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Bill row: IIM-A chief warns against erosion of autonomy

Says hold us accountable for performance, but allow us autonomy to realise dreams

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Up in arms against certain provisions of the controversial IIM draft Bill, IIM-Ahmedabad director Ashish Nanda on Thursday voiced concern over erosion of "autonomy", an issue on which five other directors have closed ranks.

Nanda, who had criticised the Bill, fearing it could be used as a tool to "micro-manage" the IIMs, warned that there could be an adverse fallout on IIM standards if certain freedom was not granted. "The message is hold us accountable for our performance, but allow us enough autonomy so that we can realise our shared dreams," he said.

"Wherever regulations come, that means you have to take Central government's prior approval and that ranges from selection of chairman right down to things like how many new departments you should have," he said. "If the Bill turns out to be that a lot of decisions



by the boards are subject to government approval, and the government has uniform norms, then that may or may not be best thing for certain IIMs," said IIM Bangalore Director Sushil Vachani.

Besides IIM-A, directors of Kolkata, Lucknow, Bangalore, Kozhikode and Indore have opposed the Bill, while chiefs of some of the new IIMs have supported it. The draft says the IIMs will be "bound" by government's directions in policy matters. "Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this Act, the Institute (IIMs) shall, for

efficient administration of this Act, be bound by such directions on questions of policy, as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time," it says.

It also states that the IIMs will need the approval of the Ministry before notifying any changes in fee structure, salary and remuneration and admission criteria.

"To be globally excellent, you need to have a certain amount of autonomy? you need to have certain resources, support of the government and leadership.

The bill also provides for constitution of a coordination forum chaired by the HRD minister. Vachani said the perception was that the government was trying to "interfere" with IIMs when it is proposing a coordination forum single tenure for a director and that HRD ministry's decision will be final on policy directions.

A former IIM director, who was involved in drafting the bill, voiced surprise at the final draft as the earlier document did not contain any clause that gave "overwhelming authority" to the government in running the institutes. Nanda, however, felt consultation with the Ministry will lead to a positive outcome.

"...atleast my experience in the last 2 years is that it is consultative and we will continue to have conversations and hopefully arrive at a good decision," he said. The Ministry has refused to react about the opposition to the bill.

While the view in the older six IIMs is that an attempt is being made to infringe on their

autonomy, those in the seven new premier institutes feel the apprehension is misplaced.

Coming out in support of the bill, Director of IIM Rohtak P Rameshan dismissed suggestions about the prestigious institutes losing their autonomy and contended that "some element of public discipline" is needed as "inefficiency" had crept in. "IIMs are public institutions where the government should have a fair degree of say in the overall interest of all," he said, adding "some element of public discipline is needed as there is a lot of inefficiency happening in IIMs".

Supporting the bill, the director of another new IIM trashed fears about autonomy of the IIMs getting compromised.

"The government is well aware that if anything goes wrong today, it will create a hype in media, which will not augur well for it. So it will be cautious in any step it takes keeping the overall interests of IIMs in mind," he said, wishing not to be named.

No Compromise IIM chairpersons and top execs feel the Indian Institutes of Management Bill will lead to a drop in standards

IIMs, Alumni say Bill will Lead to Erosion of Institutes' Autonomy

Vishal Dutta,
Anumeha Chaturvedi
& Sreeradha D Basu

Ahmedabad | New Delhi | Mumbai: Chairpersons of the Indian Institutes of Management at Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Lucknow criticised the Indian Institutes of Management Bill, 2015, proposed by the human resource development ministry. They and other top executives said the legislation will curtail the freedom of India's premier business schools and lead to the deterioration of standards.

"The new bill gives sweeping powers to the government, which makes the institution only an operational centre while all the major directions and approvals are allowed only from the Centre," said AM Naik, chairman of IIM-Ahmedabad. "This would be detrimental to the management institutes in India—not only for IIM-A but for other IIMs as well. The current bill if passed would take away the autonomy of the institution."

The matter has been raised with the HRD ministry, said Naik, also group executive chairman of Larsen & Toubro. "We have written about why this should not be implemented in the present shape," he said. "Our director is consultation with the officials."

