

Newspaper Clips

August 18, 2011

The Hindu ND 18/08/2011 P9

A brand new national policy on education coming

PM's announcement in I-Day address went unnoticed in public focus on corruption

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's announcement on Independence Day about setting up a Commission "to make suggestions for improvements at all levels of education" has largely gone unnoticed amid the public focus on corruption. Even though his I-Day address did not elaborate on its mandate, sources in the government indicate that the recommendations of the proposed Commission should add up to what could be a new National Policy on Education.

NPE of 1986

According to reliable sources, the Commission is expected to be headed by an eminent educationist, assisted by experts from the fields of higher, technical, medical, secondary, elementary, vocational and other sectors of education. It will also have inputs from the reports of the National Knowledge Commission, the Yashpal Committee and the Valiathan Committee.

As the existing National Policy on Education, 1986 (NPE) was conceived during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure, it may be politically daunting for the United Progressive Alliance Government to wish away its vital elements.

• Commission to be set up to suggest improvements at all levels of education

• 1986 policy, conceived during Rajiv's tenure, itself suggested periodic reviews

Political instability during the late 1980s led to delays in the launch of the policy, which was reviewed by the Acharya Ramamurty Committee and could be brought into force only after the Congress returned to power in 1991 and gave shape to the Action Plan of 1992 for the NPE. Thus Dr. Singh's announcement is expected to pave the way for a new policy after nearly two decades.

The NPE of 1986 itself has suggested not only periodic reviews of the policy but also a revision in the long-term. It was also a major departure from the national policy adopted on the recommendations of the Education Commission under Professor D.S Kothari, which in 1966 had called for a common school system as well as for a Plus-Two stage of schooling beyond Class X. Strengthening of research in the university system was another major recommendation.

It is a different matter that even the recently enacted Right to Education Act has also shied away from the

common school system.

The 1986 policy led to encouragement to emerging sectors like Information Technology, which witnessed an upsurge following the opening up of the technical education sector, particularly in capacity expansion in the private sector. Although the 1986 policy spoke against commercialisation of education, the explosion in the number of private engineering and medical institutions, according to educationists, has only given a further impetus to the menace of capitation fee.

Corruption cases

The rapid expansion of private institutions has also, according to the Yashpal Committee, resulted in deterioration in quality. The concerns over quality led the Centre to review all deemed universities. Several cases of corruption against functionaries of the regulatory authorities such as the All-India Council for Technical Education, the Medical Council of India

and the Council of Architecture are under CBI investigation.

It is against this backdrop that the Education Commission, announced by the Prime Minister, is expected to come up with recommendations which could result in a new NEP as well as with directions for the future of all levels of education.

Notwithstanding the recent differences between the Health and Human Resource Development Ministries over the establishment of the overarching regulatory bodies for higher education and research (NCHER) and human resource in health (NCHRH), the proposed commission would address all sectors of education irrespective of the domain interests of Ministries.

With increasing globalisation of education, including the likely passage of the Foreign Education Providers Bill, now before Parliament, it will be interesting to see whether the proposed commission will co-opt foreign experts.

As a matter of fact, the Radhakrishnan Commission on University Education, which gave its report in 1949, had eminent academic leaders from universities in the United Kingdom and the United States among its members.

Financial Express ND 18/08/2011

P-4

New education policy by next yr

Kirtika Suneja

New Delhi, Aug 17: On the lines of the Education Commission suggested by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday, the ministry of human resource development (MHRD) has already started work on the commission that will formulate a new education policy by next year. This assumes significance as the country's present education system is based on the National Policy on Education of 1986. The new policy is expected to look at the entire spectrum of education and learning.

"We are planning to setup an education commission on the lines of the D S Kothari Commission of 1964-66 that will chalk out the new education policy. Some work has started and consultations with all stakeholders, including the civil society, will take a year after which the new policy will be ready," said a ministry official.

The Kothari commission consisted of 16 members, 11 being Indians and 5 foreign experts and set up 12 task forces and 7 working groups for higher, technical and agricultural education besides educational finance and teacher train-

ing, among others.

The existing policy—based on the framework set in 1986—talks about free and compulsory education along with development of languages and emphasises on education for industry and agriculture. At the secondary education level, it asks for increased technical and vocational education. It is at the university level education where the old policy cautions on the number of students being enrolled in the university system and if that increase is in tandem with the existing infrastructural facilities like libraries and laboratories. It was this policy which recommended a 10+2+3 pattern of education structure.

In fact, for vocational education, the Kothari Commission had suggested that for a majority of occupations, university degrees were not necessary; and these jobs could be competently performed by trained higher secondary students. The commission said that it should be possible to divert at least 50% of students completing 10 year education to the vocational stream, which would reduce the pressure on the universities and also prepare students for gainful employment.

Financial Express ND 18/08/2011 P-4

Higher education push: 48 model colleges get nod

Kirtika Suneja

New Delhi, Aug 17: Almost a year and a half after the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the scheme for setting up a model degree college each in 374 educationally backward districts, the ministry of human resource development (MHRD) has received 125 such proposals from states and approved 48 of them.

The scheme is meant exclusively for students in educationally backward districts and aims at increasing the gross enrolment ratio (GER) in educationally backward districts where the GER is less than the national average of 12.4%. The scheme is a part of the ministry's efforts to increase the GER in higher education from 12.4% to 30% by 2020.

As per ministry officials, of the 125 proposals received by the University Grants Commission (UGC), 48 have been approved while 44 have been referred back to the state governments for clarifications and 33 have been disapproved on grounds of ineligibility. Of the total proposals received, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have each sent 7 while Gujarat has sent 20.

