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Placements off to a flying start at IITs

Window reduced to 10 days; offers up 20-30% this year

VINAY UMARJI, M SARASWATHY & KALPANA PATHAK
Ahmedabad/Mumbai, 1 December

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) saw a better performance on the first day of the final placements this year as compared to the last year.

IITs, which started the first leg of the final placements on Tuesday, said job offers have gone up 20-30 per cent this year as against last year.

This year, the number of days of placement has been reduced to 10 against 15 to accommodate the upcoming Inter-IIT Sports Meet, hosted by IIT-Madras and scheduled from December 14. The second leg of the placements will begin in January.

At IIT-Guwahati, Oracle made the highest international

offer of \$140,000 (approximately ₹93 lakh), excluding employee stock options and other components, said institute sources. The average domestic compensation package on the first day was ₹25 lakh.

Barring the last slot for the day, which would see 14 firms participating, IIT-Guwahati saw about 25 companies making close to 100 offers, with 67 being made in the first slot.

The day saw 16 international offers. WhatsApp emerged as the highest international recruiter with 12 offers for jobs in Singapore. Oracle and Microsoft followed with two offers each. Uber was a first-time recruiter.

IIT-Madras began its placements with a graveyard shift, for job offers abroad. The five companies that booked slots for

this shift were Microsoft, Oracle, VISA, Google and Bloomberg — the news and data company being a new entrant for the session.

"Overall, the placements appear to be very good with a fantastic response for the graveyard session," said Babu Viswanathan, advisor, training & placement, IIT-Madras. "We've had 300 companies register with us offering over 420 profiles, despite a smaller window of number of days."

The graveyard shift saw six international offers being made, including Microsoft (3) and Oracle, Google and VISA making one offer each. Day-one also saw management consultancies and computer science companies.

The institute said 266 companies participated, offering

391 profiles, against 221 companies last year.

Start-ups have been slotted for the second day. One hundred and twenty-nine start-ups have registered this year, against 56 last year. These offered 198 profiles, against 85 last year.

IIT-Madras is seeing first-time recruiters such as Dahlberg, Roland Berger, Wrig Nanosystems and FinMechanics.

In its first slot, IIT-Roorkee saw nine companies on campus with a whopping 74 offers, said N P Padhy, professor-in-charge, training & placement office. Microsoft gave 19 offers. Salary packages were between ₹20 lakh and ₹25 lakh. International offers were given by Oracle (2), Google (2) and Microsoft (1).

PLACEMENT PRESSURE

Differences in pay packages at IIT placements are leading to increased stress levels



IT'S not something that you tend to associate with IITs. Over the years, IIT graduates have always been placed without any difficulty. Now, there's a twist in the tale. While they still get placed, the worrying factor for students is the wide disparity in pay scales being offered between the highest and lowest—anything from ₹2 crore to just ₹8 lakh annually. This is leading

to depression and mental health issues among students. Placement depression usually happens to such students who have been top performers across semesters but fail to get placed on the first or second day. By the time the placement process is over, they could be among the leaders, but students tend to link performance to their identity.

Another factor stressing out students is meeting parental expectations. To ensure that fewer students get stressed out, as a first step IITs have started counselling students well before the placement process starts. This time round, IITs also do not plan to release any details of compensation packages being offered by recruiters. Another aspect is that since salaries today include fixed and variable components, IITs only mention the fixed part of the package. It's early days, but efforts are on to ensure that stress levels for IIT graduates come down sharply.

