

## Newspaper Clips

### December 28, 2016

#### **From K12 to IIT, campuses bank on organised players for study tours**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/from-k12-to-iit-campuses-bank-on-organised-players-for-study-tours-116122700866\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/from-k12-to-iit-campuses-bank-on-organised-players-for-study-tours-116122700866_1.html)

#### **Demand for organised players for edu-tours is fueled by increasing number of international schools**



From K12 schools to even Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), educational institutions are increasingly banking on organised players like Thomas Cook and Cox & Kings for conducting study tours. So much so, that industry estimates peg the segment at a revenue of over Rs 200 crore, growing at a rate of 20 per cent per annum.

For instance, IIT Delhi collaborated with an organised player for a 10-day Europe trip. According to schools and institutes alike, organised players not only bring in a ready network of overseas service providers at various destinations but also ensure security of students.

Moreover, institutes also find services of organised players to be cost effective. "Collaborating with organised players tends to reduce co-ordination costs for us since they have their own network. We are open to collaborating with different players. However, these players need to set terms and conditions," said P Vigneswara Ilavarasan, Associate Professor at IIT Delhi, while refusing to divulge details of such tie-ups. According to Ilavarasan, IIT Delhi supports such tours partly while the rest is paid by students.

Demand for organised players for edu-tours has also been fueled by the increasing number of international schools in the country, apart from domestic schools adopting international curriculum and pedagogy that requires increased number of non-classroom experience.

Experts cite that Indians are willing to spend more and more on their child's education even as international and premium schools are foraying even into tier 2 and 3 cities. In addition, enrolments are going up on the upwards of 14 per cent per annum.

"What this means is that unlike some schools where emphasis is on classroom alone, the international schools are more balanced and experience oriented. Even Indian schools are gradually adopting this model including state board schools promoting non-classroom experiences. This provides opportunity for travel to grow at a time when there are hardly any organised players providing study tours to educational institutions," said Abraham Alapatt, President & Group Head - Marketing, Service Quality, Financial Services & Innovation, Thomas Cook (India) Ltd.

Moreover, according to Alapatt, the company has designed products and services that involve both fun and learning. "It is built around what the curriculum of the school so that it is relevant to what students are learning," Alapatt added.

Seconding Alapatt is Veena Singh, founder principal of Dehradun-based Unison World School. "The evolving curriculum and pedagogy has also made it almost mandatory for schools and educational institutions to include such experiential tours as part of their programs, thereby giving rise to need of organised players in the market," said Singh.

However, the challenge ahead is the growing cost of such tours overall for schools which could result in reluctance among students and parents for participation, say some.

"We realised that Thomas Cook's trips were more organised and children were more secure. We realised that organised players go an extra mile and ensure that children do a thorough observation on the tour. The only concern is that it keeps getting more expensive year-on-year. Our school do two domestic and one international tour every year. While a typical five-day tour to places like Paris costs Rs 1.2 lakh, a domestic five-day trip costs around Rs 30,000-40,000," said Neelu Lamba, principal of Hiranandani Foundation School.

Statesman ND 28.12.2016 P-05

**Army signs MoU with IIT: Indian Army on Tuesday signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Technology-Gandhinagar (IITGN) to set up a Research and Development cell which would focus on the finding solutions for the Army's requirements..** PTI

Statesman ND 28.12.2016 P-07

## Google CEO to visit IIT-Kharagpur

PTI ■ New Delhi

Google Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai, who has a BTech degree from IIT Kharagpur, will relive his old days in the campus with teachers and students at a function here next week. "Sundar Pichai, CEO Google and Distinguished Alumnus of IIT Kharagpur, has expressed his desire to visit the campus in the first week of January 2017," Director Partha Pratim Chakrabarti said. The institute is inviting students to come back to campus after the winter break on time to listen to Pichai.

Business Line ND 28.12.2016 P-17

## Army to set up R&D cell at IIT-Gandhinagar

OUR BUREAU

Gandhinagar, December 27

The Indian Army has entered into an agreement with the IIT-Gandhinagar (IITGN) to set up a research and development (R&D) cell on the campus.

Staffed by the faculty and research students, the R&D cell will attempt to solve the technical challenges faced by the army.