Once the project is approved,



THE SCHEME IS MEANT EXCLUSIVELY FOR STUDENTS IN EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS AND AIMS AT INCREASING THE GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO IN EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS WHERE THE GER IS LESS THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF 12.4%

the UGC will release 50% of the allocation as the first installment. The second installment of 40% of the allocation will be released only after the state government concerned releases 50% of its committed share towards non-recurring expenditure and the recurring grant for at least one year.

The total fund requirement for the programme is estimated at ₹2,992 crore and the Centre's share is about ₹1,079 crore. An outlay of ₹782 crore was made for the scheme in the Eleventh Plan. Assuming that the average number of students in a college is 500, the total number of students who would be enrolled in the 374 col-

leges is about 1.87 lakh.

According to UGC, to set up these colleges, the Centre will provide assistance to the extent of one-third of the capital cost for establishment of each college, limited to ₹2.67 crore. Also, the land for college will be provided free of cost by the state governments. It is estimated that setting up of one such model college will initially require an expenditure of at least ₹8 crore and recurring expenditure of ₹1.5 crore per annum in salaries and maintenance.

Moreover, the state governments can set up the college either as an affiliated or a constituent college of the state university.

The Hindu ND 18/08/2011 P7

A teaching session for teachers

CAMPUS JOTTINGS

Indira Gandhi National Open University organised a three-day workshop on online education in New Delhi earlier this week for 21 faculty members of different universities. Titled "How to create/develop online courses", the workshop comprised four sessions daily.

The training sessions were based on experiential learning methodologies and started with an overview of online courses at IGNOU. This was followed by structured presentations on new concepts.

The invited faculty members then worked individually on computers and explored the feasibility of IGNOU's online technology for their institutions.

Students of Jamia Millia Islamia who wish to be successful with their studies can attend a workshop on "How to succeed at studies" that the university's Counselling and Guidance Centre along with Youth Empowerment Services is organising in Delhi this Thursday.

The workshop, to be held in the Committee Room of Nehru Guest House on the campus at 2-30 p.m., is meant to help students develop personal-social skills, the ability to adapt to changes, skills of coping with problems and the ability to make balanced decisions.

Jamia's Counselling and Guidance Centre also conducts weekly/fortnightly workshops, lectures, and counselling sessions to assist students with their personal, educational and psychological problems.

Indraprastha University in the Capital is going to start its second round of counselling for B.Tech. and

M.Tech. on August 24 and for B.Arch. on August 25, with the counselling for B.Sc. (H) nursing scheduled for this Thursday and the BJMC programme counselling scheduled for Saturday at Maharaja Surajmal Institute in Janakpuri.

The second round of counselling for the BCA programme has already started at the Institute of Innovation in Technology and Management, Janakpuri, and the B.Ed. programme counselling venue is the university's Dwarka campus.

The second counselling schedule for the remaining programmes is yet to be announced.

Delhi Technological University is conducting a two-day workshop on the Jawaharlal Nehru Solar Energy Mission, "Emerging trends and opportunities for careers in solar technology for engineers" beginning this Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Promoting energy

efficiency in buildings, design and applications of solar photovoltaic, bio-gas technology and use of solar energy in India, bio-mass waste management and solar energy utilisation, low-cost solar thermal energy utilisation will be some of the issues discussed.

Apeejay Stya University, Gurgaon, has introduced three new courses -- BBA in Public Policy and Administration, a four-year programme; MBA in Public Policy and Administration, a five-year course to help students resolve issues in public policy and management; and an M.A. in Public Policy and Development Studies, which will last five years.

Graduates in any discipline with a minimum score of 50 per cent are eligible to apply for any of the courses. The selection procedure includes entrance examination, group discussions and interviews.

Vijetha S.N

MINT ND 18/08/2011 P-3

OPEN UNIVERSITY CONCEPT

IIM Ranchi Nanos business education to reach out to masses

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

What Tata Motors Ltd did to cars, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Ranchi wants to do to business education—by offering a post-graduate diploma in business management (put simply, an MBA) for ₹1 lakh.

The IIM aims to adopt the open university concept to reach out to the masses and, according to the institute's director M.J. Xavier, plans to set up small study centres across India and integrate them with the main campus.

"Over 200,000 students appear for the Common Admission Test (CAT), but less than 5,000 make it to IIMs. Here, we want to reach out to a larger base," Xavier said in an interview. The director was in New Delhi last week to participate in the Indian Management Conclave.

"There is a demand for quality management education at an affordable price. We want to be innovative—by opening study centres and linking them to the main campus, we can achieve that," he explained.

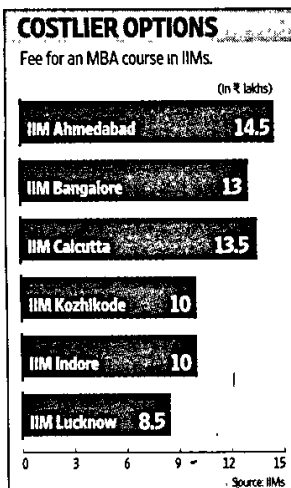
On an average, the tuition fee for an MBA works out to around ₹10 lakh. There were 204,000 people who appeared for CAT 2010; the previous year the number was over 242,000. CAT is a computerized entrance exam for those seeking a berth in IIMs.

IIM Ranchi is convinced it can reach out to 10,000 students in three-five years with its new programme.

Xavier said two large companies in south India are ready to send 200 employees each for full-time courses through study centres. He declined to identify the companies.

"IIM Ranchi wants to create its own brand for others to follow by reaching out to the masses, both in the corporate sector and otherwise. I am already working on the model and in the next six months a few institutes in Jharkhand can be interlinked with the IIM," he said.

Xavier said that while critics may find the model wanting on



SANDEEP BHATNAGAR/MINT

account of those enrolling for the programme not benefiting from a campus atmosphere, this century is all about 'reaching out.