Hindu ND 2.12.2015 P-16

IIT Madras helps KoPT to slash dredging costs by Rs.250 crore

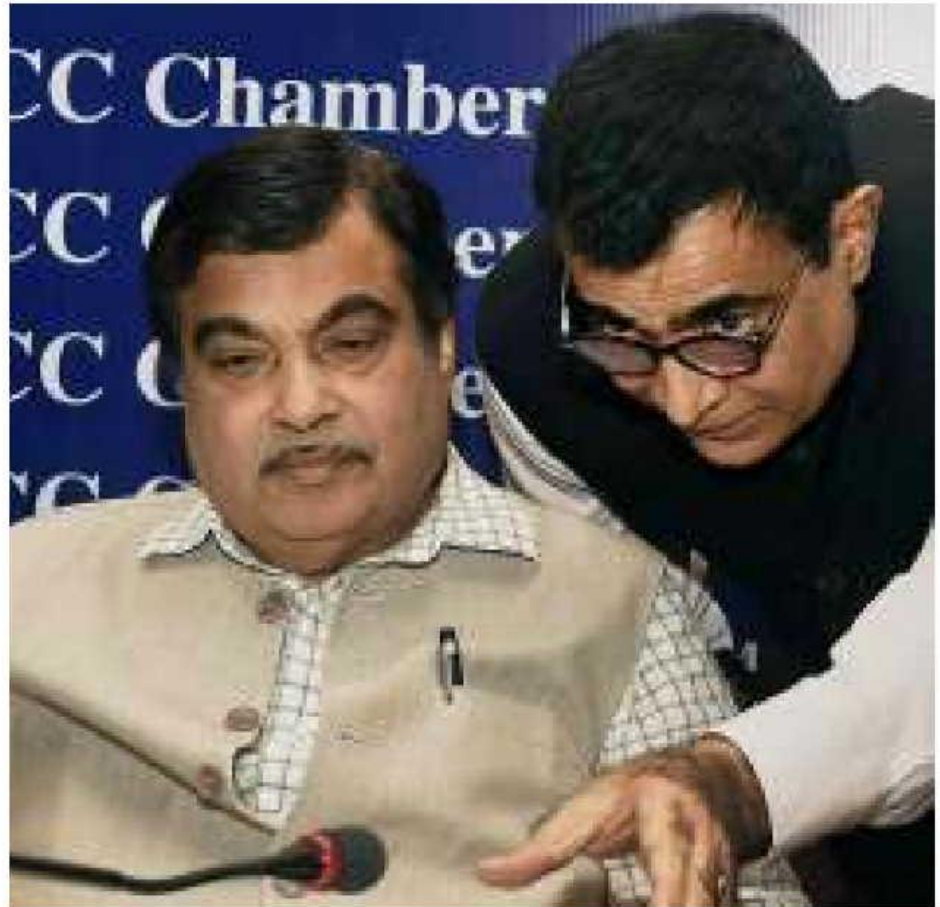
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: The Kolkata Port Trust may implement a technology that will help it save Rs.250 crore annually through reduced dredging costs, Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari said.

Dredging costs at the country's only riverine port is likely to get reduced from around Rs.400 crore to around Rs.150 crore due to a new process of dredging suggested by the IIT-Madras on the basis of recommendations made by the Boston Consulting Group. The two port systems of KoPT at Kolkata and Haldia have a draft of around 7.5 metres.

Boston Consulting, on the basis of a Ministry mandate, had made 120 recommendations on improving the performance of all the major Indian ports. "About 20 suggestions are being implemented and the rest would be put in place in two years," Mr Gadkari said adding that it is not possible to improve exports without good ports.

"For this government, waterways had the highest prior-



ity in the logistics segment followed by railways and roadways." Against the previous government's pace of laying two km of roads daily, now 18 km of roadways were being laid, he said. The target is to increase it to 30 km a day by March 2016. The Minister also said that within five years, 50 lakh jobs are expected to be generated by the transport sector, which would contribute two per cent to the GDP.

Within five years, 50 lakh jobs are expected to be generated by the transport sector, which would have a two per cent addition to GDP, says Nitin Gadkari. Union Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping. R.P.S.Kahlon, Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust, is also seen. — PHOTO: PTI

ity in the logistics segment followed by railways and roadways." Against the previous government's pace of laying two km of roads daily, now 18 km of roadways were being laid, he said. The target is to

increase it to 30 km a day by March 2016. The Minister also said that within five years, 50 lakh jobs are expected to be generated by the transport sector, which would contribute two per cent to the GDP.

