, Luna-1 flew by it (January 2) and then Luna-2 made a hard landing (September 13). By 1960, work was underway at Tyuratam to send a human into orbit on the Vostok spacecraft.

On August 19, 1960, Sputnik-5 returned to earth with the dogs Belka and Strelka inside. It was the first time a living creature returned after being launched into orbit. On January 31, 1961, the chimpanzee Ham made a suborbital flight under the Mercury-Redstone programme. The superpowers were now going toe-to-toe in the fight to send the first cosmonaut into orbit. The Americans, however, were the runners-up.

"Two more successful launches and then a man," Korolev said firmly. His talent as a manager was unique: His decisions, however unconventional, always proved right in the end. The tests of the Vostok spacecraft on March 9 and 25, 1961, went according to schedule. But between these flights, tragedy struck the Soviet cosmonaut team: On March 23, Valentin Bondarenko, a cosmonaut-in-training, burned up in a pressure chamber during a practice session.

On April 12, 1961, Yury Gagarin became the first man in space in a spacecraft with a 50 per cent chance of success. "We just could not see all the risks involved," Boris Chertok, one of Korolev's assistants, said later. "Today no chief designer would have given the go-ahead to such a spacecraft."

On May 5, 1961, the US Mercury-Redstone programme finally delivered, but it was too late and the results were too unspectacular to grab the headlines. The Mercury-3 capsule with Alan Shepard on board just scraped the boundaries of outer space, reaching an altitude of only 186 km. The US Press for years afterwards tried to tout Shepard as the first astronaut, but a 15 minute suborbital flight is nothing compared the Gagarin's true orbit flight. And besides, Gagarin and the Soviets got there three weeks earlier. In Western countries, space enthusiasts have been celebrating "Yury's Night" (the equivalent of Russian Cosmonautics Day) since 2001.

On July 21, 1961, Virgil Grissom repeated the flight on Mercury-4. But the first real US orbital flight came on February 20, 1962 when John Glenn spent nearly five hours in orbit.

Meanwhile, the Soviet space effort — fueled by Korolev's ambition, Soviet engineers' tireless efforts and Gagarin's triumph — soldiered on. August 11, 1962 saw the formation flight of Vostok-3 and Vostok-4. On June 16, 1963, Valentina Tereshkova flew a mission. On March 18, 1965, Alexei Leonov performed the first space walk.

The Americans, meanwhile, were plodding along, making progress slowly but surely. The Gemini programme was already preparing astronauts and designers for the great leap looming on the horizon. On May 25, 1961, President Kennedy set for America the goal of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely home before the end of the decade.

The Americans had the Apollo programme, and the Soviets had Zond. The question was, who will get there first? The Soviet Union was clearly winning the race. Korolev's team was preparing plans for missions to the Moon and Mars.

But on January 14, 1966, Korolev died, and the Soviet space programme stalled. Vasily Mishin, who replaced him, did not have Korolev's ability to weigh the risks based on unerring instincts and a deep understanding of rocketry. Nor was he able to handle the growing conflicts between production men and designers, while at the same time withstanding the pressure of the military and politicians.

(The writer is a Moscow-based expert in science and technology.)

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China makes a big push for increasing biofuel production

Other energy sources better

■TIMES VIEW■

Beijing has jumped onto the biofuel bandwagon, and in a big way. Thailand is the world's biggest exporter of cassava chips – used for making ice cream, paper, and a host of other products. But most importantly, it happens to be one of the crops that are used to produce biofuel. And that is why 98% of its cassava chips exports last year went to China. Given that Beijing is looking to secure more energy supplies to keep pace with its rapidly growing needs, it isn't surprising that it has started looking seriously at alternatives to hydrocarbons. But by emulating the US and other countries and plumping for biofuels, it has made a serious misstep.

Biofuel evangelism started in the 1970s and was at its peak in the following decades. But over the past few years, there has been a mounting pile of evidence that going the biofuel route can cause more harm than good. There are two broad reasons for this. One, of course, is economic. World Bank reports, among others, have come to the conclusion that the growth of the biofuel industry has a serious impact on food scarcity and food inflation the world over. The more arable land is diverted to growing biofuel crops, the less there is for cultivating food crops. US markets have seen major distortions in the food market because of ethanol subsidies while there has been food scarcity in Mexico because of the diversion of corn for ethanol production.