"Why cannot we reach smaller cities and towns? The country's economy is growing and here rural India plays a key role. We need efficient managers in those parts of the country. I know IIMs have not done it so far, but we want to cater to such a market," he added.

The school would not need to invest much in creating and running the programme, Xavier said. "One-third of the course will be taken care of by the permanent faculty, one-third by the visiting faculty from both academia and industry, and the rest will be e-content," he added.

Sanjeev Bajaj, chief coordinator at the Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), said IIM Ranchi is changing the tradition.

"Unlike other IIMs, IIM Ranchi is believing in collaboration with private institutes. Xavier has a vision and he is working towards it," he added. XISS is one of the schools in Ranchi that the IIM is looking to work with when it offers the programme.

But not everyone is enthusiastic about IIM Ranchi's idea.

"It does not look to me as a great idea. Let's see how the IIM works it out," said S.S. Sarkar, head of the department of business administration at Tezpur University, a central university in Assam.

Financial Chronicle ND 18-Aug-11 p-10

IIM-L excellence centre to offer support to businesses

To design, impart short and long-term training to business leaders

SREERUPA MITRA

Bangalore

IIM Lucknow said it has set up a Centre of Excellence for Business Sustainability (CEBS), a multidisciplinary, collaborative body of experts committed to provide support to businesses.

The centre will help business to view emerging social and environmental issues not just as challenges but also as opportunities for growth, diversification and cost savings.

CEBS will impart knowledge and make available appropriate latest modern management and decision making tools and techniques to the business leaders by organising events in the field of business sustainability.

"The centre will develop, design and deliver short term and long term training programmes, and organise workshops according to specific needs of corporate and non-corporate sectors," said Sushil Kumar, chairman, CEBS, IIM Lucknow.

The centre will help not only the existing businesses



Pallavi

but will also provide support to the ideas being floated by students at the incubation cells as well as startup businesses, he added. "IIM Lucknow has strong links with policy makers, so CEBS also plans to carry out

research and provide inputs for formulation of effective public policies in the field of business sustainability. The centre will undertake consulting projects and thereby extend its services nationally as well as internati-

onally," Kumar pointed out.

The objective of the centre is to be a leader in advocating business sustainability by sensitising industry, government, civil society and academia about the need for integrating sustainability principles with business strategy. "It aims to provide substantial inputs to improve the performance of business sector so as to ensure socially desirable, environmentally responsible and economically viable business models," he said.

CEBS will participate in policy development process by carrying out research in public policy related to sustainability and sustainable development, and provide vital input to policy makers for creating appropriate framework conditions for business sustainability.

In addition, the centre will be designing and run courses on how to make a business sustainable to students, who are aspiring to become entrepreneurs.

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Times of India ND 18-Aug-11 P1

Medical post-grad seat goes for ₹1.7cr

Sumitra Deb Roy | TNN

Mumbai: A postgraduate radiology seat in a private medical college in Navi Mumbai has sold for Rs 1.7 crore. The capitation fee is a 40% increase over last year and indicates a shift in the preferences of medical students, with subjects like radiology and orthopaedics overtaking favourites paediatrics and gynaecology. While the medical fraternity is shocked at the transaction, and concerned about the quality of doctors emerging from such

► 'Not enough PG seats', P 13

deals, it feels helpless in the face of private colleges' autonomy.

Doctors said the sale, along with another of Rs 1.3 crore, indicated a trend of students wanting to earn a quick buck — a radiologist starts in practice with earnings ranging from Rs 1-15 lakh a month, depending on the location of his or her di-

Scary Prognosis

► Post-grad radiology seat in Navi Mumbai pvt medical college sold for ₹1.7cr. Another seat goes for ₹1.3cr

► Shift in preferences of students, with subjects like radiology and orthopaedics overtaking old favourites like paediatrics and gynaecology

► Senior docs worried about "means a doctor would adopt to recover the donation amount from society"

agnostic centre, equipment and clientele.

Also, demand outstrips supply. In the Mumbai-Navi Mumbai belt, there are just 22 radiology seats in government medical colleges and half that in private colleges for thousands of aspirants. In orthopaedics and gynaecology, the number of government seats is 36 and 26.

Times of India ND 18-Aug-11 P13

'Not enough PG seats in govt med colleges'

Sumitra Deb Roy | TNN

Mumbai: Capitation fees of Rs 1.7 crore for a postgraduate radiology seat in a private medical college in Navi Mumbai has left the medical fraternity shocked.

With over 10,000 postgraduate aspirants fighting for a little over 1,100 government seats across Maharashtra the scarcity is pervasive. Of these, only 250 seats belong to trendy subjects. "The dearth of postgraduate government seats is mainly to blame for

seat sale by private colleges," said Dr Farhan Hamid, general secretary, Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors.

Pravin Shingare of the Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DMER) denied knowledge of the seat sale. Nevertheless, he said the demand for private seats had skyrocketed because of a dearth of government seats.

"Government colleges are losing out on postgraduate seats for want of teachers (a decade ago, the state had 1,900 postgraduate seats). We are

looking at the problem."

He said subjects like radiology and orthopaedics were the most preferred because "medical practice today is strictly evidence-based as opposed to being clinical-based till a few years ago".

Kishor Taori, a former president of the All India Radiological and Imaging Association, said radiology is the youngest branch of medicine and also the most advanced.

"Radiology has gone to the level of becoming an industry. Today, several radiologists

are coming together to start their own diagnostic centres to compete with corporate hospitals."

Over the years, subjects like general medicine and surgery have gone down the ladder of preferences also because these branches need further specialization for doctors to make the most of them.