Naik said, "Currently, the matter is too small to raise with the PM. We will discuss at a certain level and we expect that finally sense would prevail." HRD minister is Smriti Irani.

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, chairperson of IIM-Bangalore, said, "Clauses 35 and 36 are a matter of concern to us and we have raised these concerns to the ministry," said Shaw, also chairperson and managing di-

Voices of Dissent



AM NAIK Chairman, IIM-Ahmedabad

"The bill gives sweeping powers to the govt, making the institution an operational centre while all directions are allowed only from the Centre."



KIRAN MAZUMDAR SHAW
Chairperson, IIM-Bangalore

"Clauses 35 and 36 are a matter of concern to us as well and we have raised these concerns to the ministry. These clauses compromise autonomy of board and institution."



JJ IRANI Chairman, IIM-Lucknow

"In effect, the independence of the institutes is totally withdrawn. It is much worse than the present position. Obviously, the faculty of the IIMs will not accept such a situation"

rector of Biocon. "These clauses compromise autonomy of the board and institution, as the government will override board decisions. If we want the IIMs to develop as world class institutions, we need a board that is focused on that."

According to JJ Irani, chairman of IIM-Lucknow, the draft bill was discussed with those impacted and by and large there was a meeting of minds on how to pass on greater autonomy to the institutes.

An IIM board member said the push to take control was not a welcome move

"Surprisingly and unfortunately, when the recent draft was circulated, we were very disappointed to see two sections which negate the whole purpose of the bill," he said. "In effect, independence of the institutes is totally withdrawn. The faculty of the IIMs will not accept such a situation. We have all sent in written comments to this effect."

If the board members do something that's questionable, there are enough provisions to take care of that, Shaw said.

Other industry veterans and IIM alumni also advocated freedom. "I feel IIMs and IITs

got us global recognition," said Shikha Sharma, managing director and CEO of Axis Bank and an IIM-A alumnus. "We need to empower them to take us further and give them the freedom they deserve so they can improve their global rankings and do even better."

A board member at one of the top IIMs said the push to take control is not a welcome move. "It will lead to deterioration in standards. The government should stick to providing oversight instead of interfering in the working of autonomous bodies," said the person, who didn't want to be named.

IIM-A alumnus, Ica chairman Arun Duggal also pointed to the bid to curb autonomy. "While the bill has certain good provisions, clauses 35 and 36 and other restrictions are retrograde," said Duggal, also chairman of Ficci's Centre for Corporate Governance. "Hope minimum government, maximum governance wisdom prevails," he said, referencing a Modi administration slogan.

On Thursday, IIM Calcutta had a normal board meeting scheduled. "There were faculty suggestions conveyed to the chairman for board consideration," said IIM Calcutta director Saibal Chattopadhyay.

Draft Bill reduces IIM to Govt dept, not what PM said: IIMA chiefs

Chairman A M Naik, director Ashish Nanda question draft's provisions

LAKSHMI JAY &
AVINASH NAIR
AHMEDABAD, JUNE 25

COMING OUT strongly against the draft IIM bill, Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad chairman A M Naik and its director Ashish Nanda Thursday said it goes against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and seeks to reduce IIMs to a "government department".

To a question on a provision of the bill, which requires the director to report to the government about the five highest paid faculty members and employees of the IIM vis-a-vis their contribution to the institute, Nanda told *The Indian Express*, "Basically they are treating us like a government department..."

They were speaking on the sidelines of a meeting of the governing body to discuss the IIM bill 2015, drafted by the Human Resource Development Ministry.

"To us, it seems the impact of the bill may be in a direction opposite to what the government

intends to achieve. The government's vision is to encourage efficiency, innovation and quality. The centralisation effected by the bill would be deleterious to all those goals. The preamble of the bill outlines the government's vision to empower institutions to attain standards of global excellence. But we worry the bill does not achieve that vision; in fact, it goes in the other direction," Nanda added.