Campus jobs: Wary of hype, IIT Bombay screens start-ups

Feedback sought from experts, start-ups asked to provide balance sheets for three years

DIPTI SINGH &
KHUSHBOO NARAYAN
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 1

THE GROWING number of layoffs by several start-ups over the last three months appears to have dented their credibility this placement season. For the first time, IIT Bombay's placement cell is vetting the credentials of start-ups before offering them slots, including asking for balance sheets and checking feedback.

"Not only were the annual balance sheets of the past three years reviewed but feedback from industry experts, entrepreneurs and alumni, too, was taken before giving the start-ups slots for placement sessions," said a source in IIT B's placement cell. The institute kicked off its 20-day placement process on Tuesday.

While start-ups had claimed "opening slots" in the last couple of years due to their popularity among students, most of them

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ANCHOR

have been pushed this time to slots on the fifth or even the eighth day.

When contacted, Atul Shukla, placement manager, IIT B placement cell, told *The Indian Express*: "It is not that we have slotted all the start-ups for later slots. This year, we have been considering the credibility of

start-ups and scrutinising (them) before slotting due to many factors, including the recent lay-offs."

However, the offer of late slots has prompted some start-ups to stay away from the placement process at the institute.

For instance, Taskbob, a Mumbai-based mobile-only on-demand home services start-up, which was incubated in IIT B in 2014, opted out this year. "We got a slot on day eight, which we were not happy with and we

withdrew from the process," said Aseem Khare, CEO and founder of Taskbob.

According to the IIT B source, "some of the start-ups have cited business reasons for the withdrawal, while some have informed that they are not participating due to non-availability of desired slots".

In the last three months, over half a dozen start-ups, including Housing.com, TinyOwl, Zomato, Dazo, HelpChat and LocalBanya,



The IIT Bombay campus. Start-ups have seen a growing number of layoffs in the last three months. Archive

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Wary of hype, IIT Bombay screens start-ups

have collectively laid off over 1,700 employees because of shrinking funds or changed strategies.

In August, it was reported that realty portal Housing.com has decided to fire at least 600 employees as a part of a restructuring strategy. Zomato, a restaurant discovery portal that has been valued at over \$1 billion, too, decided to layoff at least 10

per cent of its total staff strength. More recently, another restaurant search app Tinyowl fired over 100 people and shut down some of its offices as part of a restructuring exercise.

According to experts, these layoffs could have been "handled... a lot better" by the start-ups. "Their credibility has definitely taken a hit and I think that's because they

(the layoffs) were managed quite poorly. Joining start-ups comes with a higher risk and reward attached to it. Most people are aware of this and therefore I don't think the start-ups should be the ones taking all the blame. But they could have handled it a lot better," said Payal Goel, Vice President - Investments at venture capital firm Aspada Investment Advisors.

Climate change: India needs \$1 tn

New Delhi: India needs over \$1 trillion from now until 2030 to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, which has already begun to impact on the lives of some 800 million people, or nearly 64% of the country's population, an academic study said. It said the Indian government spent \$91.8 billion on adaptation in 2013-14 alone and this spending is expected to reach \$360 billion by 2030. The study by IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Gandhinagar and Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), a Delhi-based think-tank working on energy and climate issues, was released on Tuesday. **MAYANK AGGARWAL**

Coaching institutes feel regulations to hit revenue

Ashok Misra committee wants to put ₹2.4-lakh crore sector under regulation

M SARASWATHY & KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai, 1 December

Clearly, coaching institutes don't seem in agreement with the suggestions put forth by the Ashok Misra committee even as it mulls placing the ₹2.4-lakh crore sector under regulation.