It all came to a head recently, when a student of anaesthesiology at the civic-run Sion Hospital committed suicide after failing to get a seat in paediatrics.

"The competition is more ruthless when it comes to super-specialty seats," said a senior state official.

Medical students say the price tag of private seats in courses like neurology, gastroenterology, cardiology and nephrology is as much as Rs 2 crore.

To curb this grey area in medical education, a single entrance test can go a long way, said Dr KS Sharma, a member of the board of governors of the Medical Council of India (MCI).

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JNU students go to Supreme Court

NEW DELHI: Students from Jawaharlal Nehru University visited the Supreme Court on Wednesday seeking intervention of the Chief Justice of India in reviving the students' union elections which had been stayed by the Supreme Court in October 2008 for not adhering to the Lyngdoh committee recommendations.

In a memorandum submitted to the Court Registrar, the students said the 40-year-old tradition of students' union elections was discontinued about three years ago.

"We are extremely perturbed that such a delay would inflict irreparable damage to the culture that JNU stands for...students are being deprived of participating in what used to be a unique and remarkable democratic exercise," said the memorandum.

Inventor of robot arm dies at 99

JEREMY PEARCE

THE NEW YORK TIMES

GEORGE C. DEVOL, a largely self-taught inventor who drew from science fiction to help develop Unimate, the revolutionary mechanical arm that became a prototype for robots now widely used on automobile assembly lines and in other industries, died last Thursday at his home in Wilton, Connecticut. He was 99.

His death was confirmed by his son Robert.

In the early 1950s, before the advent of industrial robotics, Devol (pronounced de-VAHL) built on his own work in electrical engineering and machine controls to design a mechanical arm that could be programmed to repeat precise tasks, like grasping and lifting.

He applied for a patent in 1954 and explained the concept to a fellow engineer, Joseph F. Engelberger, at a cocktail party where they discussed their favourite science fiction writers. Mr Engelberger listened with interest and immediately seized on the significance of the new technology.

Devol named the concept Universal Automation — later shortened to Unimation — and received a patent in 1961. Mr Engelberger formed a company, Unimation Inc., of Danbury, to adapt and apply the ideas of Devol and other innovators, and soon came up with the Unimate, an early and highly successful effort to replace factory workers with robotic machinery.

In 1961, General Motors put the first Unimate arm on an assembly line at the company's plant in Trenton. The device was used to lift and stack die-cast metal parts taken hot from their molds.

Chrysler and Ford soon followed, in the face of resistance from labour unions, and Unimates designed for welding, spray-painting, applying adhesives and other potentially hazardous jobs were in production by 1966.

The Japanese were particularly receptive to the Unimation vision of mobile and remotely controlled robots, using them in industry and in service applications, like



George C. Devol (right) and Joseph F. Engelberger. PHOTO: NYT

hospitals. In 2002, *Popular Mechanics* magazine listed the Unimate as one of the top 50 inventions of the last 50 years. An early model is in the collection at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History.

In May of this year, Devol was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. The citation states, in part, "George Devol's patent for the first digitally operated programmable robotic arm represents the foundation of the modern robotics industry."

His associate, Engelberger, became an international recognised voice for the promise of robotics, appearing on *The Tonight Show* in 1966 with a Unimate, which sank a putt, led the orchestra, and opened and poured a can of beer. Unimation eventually expanded to 1,000 employees and was acquired by Westinghouse in the early 1980s. Devol later opened a scientific consulting business in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and continued to work on refining visual and touch sensors for robots, among other challenges. In 1983, he said that a robot must "be able to receive and use information from computers and give information to computers." He said the next step in the evolution of robotics was standardised designs worldwide to allow robots to communicate and work directly with one another.

George Charles Devol Jr. was born February 20, 1912, in Louisville. An experimenter from an early age, he studied mechanics and electronics in high school, but did not attend college. He worked for electronics companies in the 1920s, and in the early 1930s founded a small company, United Cinephone, to develop recording technology for movies.

Isro all set for climate research satellite launch by end of Sept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore

INDIAN Space Research Organisation has set in motion preparations for launch of Megha-Tropiques, an advanced weather and climate research satellite, on board PSLV from Sriharikota spaceport next month-end.

"Preparations are underway for launch of the satellite in September end," sources in the Bangalore-headquartered space agency said on Wednesday.

Isro and French National Space Centre (CNES) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for development and implementation of the joint atmospheric satellite mission nearly seven years ago.

Sources said top CNES officials are slated to witness the launch by PSLV, Isro's work-horse launch vehicle.

Megha-Tropiques (Megha meaning cloud in Sanskrit and Tropiques meaning tropics in French) is meant for investigating the contribution of the water cycle in the tropical atmosphere to climate dynamics. The satellite would carry four scientific instruments, including a Microwave Analysis and Detection of Rain and Atmospheric Structures (MADRAS) radiometer developed jointly by Isro and CNES to provide information on rain above the oceans and integrated water vapour content in the atmosphere. Isro has built the Megha-Tropiques spacecraft, which is similar to the Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites.

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION GETS FACELIFT AS INDIA INC DEMANDS BETTER ROI

Companies are asking B-schools to measure what their executives have learnt at the end of the programme

KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai

Executive education programmes designed by premier business schools was once a must-go destination for India Inc's blue-eyed boys. They still are — but with a difference.

Among many other things, the slowdown a couple of years ago has taught companies to seek better return on investment from B-schools. So while companies are ready to invest in executive education, they also want demonstrable value.

B-schools say this has prompted them to rethink their executive education business model. And how — Gurgaon-based Management Development Institute, for example, is teaching executives to review new management books, or Hyderabad-based Indian School of Business (ISB) which is planning to demonstrate value for what companies are paying for.