"There are several issues faced by the Indian Army that needs to be addressed. For example, we can have lighter and better bullet-proof jackets, better and lighter materials to build bunkers and so on. We are hopeful that indigenisation will take place at a fast pace through such MoUs," said Lt Gen Subrata Saha here.

The agreement will also enable IITGN and Indian Army to collaborate in various other areas, including better understanding of critical technology requirements of the army, sharing of professional



Lt Gen Subrata Saha and Sudhir Jain, Director, IIT-Gandhinagar, signing the MoU in Gandhinagar on Tuesday

and technical knowledge, and other activities of mutual interest.

IITGN Director, Sudhir Jain said the Indian Army faced di-

verse problems, and the research centre at IITGN would help address them. "This is just the beginning of academia-army relationship," he

added. Indian Army will also explore the possibilities of conducting short-term courses and lectures at the institute.

Hindustan Times ND 28.12.2016 P-17

# Manufacturers step up hiring from IITs

**Rozelle Laha**

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**NEW DELHI:** It can well be called the Make in India effect.

Manufacturing companies are hiring more from the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), thanks to the government's stress on making in India.

While the second phase of placements is yet to start in the first week of January, the country's premier technology institutes have already hosted more manufacturing firms on campus this year, compared to the last year.

IIT Roorkee graduates, for instance, have already bagged 125 manufacturing job offers this year, against 109 last year, said NP Pady, professor in charge, training and placement, IIT Roorkee. The institute hosted 29 manufacturing firms this year, compared to 24 last year.

At IIT Guwahati, 24 companies had rolled out manufacturing



■ Flavour of the hiring season

MINT FILE

jobs last year. This year, the number has gone up to 26.

Professor Kaustubha Mohanty, head, centre for career development at IIT Guwahati, said more manufacturing companies are expected to participate in the second phase.

Most IITs, however, do not maintain a clear break up of man-

ufacturing companies, which hire from campuses.

But, "any company, which is involved in making products is categorised as a manufacturing company. On an average, over 85% of manufacturing jobs are rolled out to mechanical engineers at IITs," said Mohanty, who is also the convener of the All IIT

Placement Committee, the panel responsible for campus hiring at all IITs.

IIT Madras did not have specifics on manufacturing companies. But going by the core mechanical engineering jobs, till the second week of December, 64 offers were rolled out to these graduates by 36 companies, compared to 31 companies and 50 offers last year.

Tata Motors, General Motors, Mercedes Benz and Mahindra Group are the top recruiters from the manufacturing sector across IITs. Chemical engineers and production engineering graduates are the most sought after.

Manufacturing constitutes 75.52% of the overall index of industrial production (IIP).

"Make in India has fuelled positive sentiment about the growth of the manufacturing sector, which could be the reason for higher placements at IITs this year," said Rohin Kapoor, director, Deloitte.

## Flipkart collaborates with IISc, IITs to build IP, gain edge over rivals

Some futuristic technologies it is exploring is in the use of drones for logistics in warehouses

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/flipkart-collaborates-with-iisc-iits-to-build-ip-gain-edge-over-rivals-116122700756\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/flipkart-collaborates-with-iisc-iits-to-build-ip-gain-edge-over-rivals-116122700756_1.html)



Flipkart, India's most successful start-up, is working with The Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institute of Science and a few foreign universities to develop technologies such as machine learning, voice recognition and drones to deliver products.

The focus of Flipkart, which has already published two papers in journals, mirrors the strategy of global firms such as Facebook and Google, to build intellectual property that helps solve bigger challenges for the company and gain an edge over rivals.

The Indian e-commerce major says it also has reached a scale that allows students and the academia to use its data and platform knowledge to work on challenges that help improve gaps, in addition to publishing research papers.

"If you look at 5 years ago, the problems professors were solving were with companies such as IBM or Microsoft. Now it is with Flipkart in online shopping and you can see the difference," says Muthuswamy Chellaiah, Director of Academic Engagement at Flipkart.

Indian start-ups have rarely focused on building research partnerships with universities as they build their business in areas such as e-commerce and travel. The focus so far has been to learn intuitively to solve problems as they emerge, often not documenting them as they move to another business challenge. This is in contrast with firms in the US, where start-ups collaborate with academics and doctoral students to solve problems, helping them publish papers that often are cited by other researchers working on similar problems.