The institutes said even if a regulatory body is brought in place, it cannot govern them beyond a certain limit. In no way, they maintained, will any regulation stem their growth.

Regulation of fee and infrastructure would be the two key areas where the government bodies overseeing coaching institutes could play a role. Chandan Dikshit, vice-president, Rao IIT Academy, explained that enforcing regulations for the coaching segment will however, not mean a more effective schooling system.

The IITs and the Union



The Union human resource development ministry have been concerned about more and more students signing up for coaching classes to crack the joint entrance examination

Human Resource Development Ministry have been concerned about more and more students signing up for coaching classes to crack the joint entrance examination — also regarded a ticket to premier technology institutes.

Sectoral officials said the

motive behind the recent proposals was to primarily regulate the fee structure in the institutes. Typically, for a two-year residential programme at IIT-JEE, institutes charge anywhere between ₹2.5 lakh and ₹4 lakh, including service tax of 14.5 per cent.

Pramod Maheshwari, chief executive officer, Careerpoint Infosystems, Kota, said, "Operationally, the regulations would not impact the industry. But on the revenue and fee fronts, it might. The industry sees a fee revision of 7-10 per cent every year and post-regulation, it could be impacted."

Maheshwari's institute charges between ₹40,000 and ₹90,000 per annum per student depending on the class the student seeks admission in. If a student joins the institute in Std IX, he pays ₹40,000; in Std X, the fee goes up to ₹50,000. In Std XI and XII, it goes up to ₹80,000 per annum. After Std XII, the fee is a staggering ₹90,000 per annum. For residential facilities, the institute charges ₹2.5 lakh per annum.

Maheshwari said his institute offers state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities, including air-conditioned

classrooms, medical and transport services.

Furthermore, several courses like board exams, IIT-JEE (Main and Advanced), apart from other examinations like state government medical entrance tests, are also clubbed together as a package. Here, the fee may go up to ₹4.5-4.8 lakh, depending on the number of exams covered under the programme by the institute.

"Ministry officials are under a preconceived notion that by merely regulating the entities, they will be able to control the sector. But it is unorganised in nature what with several small and micro entities that are impossible to be regulated. While we, as large entities, are being asked to pay service tax, smaller entities are left out of the tax ambit," said a senior executive, at a pan-India IIT coaching institute.

RECOMMENDATION OF EXPERT COMMITTEE

‘Set up body to regulate entrance coaching centres’

ANKITA DWIVEDI JOHRI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 1

THE EXPERT committee set up by the Union Human Resource Development Ministry in October this year, has recommended an “All India Council for Coaching for Entrance Examinations (AICCEE)”, to ensure that “coaching institutes are well-equipped and maintain healthy and best practices as well as charge regulated fees”.

The six-member panel was headed by Prof Ashok Misra, who is chairperson of IIT Roorkee’s Board of Governors

(BoG). Set up to recommend changes to Joint Entrance Examination format for IITs, the panel pointed out that private coaching had become a “very large industry and had made students too dependent on coaching centres”.

Prof Ashok Misra said, “If this is the future of education in India, then they (coaching centres) need to follow some accepted norms. Coaching centres have become an alternate form of education in the country, where the parents are sending their children to study. So there is a need for regulation.”

In a four-part series — Inside

The Kota Coaching Factory — last week, *The Indian Express* had highlighted the relentless academic grind, spike in suicides and the menace of depression and drugs in Kota — the country’s coaching hub with close to 1.5 lakh students that saw 24 suicides this year. The reports revealed “lack of regulation and flaws in the schooling system” as one of the primary reasons behind aspirants opting for coaching institutes. Highlighting “proliferation of coaching centres”, the panel suggested “it would help if there is a regulatory body for the coaching institutions”.

The report, which was sub-

mitted to the HRD Ministry on November 5 this year, pegs the rough estimate of the revenues of the coaching industry at Rs 24,000 crore per year.