"Companies are turning to book reviews and presentations to keep their executives abreast with contemporary management literature. Else, the executives are used to a very casual reading. Making a book presentation is one way of analysing the book's content," says Professor S Chatterjee, Dean continuing education at the Management Development Institute, Gurgaon.

Chatterjee, has recently had a request from Areva, a mining an energy company, to include book reviews in the executives education programmes he delivers.

The B-school is also conducting evaluation tests with companies giving theme projects (which is of interest to the company) to its executives.

"Many companies including Bharat Electronics and Areva want the training sessions to be end oriented with some kind of an evaluation criteria. They want new ideas from the young minds. They give a time frame of two to three months before people submit their project report.



B-schools are open to suggestions from companies on conducting evaluation tests on theme projects which are of interest to executives

Faculty concerned of the institute where these executives have been trained will also be involved in the project," says Chatterjee.

The B-school says it receives a lot of requests from companies spanning across sectors including hospitality, power, electronics, software and oil and gas to conduct programmes in this manner.

ISB's experience has been no different. The institute calls it impact of the slowdown and says companies have become demanding and better return on investment. So while companies are ready to invest, they want value to be demonstrated.

The institute says it has put in place

an entirely new system by creating an organisation structure which is a lot vertical focused on industry segments with verticals like banking and financial sector, manufacturing, oil and gas and government companies.

Post the vertical system, the school says, it has seen an increase of 25 per cent in enrolments for executive education.

"We have to focus on industry and segments. Having a vertical system means a person's understanding of the industry and organisation increases dramatically and thus the learning that you bring to that particular industry is based on the industry and organisation's needs," says

Deepak Chandra, Deputy Dean, ISB.

Companies in almost every sector are asking B-schools to measure what their executives have learnt at the end of the programme. The B-schools however, say they are not charging a premium for including action learning methodology in their curriculum.

At ISB its as clients have begun asking for action based learning, it has included the same in teaching methodology in both — open enrolment and customized programmes.

"You demonstrate value via right content, application and measuring. One of the changes we are bringing in is looking at pedagogical approaches to bring in more contextualisation and relevance in terms of the content and the learning," adds Chandra.

According to Chaitanya Kalipatnapu, director, Eruditus executive education, more and more companies

are moving away from open or off the shelf programmes to customized programmes.

"Custom programmes based on Action learning projects (ALPs), as they are called, are new. They typically run for six to eight months and the projects are based on strategic initiatives of companies. These programmes address the specific learning requirements of the companies while delivering inputs to the ALPs. However, ALPs requires a lot of commitment from companies, which many professors complain that its hard to come by," says Chaitanya.

Eruditus, promoted by alumni of INSEAD and Harvard Business School, delivers executive education programmes to Indian corporations and participants. The company is at present working with INSEAD and Tuck School of Business in India.

MORE AND MORE COMPANIES ARE MOVING AWAY FROM open and off-the-shelf programmes to customised programmes or action learning programmes

The Indian pharmaceutical market, in spite of supervision and control by the Centre and state authorities concerned, needs several reforms to suit the Indian consumer

Dr (Brig) M.L. KATARIA (RETO)

DURING the last three decades, pharmaceuticals have shown an explosive growth all over the world. After eatables, cosmetics and textiles, pharmaceuticals are rapidly surging ahead to become the third largest industry in several developed countries, thanks to health awareness propagated by World Health Organisation (WHO).

In India, we have not lagged behind. Our pharmaceuticals, in spite of tough competition, have got entrenched in the eastern, mid-eastern and in several western markets. Some of our pharmaceutical multinationals have already acquired an edge over several well-established foreign multinationals. Our pharmaceutical export revenue is increasing year after year. We are very much in the global market.

In India more than 40 thousand pharmaceutical manufacturers of all grades are flooding the market with nearly 50 thousand patent as well as 200 thousand generic drugs and formulations of all types. This number is rapidly increasing every year.

The global market harshly enforces specifications and quality control in all respects, retail dispensing, pricing and presentation etc, according to the norms laid down by the respective authorities concerned.

However, the Indian pharmaceutical market, in spite of supervision and control by the Centre and state authorities concerned, needs several reforms to suit the Indian consumer.

The price of pharmaceuticals is the single most pinching problem which makes them out of reach for those who need them the most. It is an irony of paucity in the midst of plenty. About 35-40 per cent of Indians are below the poverty line; 50 per cent are in the middle income group. Only 10 per cent are an affluent chosen few. The cost of a strip of 10 capsules/tablets being not less than Rs 50-60, it is hardly affordable for 70-80 per cent of Indians. The National Rural Health Mission and Health insurance schemes for those below the poverty line, for several reasons, have not taken off and have made no tangible dent so far.

The margin of profit in most pharmaceutical formulations and patents is between 100 and 500 per cent. Rigid and intimate scrutiny and price control, both at the Centre and the state levels, is imperative. MOU with multinationals for foreign direct investment should restrict the margin of profits for the price control of products. Preference to generic drugs over patented ones, simple cheaper retail dispensing, packing and packaging can considerably reduce cost and prices. Each strip, vial or bottle should display in a bold print readable without a magnifying glass, the generic name of the drug and its dose. In most cases the name of the manufacturer and the name of the drug covers most of the space.