Flipkart says it wants to bridge this gap in India, a need it says would also help it leapfrog in technology issues such as smartphone focused shopping on patchy networks, or helping its logistics team reach customers using the most optimal route at the lowest costs. Some of the futuristic technologies it is exploring and collaborating in the use of drones for logistics in warehouses.

"Everyone knows in online shopping world we're talking about drones delivering stuff and drones inside the warehouse and this is very ripe for collaboration. At the same time, we have to be realistic also, but I think there are a couple of universities here to get engaged with and we are sort of helping them get aligned in a way that this could be useful," says Chellaiah.

Flipkart's global rival Amazon is already experimenting delivery of small goods through drones in Cambridge in the UK. But it is too early to declare it as a global phenomenon as Amazon's home country the US did not clear its request to test drone delivery.

In India, regulations are still evolving on the use of drones for commercial use. The government is working on a policy specific to the commercial and personal use of drones in Indian airspace.

Flipkart says the collaboration with academics would only increase in the years to come.

"There are tonnes of problems but it goes beyond the computer science department, it goes to business schools, it goes to operations research departments. It's a very involved process - project managers involve engineers, scientists, professors, students and we are very committed to making a huge difference," says Chellaiah. "It also helps in developing a new talent pool. This kind of trains the students who we want to onboard, recruit and in the case of PhD students it's a three-year engagement."

## **Jkhand Govt sign MoU with IIM-A for setting up innovation lab**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/jkhand-govt-sign-mou-with-iim-a-for-setting-up-innovation-lab/1/844184.html>

Ranchi, Dec 27 (PTI) Jharkhand government today signed an MoU with IIM, Ahmedabad for setting up an international standard Jharkhand Innovation Lab with Chief Minister Raghubar Das saying this will give a new direction to the youth and entrepreneurs.

Jharkhand Information Technology Secretary Sunil Kumar Barnwal and IIM Ahmedabads Sailesh Gandhi inked the MoU, an official release said.

The Chief Minister said this would generate job opportunities, local resources would be utilised and economic activity would increase.

Barnwal said there would be a work station in the lab, it would be WiFi and it would be functional in eight months, the release said.

Gandhi said the main centre of the innovation lab would in Ranchi and sub-centres would be opened at training centres. This lab would be connected with foreign investors, banks, corporate, industries association, foundry institution and others, the release added.

Hindustan Times ND 28.12.2016 P-08

## Sena men cover up 'offensive' IIT-B mural of Hanuman in shades, shorts

**Shreya Bhandary**

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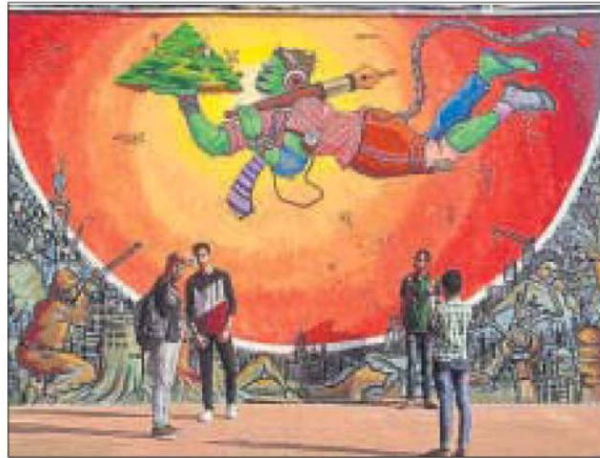
**MUMBAI:** Members of the Shiv Sena put a piece of white cloth over a painting that showed Hindu god Hanuman — in western attire and sporting gadgets — inside the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) campus on Monday, alleging it was a mockery of the deity.

The painting, a part of the institute's ongoing annual cultural festival Mood Indigo, was a creative take on the popular image of Lord Hanuman flying with the Gandhamardana Mountain that grew mythical life-saving Bisalyakarani herbs in one hand and his mace in the other.

In the painting, on a wall close to the Student Activity Center (SAC), he was shown holding a pen instead of a mace, his crown was replaced with headphones, an iPod strapped to his arm and a local train was drawn instead of a tail. The painting also depicted him wearing wrist bands, watches and sunglasses and western clothes.