“This presumes that 12 lakh students attend coaching for two years and pay Rs 1 lakh per year. The actual number of years for coaching may be more than this and hence revenues may be greater than the amount given above. It is desired that the dependence of students on the coaching centres be reduced,” suggested the report.

The idea of a regulatory body received mixed response from the coaching fraternity and ed-

ucationists. “The report contradicts itself. On one hand it calls for mock tests by IITs to do away with the coaching industry and on the other, it wants to place a watchdog to regulate us,” said Pramod Maheshwari, director of Career Point in Kota. A faculty member at one of the IITs, who did not wish to be named, said a regulatory body for coaching centres would “negate the idea” of reducing dependence on them.

“By establishing such a body, you are acknowledging these centres and identifying them as part of the educational system. How will this help the students?” the faculty member said.

IIT में प्लेसमेंट सीजन में डिप्रेशन के मामले बढ़े

[प्राची वर्मा | नई दिल्ली]

नवंबर की शुरुआत में आईआईटी खड़गपुर के 21 साल के एक स्टूडेंट को सीने में जलन और तेज धड़कन की दिक्कत होनी शुरू हुई। उसे रात को नींद भी नहीं आती थी। ये तमाम लक्षण डिप्रेशन के हैं। प्लेसमेंट शुरू होने से पहले इस तरह की दिक्कत से गुजरने वाला यह अकेला शख्स नहीं है। अच्छी जॉब पाने की चिंता का असर स्टूडेंट्स की सेहत पर पड़ रहा है। नवंबर आधा बीतने तक मीडिया में इन स्टूडेंट्स के बैचमेट्स को प्री-प्लेसमेंट ऑफर में 1 करोड़ से ज्यादा सैलरी के ऑफर की खबरें आने लगती हैं। मेकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग के स्टूडेंट ने बताया, ‘मेरे पैरेंट्स ने जब से इस तरह की खबरें सुनी हैं, वे मुझे कॉल कर प्लेसमेंट में सैलरी के ट्रेंड के बारे में चेक करने को कह रहे हैं।’

Economic Times Hindi ND 2.12.2015

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IIT प्लेसमेंट में पहले दिन बना मिलियन डॉलर क्लब

इंटरनेशनल रिक्रूटर्स ने लगभग 40 ऑफर्स दिए, जिनमें सैलरी 100,000 डॉलर से अधिक रही

IIT ग्रेजुएट्स को मिला बंपर पैकेज

IIT- कानपुर
तीन स्टूडेंट्स को 1.4 करोड़ रुपये का टॉप ऑफर

IIT- बॉम्बे
इंटरनेशनल रिक्रूटर्स में सोनी जापान, सर्च इंजन इनडीड सहित कई फर्म शामिल

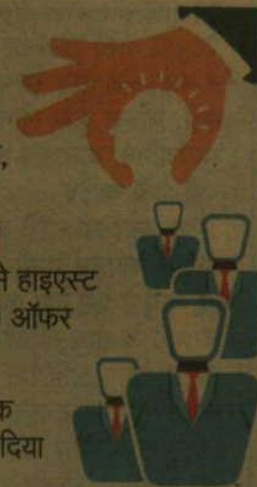
IIT- मद्रास
ब्लूमबर्ग यूके पहली बार पहुंची, 5 से ज्यादा इंटरनेशनल कंपनियों के ऑफर्स मिले