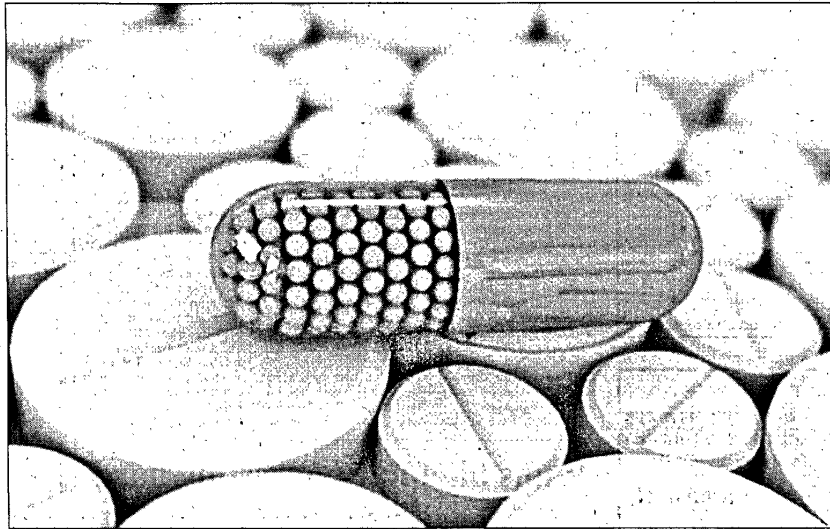
Quality control

Various pharmacopias — Indian, British, US etc — lay down specifications for each pharmaceutical. After the initial batch, on which the license for the pharmaceuticals depends, subsequent batches tend to compromise on specifications and quality. Therefore, the drug is either less potent, or gives severe side-effects.

Therapeutic index (lethal dose divided by effective dose) of every drug is governed by internationally accepted norms. The higher the index, the safer the drug. There should be no side-effects like anaphylactic shock, allergic reactions affecting gastro-intestinal tract, cardio-vascular system and skin rashes. A safe drug with a high therapeutic index should have no side-effects and no contra-indications and antagonism.

These specifications need to be scrutinised for every batch of every drug manufactured

DRUGS APLENTY, BUT NOT FOR COMMON MAN



by every manufacturer for a foolproof quality control. Is this being done diligently and strictly by those responsible for it? This becomes a big question mark, when several fatal or severely affected cases are reported from hospitals frequently, attributed to drug and vaccine administration, wherein quality control has been compromised.

Lately, some foreign multinationals have been permitted to get their pharmaceuticals manufactured in India on a contract basis by Indian manufacturers. It may add to the Indian economy, but little tangible cost benefits have accrued to the consumer. Intensive quality control norms need strict surveillance in such cases.

Spurious drugs

The menace of spurious drugs infiltration into the pharmaceutical market is a cancer which needs ruthless suppression and excision. Nearly 1-5 per cent of pharmaceuticals are spurious at present. If this is not nipped in the bud, it will grow parallel with the pharmaceutical industry, quicker than parallel black money economy.

Ninety per cent of patients who don't respond to routine therapy are victims of spurious drugs. Most antibiotics, vitamins and miner-

als, pain killers and injections are prone to spurious imitation.

We need a regular, well-organised pharmaceutical intelligence establishment at the Centre, the states and every pharmaceutical industrial township with a network of whistleblowers.

The drug control authorities fully satisfy themselves before a drug is approved for marketing. Even then, at times, certain drugs prove harmful on mass consumption. Such drugs are promptly banned and are required to be withdrawn by the manufacturers/stockist from the retail market. In spite of clear ban orders and public announcement by the authorities concerned, there is hardly a chemist shop not continuing to retail such drugs. Do drug inspectors know and check the availability of such drugs at chemist shops?

Strong antibiotics

Except for drugs like opium and a few more which under legislation can be sold by the chemist on a prescription by a registered doctor only, all other drugs, including even the strongest antibiotics, are on-the-counter readily available retail items, without any medical

prescription. So much so that many chemists even prescribe drugs to the customers and thus add to the ever increasing number of quacks.

The Health Minister of India in a public statement on August 2 has expressed serious concern about on-the-counter issue of drugs, especially antibiotics, by the chemists without medical prescription. Hopefully, some action will be taken.

Drug prescription

Some non-allopathic practitioners are prescribing allopathic drugs to the patients. This practice is questionable. Each drug has its own pharmacological and pharmacokinetic action, contra-indications and antagonism. It is dangerous to prescribe drugs without such knowledge.

It is time that a comprehensive legislation dealing with all aspects of pharmaceuticals, superseding piecemeal legislations is enacted for efficient governance and control of India's pharmaceutical boon, so that it does not become a bane.

The writer is Chairman and Managing Director of BCS Kataria's Foundation and Health Care India, which is operating several free rural and slums health care centres

TAKEN FOR A RIDE

■ The price of pharmaceuticals is the single most pinching problem which makes them out of reach for those who need them the most.

■ The cost of a strip of 10 capsules/tablets being not less than Rs 50-60, it is hardly affordable for 70-80 per cent of Indians.

■ The margin of profit in most pharmaceutical formulations and patents is between 100 and 500 per cent. MOU with multinationals for foreign direct investment should restrict the margin of profits for price control of products.

■ Various pharmacopias — Indian, British, US etc — lay down specifications for each pharmaceutical. After the initial batch, on which the license for the pharmaceuticals depends, subsequent batches tend to compromise on specifications and quality. Therefore, the drug is either less potent, or gives severe side-effects.

■ Several fatal or severely affected cases are reported from hospitals frequently, attributed to drug and vaccine administration, wherein quality control has been compromised.

■ Nearly 1-5 per cent of pharmaceuticals are spurious at present. If this is not nipped in the bud, it will grow parallel with the pharmaceutical industry, quicker than parallel black money economy.

■ Ninety per cent of patients who don't respond to routine therapy are victims of spurious drugs. Most antibiotics, vitamins and minerals, pain killers and injections are prone to spurious imitation.

■ The drug control authorities fully satisfy themselves before a drug is approved for marketing. Even then, at times, certain drugs prove harmful on mass consumption. Do drug inspectors know and check the availability of such drugs at chemist shops?