Shiv Sainiks said the painting could have led to outrage among people and needed to be removed.

"The painting mocked Lord Hanuman who is revered



■ People take selfies in front of the mural, before it was covered by Shiv sainiks claiming indecency.

PRASHANT WAYDANDE / HT

by many. Making him wear sunshades, shorts, shoes and slippers cannot be called art. This is plain mockery of God, which is not acceptable," Sunil Raut, Shiv Sena MLA

**THE PAINTING WAS A CREATIVE TAKE ON THE POPULAR IMAGE OF THE LORD FLYING WITH THE GANDHAMARDANA MOUNTAIN**

from Vikhroli, said.

"This is a mockery of someone's religious beliefs, and could have been picked up by locals as a direct attack against their religion. We wanted to avoid such incidents," Raut added.

He said that the party had informed the Powai Police prior to entering the campus in order to avoid any issues.

Hindustan Times's calls and text messages to IIT-B officials, as well as representatives of Mood-I, went unanswered till the time of going to press.

## पुराने आईआईटी संस्थानों की अपेक्षा नए में बेहतर है स्टूडेंट-टीचर रेशो

दो साल में आईआईटी संस्थानों के स्टूडेंट-टीचर रेशो में कोई खास बदलाव नहीं आया। वहीं 2008 के बाद शुरू किए गए आईआईटी संस्थानों में पुराने आईआईटी संस्थानों के मुकाबले बेहतर स्टूडेंट-टीचर रेशो है। इस समस्या को जल्द से जल्द हल करने के लिए कोई ठोस योजना भी नहीं है।

## आईआईटी, मंडी में सबसे बेहतर है स्टूडेंट-टीचर रेशो, प्रत्येक आठ छात्र पर एक शिक्षक

देश के अधिकतर शिक्षण संस्थानों में स्टूडेंट-टीचर रेशो बड़ी समस्या है। इसमें आईआईटी संस्थान भी शामिल हैं। हाल ही में सामने आए आंकड़ों के मुताबिक नए आईआईटी संस्थानों में स्टूडेंट-टीचर रेशो पुराने संस्थानों की अपेक्षा बेहतर है। आईआईटी संस्थानों में 10:1 स्टूडेंट-टीचर रेशो को बेहतर माना जाता है। नए इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी संस्थानों में आईआईटी, मंडी में स्टूडेंट-टीचर रेशो सबसे बेहतर है, जहां प्रत्येक आठ छात्रों पर एक शिक्षक है। इसी प्रकार आईआईटी रोपड़ में 800 छात्रों के लिए 90 शिक्षक हैं। आईआईटी, गांधीनगर में प्रत्येक 10 छात्रों पर एक शिक्षक, आईआईटी, इंदौर और आईआईटी, हैदराबाद में प्रत्येक 12 छात्रों पर एक शिक्षक हैं। इन संस्थानों में स्टूडेंट-टीचर रेशो बेहतर होने की बड़ी वजह यह है कि ये विश्वभर से फैकल्टी मेंबर रिक्रूट कर रहे हैं और साथ ही रिसर्च के लिए शॉर्ट टर्म फैकल्टी विजिट की सुविधा भी उपलब्ध करा रहे हैं।

## वाराणसी में ज्यादा खराब हालत

पुराने आईआईटी में आईआईटी, बीएचयू का स्टूडेंट टीचर रेशो सबसे खराब 22:1 है। इसके बाद आईआईटी खड़गपुर में प्रत्येक 19 छात्रों पर एक शिक्षक, आईआईटी दिल्ली में प्रत्येक 16 छात्रों पर एक शिक्षक और आईआईटी बॉम्बे में प्रत्येक 14 छात्रों पर एक शिक्षक है। हाल ही में एक रिपोर्ट में यह बात सामने आई थी कि आईआईटी संस्थानों में आधे से ज्यादा शिक्षकों के पद खाली हैं। इन संस्थानों में कुल 5073 स्वीकृत पदों में 2671 पद खाली हैं। पुराने आईआईटी संस्थानों में स्टूडेंट-टीचर रेशो नई समस्या नहीं है। जब भी संस्थानों की ग्लोबल रैंकिंग की बात आती है, तो स्टूडेंट-टीचर रेशो को बेहतर रैंकिंग न होने की बड़ी वजहों में संस्थानों में शिक्षकों की कमी को बड़ी वजह बताया जाता है।