The other reason is environmental. Ironically enough, biofuels, supposed to help clean up the environment, actually end up polluting it more given that more energy is put into producing a gallon of many kinds of biofuels than is contained in it. Far better, then, to look to other sources of truly renewable energy – solar, wind and hydroelectric. The time for biofuels has come and gone.

Ensuring a green future

■COUNTERVIEW■

Deep K Datta-Ray

Criticised for driving up food prices, our increasing reliance on biofuels however manages an urgent need. Biofuels are an effective tonic for our dependency on dirty polluting fossil fuels. All that's needed is to grow more biofuel friendly crops such as corn, sugar and palm oil. Such farming pays better and appeals to farmers, and not just to the super-sized western variety. Starch rich cassava is a case in point. It's mostly grown in Thailand and China buys nearly all of it. However, despite these benefits, opposition to biofuels is inexplicably mounting.

To cave into this resistance would be disingenuous because biofuels offer the tantalising possibility of a leap to an altogether new energy cycle. Changing one's ways is always painful, but we must because of what's at stake. The future of our world is threatened by green house gases. Ensuring that the cycle is realised could also eliminate the food inflation bandied about as the chief reason to stop the transition to biofuels. That's because the very inflationary food pressures people complain of are bound to catalyse innovators to reduce those prices. The example of Thomas Malthus shows how. In 1798, he predicted that the world's population would drastically shrink because there wouldn't be enough food to feed everyone. But technology superseded him and the Green Revolution ensured his dire predictions never came to pass.

Biofuels are practically as old as the industrial age and were first used for cars by Rudolf Diesel – the inventor of the diesel engine – in 1898. Yet they're only now becoming part of our energy mix. Disseminating what is actually a very old technology and free from patent also means that countries on the verge of industrialising can do it in an environmentally friendly way. In short, we can't focus on the short-term and sacrifice the long-term benefits of biofuels.

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The global edge

Corporate houses that earlier were keen to induct students from top management institutes are now rethinking towards getting a more practical approach in hiring the perfect candidates. Meanwhile, business schools are stressing on providing the necessary tools to make students more approachable towards business acumen. This is important for them to be the perfect choice for the Industry they would like to move in.

The increase in competition has also encouraged the business schools to probe deeper into the matter. Hence more emphasis is laid on revising their curriculum on revenue based education. This has further maximized the competition in student placement records with a huge increase in business schools and number of graduates. The industry top notch professionals are looking out for smart and intellectual management graduates who are already well-versed with business acumen thus spending less money and time on their training and development. The interdependence of industry and education branches out new avenues for innovation in their methodologies.

The Director of Era Business School Prof. (Dr.) Sanjiv Marwah highlights the fact that "Ours is an Industry anchored B-School. We make sure that our students get Industry exposure through on-job experience, live projects that give the students a peek into the organization. Apart from that, senior executives from renowned companies interact with our students giving them a taste of the Industry they would be absorbed in the future. For the rise and shine of Indian industry and country, this is highly important."

Chairman of Era group HS Bharana, who has been associated with leading B-Schools and engineering institutes to solicit manpower believes that industry has a larger role to play in professional education. He looks forward to industry associating itself from the curriculum formation, regular interface, placement and beyond.

Advantage MBA

International Management Institute (IMI) is India's first corporate sponsored Business School, founded in 1981. The initial curriculum was developed with the help of IMI Geneva, which is now the world famous IMD Lausanne. International collaborations with leading B-Schools around the world have always been a hallmark of IMI till this date. Out of 35 full-time faculty, 71% have PhDs, 26% have IIT/IIM degrees, 29% have foreign university degrees, and 40% have more than 10 years of industry experience. To keep the academic curriculum current and in line with contemporary industry needs, IMI has an advisory committee in each functional area comprising top industry professionals. In addition IMI's active participation in Management Development Programmes (MDPs) for training corporate professionals creates a feedback loop for updating the academic curriculum on a continuous basis.