■ Some non-allopathic practitioners are prescribing allopathic drugs to the patients. This practice is questionable. Each drug has its own pharmacological and pharmacokinetic action, contra-indications and antagonism. It is dangerous to prescribe drugs without such knowledge.

The Hindu ND 18/08/2011 P12

Academics deplore action against peaceful protesters

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: Scholars and academicians from across the country on Wednesday criticised the arrest of peaceful protesters raising their voice against corruption. Arguing that registering one's protest in a peaceful manner was a democratic right of all citizens, they demanded that all peaceful protesters be immediately released.

"The government, rather than upholding Constitutional provisions, has violated them, and also attacked the spirit of the independence movement," they said.

Following is the text of their statement:

"Starting August 16, 2011 morning, the police has ar-

rested peaceful protesters trying to raise their voice against endemic corruption in the country.

"To register peaceful protest is a democratic right of all citizens of this country. Further, it is in keeping with the spirit of non-violent protest during the national movement and such forms of protest must remain a clear option for registering dissent in our peace-loving democracy.

"Thus, the government, rather than upholding constitutional provisions has violated them and also attacked the spirit of the independence movement.

"Peaceful protesters raising their voice against corruption are serving an

important social and national purpose. Any government of the day ought to see the protest as supporting its own efforts at rooting out corruption but rather than encouraging it they see it as against themselves. This is a very short sighted view of what the people are protesting about.

"We, the undersigned citizens of this country, protest the violation of civil rights of the citizens and demand that the peaceful protesters be immediately released."

The signatories are: Prof. Promod Yadava, SLS, JNU; Prof. Satish Jain, CESP, JNU; Dr. Vandana Shiva, Navadanya, Delhi; Prof. Pradip-ta Chaudhury, CESP, JNU; Prof. Ritu Priya Mehrotra,

CSMCH, JNU; Dr. Rajendra Kundu CESP, JNU; O.P. Bagaria, Bangalore; Dr. Dwijen Rangnekar, University of Warwick, U.K.; Prof. Krishnendu Ghosh Dastidar CESP, JNU; Prof. (retd.) Kamta Prasad, IIPA; Astha Ahuja, Delhi University; Dipak Prakash CESP, JNU; Prof. Rohit Prasad, MDI, Gurgaon; Dr. Kulwant Singh, former Director, HSMI; Dr. George Mathew, Director, Institute of Social Sciences; Kalyani Menon-Sen IIHS; Prof. Pranab Kanti Basu, Visva-Bharati; Anant Trivedi NNFI, Delhi; Fahmi Panimbang, Hong Kong; Sujata Madhok, journalist, Delhi; Prof. Gita Dharampal, Frick University of Heidelberg, Germany; Dr. K.S. Subrama-

nian, CSD; Prof. (retd.) Anjan Mukerji, JNU; Prof. (retd.) B. Vivekanandan, JNU; Prof. (retd.) R.N. Mehrotra, Delhi University; Dr. Sunita Reddy, CSMCH, JNU; Prof. Romar Correa, Mumbai University; Anil Bagai, Delhi; Sreoshi Singh, SaptiWATERS, Gurgaon; Prof. emeritus Debabar Banerji, JNU; Prof. Amita Singh, CSLG, JNU; Dr. Satyaki Roy, ISID, Delhi; Rakesh Pahwa, Mumbai; Subodh Dhawan, Rohilkhand University; Dipankar Mitra, Mumbai; Prof. Krishan Kumar, SES, JNU; D.C. Mittal, Delhi; Dr. Kamini Mahadevan, editor, Chennai; Kapil Malhotra, publisher, Delhi; Prof. Achin Vanaik, Delhi University; A.B. Bharadwaj, Gandhi in

Action, Delhi; Dr. Srinivas, ZHCES, JNU; Prof. V. Upadhyay, Delhi IIT; Prof. Anjila Gupta, IGNOU; Prof. M.C. Paul, JNU; Prof. C.S.R. Murthy, CIPOD, JNU; Prof. Surender Kumar, South Campus, Delhi University; Sukumar Mukhopadhyay, retired govt. officer; Krishna Ram, Shivaji College, DU; Jyotsana, SPM College, DU; Dr. Hiranmoy Roy, UPES, Dehradun; Prof. S.K. Kejariwal GAE, JNU; Pankaj Soni, JNU; Prof. Deepak Kumar, ZHCES, JNU; Prof. Saumitra Mukherjee, SES, JNU; Dr. Saumen Chattopadhyay, ZHCES, JNU; Ashok Aggrawal, lawyer, Delhi; Prof. Manimay Sengupta, South Asia University; Prof. Arun Kumar, CESP, JNU.

Students bunk classes to back Anna



A bunch of students protests in support of Anna Hazare at Chhatrasal Stadium in New Delhi on Wednesday. Tribune photo: Mukesh Aggarwal

JYOTI RAI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

The "Anna Fever" seems to have gripped the Delhi youth like no other issue ever before. Support for Anna increased manifold today, with the youth in the capital bunking classes and making their presence felt at where the support was needed.

While some decided to help out with crowd management and small water and food needs at protest venues, others were helping in managing the campaign against corruption and for Anna's support online on social networking websites like Facebook and Twitter.

Delhi University (DU) students participated in a march supporting Anna at North Campus today, and a students' political party is also planning a DU bandh tomorrow.

A group of students at DU is helping the organisers at

"India against Corruption" in supplying food and water supplies to those being held at Chhatrasal Stadium and those outside Tihar Jail today.

"We approached the organisers asking them if we could be of help in any small way. We wanted to contribute our bit, in anyway we can. We have been helping out at Tihar Jail today. Trying to manage the huge crowd of supporters and making sure the day was peaceful. Also, because there are a lot of kids and women in the crowd, we have to attend to their needs as well," said Prapti Juneja, one of the volunteers at "India Against Corruption".