## दो साल पहले भी थी ऐसी ही स्थिति

गंभीर बात यह है कि दो साल पहले के आंकड़ों पर नजर डालें तो आज के आंकड़ों से ज्यादा फर्क नहीं देखने को मिलता है। इस दौरान आईआईटी संस्थानों में शिक्षकों के खाली पदों की संख्या 9 फीसदी तक बढ़ गई है। 2014 में आईआईटी, बॉम्बे में प्रत्येक 14 छात्रों पर एक शिक्षक, आईआईटी, दिल्ली में 18 पर एक और आईआईटी रुड़की में प्रत्येक 21 छात्र पर एक ही शिक्षक थे। आईआईटी, खड़गपुर में प्रत्येक 18 छात्र के लिए एक शिक्षक था। इससे स्पष्ट है कि पिछले दो सालों के दौरान स्टूडेंट-टीचर रेशो में कोई खास बदलाव नहीं हुआ है।

## योजनाओं को अमल में लाने में लगेगा समय

आईआईटी संस्थानों के अनुसार बेहतर फैकल्टी की कमी से संस्थान में जरूरी शिक्षकों की भर्ती नहीं की जा सकती। कुछ आईआईटी संस्थानों का कहना है कि संस्थानों की ग्लोबल रैंकिंग को बेहतर करने के लिए गुणवत्ता से समझौता नहीं किया जा सकता। हालांकि संस्थानों में पीएचडी छात्रों की संख्या को बढ़ाकर इस गैप को भरने की कोशिश की जा रही है, लेकिन इसमें समय लगेगा। जो योजनाएं चल रही हैं, उनके परिणाम आने में समय लगेगा। इसलिए निकट भविष्य में इस समस्या का कोई समाधान न तो सरकार और न ही संस्थान के पास है। पीएचडी छात्रों की संख्या बढ़ाने की योजना की पहले भी तकरीबन एक साल पहले की गई थी, जिसे अभी अमल में लाना बाकी है।

## न्यूज़ अपडेट

## आरक्षित श्रेणी के छात्रों की कोचिंग का अब पूरा खर्च उठाएगी केंद्र सरकार

सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय ने अनुसूचित जाति और अन्य पिछड़े वर्ग के बच्चों को बेहतर गुणवत्ता की कोचिंग उपलब्ध कराने के लिए देशभर से 28 कोचिंग संस्थानों का चयन किया है। योजना के तहत एससी और ओबीसी वर्ग के उम्मीदवारों को कॉम्पिटिटिव एग्जाम की तैयारी करने के लिए निशुल्क कोचिंग दी जाएगी। इसमें यूनिजन पब्लिक सर्विस कमीशन, स्टाफ सिलेक्शन कमीशन और रेलवे रिक्रूटमेंट बोर्ड जैसे एग्जाम शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा आईआईटी-जेईई, नीट, कैट, क्लैट, सैट, जीआरई और जीमैट जैसी परीक्षाओं की तैयारी करवाई जाएगी। जिन परिवारों की सालाना आय 6 लाख रुपए से कम है, उनके बच्चों का चयन इस योजना के तहत किया जाएगा। इस बार मंत्रालय ने चयनित छात्र पर कोचिंग संस्थान द्वारा किया जाने वाला पूरा खर्च वहन करने का निर्णय लिया है। इससे पहले मंत्रालय एक छात्र पर अधिकतम 20 हजार रुपए खर्च करता था। छात्रों के रिजल्ट के आधार पर कोचिंग संस्थानों के परफॉर्मेंस की समीक्षा तीसरे वर्ष के अंत में पैनाल द्वारा की जाएगी।