IIT- दिल्ली
दोपहर तक 50 ऑफर दिए गए, कोडनेशन, इनशाॅर्ट्स स्टार्टअप्स में शामिल

IIT- रुड़की
शाम तक 74 ऑफर, गूगल टॉप पर रही

IIT- गुवाहाटी
ऑरेकल की तरफ से हाइएस्ट ऑफर, शाम तक 80 ऑफर

IIT- IIM
सबसे बड़ा डोमेस्टिक ऑफर वर्ल्डक्वांट ने दिया



श्री राधा डी बसु & प्राची वर्मा डघवाल |
आईआईटी प्लेसमेंट्स के पहले दिन मंगलवार को धमाकेदार शुरुआत हुई। इंटरनेशनल रिक्रूटर्स ने 40 के करीब ऑफर्स दिए, जिनमें सैलरी 100,000 डॉलर (66 लाख रुपये) से अधिक रही। ऑरेकल, माइक्रोसॉफ्ट, गूगल, वीजा और अमेरिका के एंजलॉयमेंट से जुड़े सर्च इंजन इनडीड समेत कई कंपनियों ने इंटरनेशनल ऑफर्स दिए, जिनमें बेस पे कम से कम 100,000 डॉलर था। हालांकि, इस सैलरी पैकेज में रिलोकेशन, ज्वाइनिंग बोनस या ईसॉप्स शामिल नहीं हैं।

ईसॉप्स समेत वेरिएबल कंपोनेंट्स को शामिल करने के बाद गूगल जैसी कुछ कंपनियों का कंपनसेशन पैकेज 2 करोड़ रुपये तक है। आईआईटी सूत्रों का कहना है कि शुरुआती संकेत इशारा करते हैं कि इस साल हायरिंग नंबर्स और ऑफर की जाने वाली सैलरी दोनों में मजबूत ग्रोथ देखने को मिलेगी। यह ग्रोथ खासतौर से डोमेस्टिक कंपनियों की तरफ से देखने को मिलेगी। आईआईटी प्लेसमेंट की जानकारी रखने वाले सूत्रों का कहना है कि माइक्रोसॉफ्ट और ऑरेकल

100,000-110,00 डॉलर का बेसिक पे ऑफर कर रही हैं। यह 125,000-140,000 डॉलर तक पहुंच सकता है और अगर कुछ वेरिएबल्स को शामिल कर लिया जाता है तो ज्यादा भी हो सकता है।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि मोटा पे-पैकेज देने में वीजा भी शामिल है, जो 1,15,000 डॉलर के करीब सैलरी ऑफर कर रही है। आईआईटी कानपुर के तीन स्टूडेंट्स को सालाना करीब 1.4 करोड़ रुपये का ऑफर मिला है। इनके ऑफर में बोनस और एकोमोडेशन शामिल नहीं है। इन स्टूडेंट्स ने पिछले साल के हाइस्ट ऑफर के रिकॉर्ड को भी तोड़ा है। पिछले साल स्टूडेंट्स को सालाना 93 लाख रुपये का ऑफर किया गया था। ये ऑफर एक इंटरनेशनल इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एंड इंफॉर्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजी कंपनी ने दिए हैं, जो एशिया बेस्ड है।

कानपुर में पहले दिन कुल 37 कंपनियां शामिल हुईं। सर्विसनाउ (जो IIT मद्रास में ब्लैकलिस्टेड है), उबर इंटरनेशनल और टिवटर समेत कुछ फॉरेन रिक्रूटर्स प्लेसमेंट से गैरहाजिर नहीं।

**ऑरेकल,
माइक्रोसॉफ्ट,
गूगल, वीजा और
इनडीड समेत कई
कंपनियों ने दिए
ऑफर्स**

AUTONOMY ISSUE

B-schools set to knock on SC's door again

By PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

Around 300 business schools have failed to convince the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the human resources development (HRD) ministry to withdraw a 2010 notification mandating that admissions to these schools be done only on the basis of an AICTE-conducted entrance test.

These schools now have no option but to approach the Supreme Court, which had previously stayed the notification and allowed admissions for the batches of 2011-13, 2012-14, 2013-15, 2014-16 and 2015-17 through several judgements.

The notification affects schools such as XLRI, Jamshedpur, and Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIM-TECH), Greater Noida, which offer a postgraduate diploma in management (PGDM) and want to retain their autonomy with regard to the admission process, curriculum and administration.