Naik raised fears about IIMA losing its position in the top 500 global management institutes if the bill becomes an act in the present form. "With the government holding sweeping powers, the bill will make the institution only an operational centre, with all the major diktats, directions and approvals happening from Delhi... There is nothing much left in the institute to do. It is like operating here, but the control is somewhere else," Naik said.

"Our PM has always wished that we have at least 25 world-class institutions and this kind of regulation only takes it in the opposite direction," said Naik.

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'Draft Bill reduces IIM to Govt dept'

Naik stressed that IIMA was created as an institution to be managed by the IIMA Society under the Societies Act. "It was started by a society. It was funded by the society and later on the government came into the picture. It was the society and not the government that played a key role in governing this institute," he said.

Nanda said the IIMA has not been dependent on government funds since 2002, and that its own revenues crossed Rs 200 crore this year, making it the first IIM to reach this target.

"The subject of IIMA bill has been in discussion for the last two-and-a-half years and it has gone through various amendments and versions. Suddenly a week or 10 days ago, we were taken by surprise to find that the draft bill, approved earlier by all IIMs and the HRD Ministry, has been changed completely. Now it is worse than what it was

when we started two years ago," said Naik after stepping out of the meeting.

Emphasising that IIMA should be given more freedom in framing its curriculum, fee structure and recruitment, Naik said, "This bill is going to be detrimental to the interest of management studies in India."

Stating that, as of now, the draft bill is a "small matter" to be raised with the PM, Naik said IIMA has taken up the issue with the HRD Ministry by sending a letter on why the bill should not be implemented in its present form.

"The government should be a wise overseer and hold us accountable for performance," the IIMA director said. Talking about the proposed creation of a coordination forum as per the draft bill, Nanda said, "If it is meant as a forum to exchange ideas, it is a good idea, but if it is meant to centralise power, it is not good."

Let IIMs be free of government stranglehold

World-class institutions are not built by politicians, but by those working within them. The proposed IIM Bill not only curbs the freedom of the 13 IIMs, but also dilutes their quality

Beherez Nariman Sethna

Change is most dangerous when it is brought forth not because it is necessary but because someone simply has the power to initiate it and wishes to exercise this power. This seems to be the reason for the Human Resource Development Ministry's proposal for an Indian Institutes of Management Bill, 2015.

It is important to note that world-class institutions are not built based on the decisions of politicians, but by those within the institution — those who spend a lifetime in their respective fields and make important decisions concerning the functioning of the institution. This is especially because political parties and agendas come and go, and therefore their temporary presence should never be allowed to influence academic decisions and excellence.

The IIM Bill, in its present form, intends to take away that decision-making power from the hands of the very people who created these great institutions through decades of hard work.

Provisions of draft Bill

In the present draft bill, a majority of clauses cited indicate that the government wants to take over the autonomy of the IIMs and establish its own hegemony. Here are some instances: Clause 17 (2) says, "The Director shall be appointed by the Central Government with the approval of the Visitor, on such terms and conditions of service as may be prescribed." Clause 21 (1) and (2) say, "Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this Act, the Institute shall, for the efficient administration of this Act, be bound by such directions on questions of policy, as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time; the decision of the Central Government whether a question is one of policy or not, shall be final." Clause 30 of Chapter V says a co-ordination forum will be established and goes on to specify who the members of the same will be. Clause 31 elaborates on this. Clauses 35 and 36 in Chapter VI, among others, also indicate the government's overreach.

The government dictates that the IIM administrations be completely dependent on it, right from matters of appointing the director to matters of admissions; fees charged by the institutes; and tenure, remunerations and conditions of employment. It not only makes the board of IIM (Ahmedabad) a vestigial organ, but also takes away the freedom of the institution's faculty. In fact, the Bill attacks the freedom of these great institutions rather than giving them the freedom to excel.

The IIMs have a great reputation simply because of this: they have been given the freedom to experiment and excel. This is why many well-known academics join the institutes. With freedom comes



NEED FOR AUTONOMY: "The IIMs have built a national and international brand. This is to be applauded as it was done without governmental management." Picture shows students of the IIM Bangalore at the 37th annual convocation. — PHOTO: G.R.N. SOMASHEKAR

responsibility, and nobody knows this better than the faculty at the IIMs. There are several instances where people have left their cushy, high-salaried positions in the corporate world to join IIMs at a much lower remuneration. As a result, these institutes have been able to produce some of the brightest minds in the country and in the world. IIM alumni have gone on to become leaders in various fields. It is for these reasons that I would request the government not to take away the one quality that makes the IIMs the most sought-after — their freedom.