## बीच में पढ़ाई छोड़ चुके लोगों के लिए जागरूकता अभियान चलाएगा मंत्रालय

देशभर के जिन लोगों ने दसवीं की पढ़ाई पूरी किए बिना बीच में ही स्कूल छोड़ दिया है, उनके लिए मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय बड़े स्तर पर जागरूकता अभियान शुरू करने की योजना बना रहा है। यह जानकारी मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री ने नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ ओपन स्कूलिंग (एनआईओएस) द्वारा आयोजित एक प्रोग्राम के दौरान दी। मंत्रालय के अनुसार कई ऐसे लोग हैं, जिन्हें कई कारणों से पढ़ाई बीच में ही छोड़ना पड़ जाता है। जिन लोगों ने आठवीं और नौवीं की परीक्षा पास कर ली है, लेकिन 10वीं की पढ़ाई नहीं कर पाए हैं, उन्हें इस अभियान के तहत पढ़ाई पूरी करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाएगा। हर साल लगभग 5 लाख छात्र एनआईओएस योजना के तहत पास होते हैं। अभी इसका लक्ष्य 10 लाख छात्रों तक पहुंचने का रखा गया है। इसके साथ ही मंत्रालय ओपन स्कूलिंग से संबंधित मापदंडों में बदलाव करने की योजना बना रहा है। इससे पूर्व आठवीं के बाद आईटीआई से ट्रेनिंग को दसवीं के समतुल्य नहीं माना जाता था, लेकिन इस प्रावधान में बदलाव किया गया है।

Times Of India ND 28.12.2016 P-01

## At pre-Budget Niti meet, talk of tax cuts

Mahendra.Singh  
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**New Delhi:** The post-demonetisation Budget is likely to be citizen- and taxpayer-friendly and will contain measures to push economic growth. This was the central message that emanated from an interaction between PM Narendra Modi and a group of economists organised by the Niti Aayog on Tuesday.

The consultations saw the PM remark that while people

in general were not tax evaders, they did want money from taxes to be better utilised and accounted for.

"Tax simplification figured quite a lot... on direct taxation, corporate and personal income tax, reducing exemptions, bringing down the tax rate and aligning tax system to make India competitive with international destinations," Niti Aayog vice-chairman Arvind Panagariya said.

► **Push to consumption, P 27**

## Budget may offer sops to boost consumption, growth

► **Continued from P1**

A source said the Modi government's third Budget may offer incentives and packages to boost consumption and accelerate economic growth, a concern after reports that demonetisation had suppressed demand and reduced discretionary spending.

After the meeting, Panagariya said all attendees stressed on the need to bring firms and businesses into the formal economy—a goal

of demonetisation — as this would lead to growth of more secure and productive jobs.

Panagariya said the meeting between PM and economists focussed on three key points — agriculture, jobs and budget-related issues.

In the meeting, there was a discussion on strategies to work on Modi's goal to double farmers' income by 2022 and expand the digital payment revolution to include the agriculture sector, he said, adding there were sugges-

tions on moving to high-value agriculture products.

A source said Modi sought suggestions on setting up or developing world-class agriculture universities on the lines of IITs and IIMs. Experts favoured simplification and reduction in personal income tax rates and harmonisation of customs duties to global levels in a bid to boost economic activities. On the inverted duty structure, it was suggested that harmonisation of tariffs could resolve the issue.

Hindustan Times ND 28.12.2016 P-20

## Expansion, faculty hiring big challenges for PGDM institutes

The battle on who will regulate postgraduate diploma in management (PGDM) institutions has affected the institutes drastically.

According to Dr Harivansh Chaturvedi, alternate president, EPSI and director, BIMTECH, Greater Noida, the legal tussle is one of the reasons for the closing down of more than 200 B-schools in the last three years.

"It is also due to lack of vision among promoters, wrong location, poor faculty and lack of linkage with the industry." Another major reason is "excess supply of MBA seats created by the All-India Council for Technical Education between 2008 and 2012, Dr Chaturvedi adds"

Getting annual extension by the Supreme Court creates uncertainty for these institutions, say experts.

As Dr Bakul Dholakia, former director, IIM Ahmedabad, says, "Institutions have not been able to take strategic decisions such as expansion and infrastructure. B-schools which have to apply for international accreditation such as Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS) cannot do so as it is a costly proposition."

As a result, the PGDM institutions are suffering as they are not affiliated to any university. There are a number of B-schools that have not had their convocations in the last three years. Dholakia wonders about the fate of such institutes.