Another support group at Jawaharlal Nehru University has taken upon themselves to paint the college campuses across Delhi with Anna support posters. The students are individually starting support pages online and inviting as many supporters for events like candlelight vigil and shutting down shops in

support of Anna's campaign.

However, not just students, but the Anna frenzy has gripped the teaching community as well. Teachers at Delhi University, Jamila Milia and Jawaharlal Nehru University are also actively participating in the campaign. Teachers at JNU, for instance, have decided to peacefully register their support by wearing black and gathering at the lawns tomorrow.

"All the teachers cannot manage to leave the classes together. Hence, we have decided that we would support Anna in whatever way we can. Our students are also going out of their way to mobilise support. While we participated in the candlelight march this evening at India Gate, tomorrow on campus, we will wear black and gather in front of the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium during lunch and hold a silent protest," said one of the faculty members at JNU.

MahaMedha ND
18/08/2011

आईआईटी के छात्रों में बढ़ रही है खुदकुशी

नई दिल्ली(ए)। भारत के शीर्ष प्रौद्योगिकी शिक्षण संस्थान भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान आईआईटी में पिछले तीन वर्षों में 24 छात्रों ने खुदकुशी की है।

केन्द्रीय मानव ससाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने बुधवार को लोकसभा में एक लिखित जवाब में बताया कि विभिन्न आईआईटी की ओर से गठित जांच समितियों ने पाया कि आईआईटी के छात्रों में खुदकुशी के कारणों में निराशा, शैक्षिक पाठ्यक्रमों का दबाव, सहपाठियों का दबाव और भावनात्मक मुद्दे प्रमुख हैं। इस साल आई आई टी खडगपुर में एक छात्र ने, आईआईटी मद्रास में दो छात्रों ने, आई आई टी दिल्ली में एक छात्र ने और आईआईटी सिलचर में दो छात्रों ने खुदकुशी की। छात्रों में खुदकुशी का एक कारण बेहतर शैक्षिक प्रदर्शन के लिए छात्रों पर अभिभावकों द्वारा डाला जाने वाला दबाव भी है।

कैट से जुड़े 137 बी-स्कूल

● अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नोएडा। आईआईएम संस्थानों में दाखिलों के लिए होने वाली कॉमन एडमिशन टेस्ट (कैट) 2011 से देश भर के कुल 137 बी-स्कूल जुड़ गए हैं। ये संस्थान भी 2012-13 के शैक्षिक सत्र में कैट स्कोर के आधार पर छात्रों को दाखिला देंगे। इनमें नोएडा और ग्रेटर नोएडा के 15 प्रबंधन संस्थान शामिल हैं। कैट-2011 के स्कोर पर पहली बार आईआईटी और एनआईटी जैसे राष्ट्रीय संस्थानों के प्रबंधन कोर्सों में दाखिला लेने का दरवाजा भी खुल गया है।

अमर उजाला ने 29 जुलाई के अंक में खबर प्रकाशित की थी कि आईआईटी के एमबीए प्रोग्राम में इस साल कैट स्कोर से दाखिला होगा। आईआईटी खड़गपुर कैट से रजिस्टर्ड हो गई है। साथ ही एनआईटी कालीकट, त्रिची और कर्नाटक भी कैट स्कोर से एमबीए प्रोग्राम में एडमिशन देंगे। जो आईआईटी कैट से नहीं जुड़ी हैं वे भी कैट स्कोर पर दाखिला देंगी।



कैट से जुड़ने वाले जिले के बी-स्कूल

नोएडा से जयपुरिया इंस्टीट्यूट, आईएमएस और ग्रेनो से बिरला इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मैनेजमेंट टेक्नोलॉजी, गलगोटिया बिजनेस स्कूल, इंडस बिजनेस स्कूल, एक्वरेट इंस्टीट्यूट, जीएल बजाज, आर्मी इंस्टीट्यूट, इंडस वर्ल्ड स्कूल, जेआरई ग्रुप, शारदा यूनिवर्सिटी, एसएसबीएस, ग्रेजुएट स्कूल ऑफ बिजनेस, इंडस बिजनेस एकेडमी, आईआईएलएम के दो संस्थान और एनआईआईएलएम शामिल हैं।

दरअसल, आईआईएम के अतिरिक्त कैट स्कोर पर एडमिशन देने के लिए प्रबंधन संस्थानों को नॉन आईआईएम मेंबर्स इंस्टीट्यूशंस के तौर पर रजिस्ट्रेशन कराना पड़ता है।

दो साल पहले 2008 में कैट परीक्षा के स्कोर पर दाखिला देने के लिए 102 बी-स्कूल जुड़े थे। 2010 में इनकी संख्या 159 तक पहुंच गई। इस साल अभी तक 137 प्रबंधन संस्थान रजिस्टर्ड हो चुके हैं, जिनकी संख्या अभी और बढ़ेगी। उत्तर प्रदेश के 33 एमबीए और पीजीडीएम कॉलेज कैट 2011 के स्कोर पर दाखिला देंगे। इनमें से 15 संस्थान गौतमबुद्ध नगर के हैं। इनमें पिछले साल के मुकाबले कुछ पुराने संस्थान हटकर नए शामिल हुए हैं। वहीं रजिस्ट्रेशन के लिए आईआईएम ने यूट्यूब पर प्रवेश परीक्षा के रजिस्ट्रेशन, शेड्यूल और टेस्ट के दिन औपचारिकताएं समझाने वाला वीडियो जारी कर दिया है। रजिस्ट्रेशन गाइड भी जारी कर दी गई है। साथ ही छात्र इसे 0124-4517178 पर भी जानकारी ले सकते हैं।