Officials from these schools met HRD minister Smriti Irani and AICTE officials in September and October, respectively, to draw their attention to the December 2010 notification.

"We requested them to withdraw the notification. Both the ministry and the AICTE authorities listened to us patiently... but we have not heard anything from them," said Harivansh Chaturvedi, director of BIM-TECH. "The admission process will start from January and we are still uncertain and without a permanent solution."

But the AICTE seems to be in no mood to relent. "We cannot do anything on that notification," AICTE chairman Anil Sahasrabudhe said. "We have to follow certain rules and that notification issue is in court."

Chaturvedi said the PGDM schools will seek a stay on that notification from the Supreme Court on 4 December. "Without a stay on that notification, we

cannot even start a new academic session. For the last four years, the trouble for PGDM schools has compounded. Instead of focusing on education, a lot of energy is getting diverted to legal issues," he said. "If the AICTE withdraws the notification, we will withdraw the case."

Chaturvedi, who is also the alternate president of the Education Promotion Society of India, a federation of private B-schools, said several top educationists have petitioned the HRD ministry, under which the AICTE functions, to withdraw the notification.

XLRI director E. Abraham, MDI, Gurgaon, acting director C.P. Shrimali and International Management Institute, Delhi, director Bakul Dholakia wrote to the HRD ministry on the issue in October. The three academicians had sought "autonomous" status for these leading PGDM schools, saying several of them are even better than the new IIMs. They believe that since the government is now getting ready to allow IIMs to grant degrees, such institutions too need more autonomy.

"Liberalization must not stop with business and industry. It must reach the field of higher education and more so the field of business education. It is essential for business education to be in lockstep with global trends and be on a par with the system of management education elsewhere in the world. Therefore, bureaucratic controls should be eschewed to the maximum with the emphasis shifting to facilitating rather than control," they wrote.

Sahasrabudhe said AICTE has already given its response to the ministry, which now has to take the call. "Whether it's PGDM schools or any other such institutions, they need to follow certain rules. The autonomy issue can only be addressed by a modification in the AICTE Act, which is not at present on the table," he said.

Hindustan Times(Ht education)
ND 2.12.2015 P-19

Indian varsities need to focus on research and quality teaching

Why does India need autonomous colleges? Such institutes can help in the growth of more research-oriented universities, say experts. While there are autonomous colleges with a standing of more than 100 years that still cannot grant degrees, others, especially several new private universities, with no track record in teaching or research, have permissions to do so.

Ashok Thakur, former secretary to the government of India, department of higher education, HRD ministry, says, "The first right of an institution to become a university should be that of an autonomous college both for a private university as well as deemed university. Currently, the autonomous colleges identified by the UGC have earned this status on the basis of their proven record on a number of indicators. As a consequence, they are supposed to enjoy considerable academic and administrative freedom. Many of them have a glorious legacy and continue to be excellent centres for teaching and research. Stella Maris (established 1947) and Women's Christian (1915) in Chennai, St Xavier's (1869) in Mumbai, Nizam College (1887), Hyderabad, St Joseph's College in Bengaluru (1882) have excellent claims to be converted into universities. They deserve to become a university instead of an upstart private state university."

Thakur feels the affiliation system is a major stumbling block in achieving excellence. "Colleges cannot grow beyond the limits set by the university no matter how good they are; they cannot start new programmes, amend their curriculum or conduct their own exams. Some of the oldest universities in the country - University of Mumbai, University of Pune, Osmania University, University of Nagpur have over 700 colleges affiliated to them. No wonder none of the Indian universities figure in the top 200 universities of the world as there is no time for research or quality teaching," he adds.

—Gauri Kohli

MANY NEW PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES, WITH NO TRACK RECORD IN TEACHING/ RESEARCH, HAVE PERMISSIONS TO GRANT DEGREES