Faculty recruitment is another challenge as a large portion of faculty in these



**PROBLEMS GALORE**

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- Getting annual extension by the Supreme Court creates uncertainty for these institutions
- Institutions have not been able to take strategic decisions such as expansion and infrastructure
- B-schools which have to apply for international accreditation such as Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS) cannot do so as it is a costly proposition

B-schools is hired on contract basis.

"The yearly extension is detrimental to these schools," says Dr Dholakia.

B-schools which want to compete globally cannot do so. "We cannot compete globally if business schools continue to be regulated by archaic rules of the AICTE and the University Grants Commission," says Dr Chaturvedi.

Hindustan Times ND 28.12.2016 P-20

# For private B-schools, the battle for autonomy is likely to drag on

**FUTURE TENSE** Management institutions offering postgraduate diplomas worried about absence of a dedicated regulator

**Gauri Kohli**  
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It now looks as if the impasse over a regulator for the 350 private business schools offering postgraduate diplomas in management (PGDM) will drag on for some more time.

The PGDM institutions have been fighting a legal battle with the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for autonomy since 2010. The AICTE notification dated December 28, 2010, had called for withdrawal of their autonomy related to admissions, fixing of fees, curriculum and examination matters. The Supreme Court has stayed this notification five times in favour of PGDM institutions since 2011. It extended the interim stay again on December 16, 2016.



**The UGC took a wrong decision to bring PGDM institutions under its ambit. It was a wrong decision because autonomous and unaffiliated PGDM institutions cannot be governed by the UGC**

DR HARIWANSH CHATURVEDI, alternate president, EPSI and director, BIMTECH, Greater Noida

Institutions such as XLRI Jamshedpur and International Management Institute, New Delhi can now conduct admissions for the academic year 2017-18 through six national tests — Common Admission Test, Xavier Aptitude Test, Management Aptitude Test, AIMS Test for Management Admissions, Graduate Management Admission Test and Common Management Admission Test.

After AICTE's notification was issued, the PGDM schools had approached the HRD ministry but it could do nothing. On behalf of these institutions, the Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI) and Association of Indian Management Schools filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court in 2011, challenging the order. One of the main arguments by the B-schools was that the AICTE could not force the institutions to lose their autonomy since a number of them have been functioning as self-financing institutes for nearly five decades.

With the extension of the interim stay last week, the rallying cry for a dedicated regulator for management schools has grown louder, say experts.

Dr Bakul Dholakia, former director, IIM Ahmedabad, says PGDM institutions are at the moment approved by the All-India Board of Management Education (part of AICTE) but the Board does not enjoy the same autonomy as the AICTE. It also does not have many experts with a management education background.

Also, as AICTE seems to be devoted to engineering institutions, the MK Kaw Committee's recommendation to set up an All-India Council for Management Education (AICME) should be



## REGULATORY BATTLE FOR PRIVATE B-SCHOOLS: STORY SO FAR

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taken up seriously. "The scope of regulations for B-schools must also be clearly defined by the new regulator. The 2010 AICTE notification does not do that. In fact, the notification is a result of lack of clarity on the AICTE circular," says Dr Dholakia.

He suggests that approval to these B-schools should be given for a longer term of three years instead of an annual extension. The regulator must also look at strategic aspects such as deciding the fee, funding for research and development, evaluating

their performance, faculty development and internationalisation etc. Quality assurance is also critical. Currently, the fundamental problem of management education is quality. The National Institutional Ranking Framework and National Board of Accreditation are a way to assess the B-schools but institutional assessment needs to be done in a more dedicated manner. A regulator such as AICME can look into this.

According to Dr Hariwansh Chaturvedi, alternate president,

EPSI and director, BIMTECH, Greater Noida, Indian management education requires a new framework for regulatory control for becoming globally competitive and for making India a hub for management education.

"AICTE, as a regulator, has not been successful in achieving this goal during the last two decades. Ideally, we need a separate management council, similar to the Medical Council of India and the Bar Council of India to nurture, monitor and regulate management education," says

Dr Chaturvedi.

"Till a futuristic regulatory body is set up for the management education and the AICME is created, the B-schools have no option but to work under the ambit of the AICTE. "But of course, the AICTE will have to reinvent a new model of regulation which emphasises more on nurturing, supporting and encouraging management education instead of merely asking for an annual compliance report with the same data every year," says Prof Chaturvedi.