Even in terms of the legacy of a government, one is far more likely to be remembered for reducing restrictions and governmental interference than for increasing them.

Diluting the brand

The IIMs have built a national and international brand. That is to be applauded and supported, especially because this was done without governmental management. The institutes have functioned without interference from the government in the past,

and can continue to do so in the future. Does the government desire to take control over the best institutions in India and turn them into bureaucratic non-entities? Do they want institutes from other countries to overtake these institutes in terms of excellence? What is the need to gain control over an institute that is already performing well?

As someone who has spent a lifetime with some of the best educational institutions in the world, I would urge the government to abandon these hostile takeovers. The MHRD's time could be better spent in other ways. The IIMs should be able to retain and enhance their autonomy, and in this endeavour they could assist Prime Minister Narendra Modi's objectives of making India a great nation.

Some of the clauses mentioned above may not be new ones. But if they are poor clauses that do not enhance academic excellence, it does not matter if they are new or old. I hope that the government thinks of ways of increasing autonomy

rather than reducing it.

Trust is crucial in any field, in any exercise. Experts in every field have respectable credentials, a lifetime of relevant experiences. If their views are not taken into consideration and their area of expertise is suddenly taken over by the government, this indicates an attempt to undermine their decision-making abilities.

A government is more likely to be remembered for reducing restrictions than increasing them

The question to be asked is: Is the government really interested in supporting and enhancing world-class institutions or does it want to engage in one more bureaucratic exercise? For the sake of India and its students, for the sake of corporate India, and for the sake of jobs and academic excellence, I plead with the government to abandon these initiatives.

(Beherez Nariman Sethna is a 'Distinguished Alumnus' of IIT-Bombay and IIM-Ahmedabad. He is the first person of Indian origin to become president of a University in the U.S. — a position he held for 19 years.)

आईआईटी : अब 29 से मिलेगा कॉलेज चुनने का मौका

भास्कर न्यूज नेटवर्क|कोटा

ज्वाइंट सीट एलोकेशन अथॉरिटी-2015 (जोसा) ने आईआईटी, एनआईटी, ट्रिपलआईटी और जीएफटीआई में दाखिले के लिए रिवाइज्ड शिड्यूल गुरुवार को जारी कर दिया है। यह 26 को जारी होना था, लेकिन जोसा ने एक दिन पहले जारी कर दिया। उधर, सीबीएसई 25 जून को भी

जेईई मेन्स की ऑल इंडिया रैंक जारी नहीं कर सका।

रिवाइज्ड शिड्यूल के मुताबिक अब आईआईटी सहित संस्थानों में सेशन अब 16 की जगह 21 जुलाई और एनआईटी का 23 की जगह 27 जुलाई को शुरू होगा। वहीं ऑनलाइन कॉलेज चयन और विकल्प भरने के लिए स्टूडेंट्स को पांच दिन का समय मिलेगा।

Nai Duniya ND 26/06/2015 p-14

आविष्कार

आईआईटी-गुवाहाटी की टीम ने रेशों से बनाई कृत्रिम तंत्रिका नली

खास किस्म का रेशम भरेगा गहरे जख्म

■ चोट से तंत्रिकाओं में आए अंतर को भरने में मिलेगी मदद

कोलकाता (ब्यूरो)। एक खास किस्म के रेशम से शरीर में दोबारा तंत्रिकाओं की उत्पत्ति हो सकती है और दर्दनाक हादसों से शरीर के विभिन्न अंगों को पहुंचने वाली क्षति का प्रभावी इलाज संभव है।

इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी गुवाहाटी (आईआईटी-जी) के अनुसंधानकर्ताओं की टीम ने चिकित्सा विज्ञान को यह बड़ी उपलब्धि दी है। इससे भविष्य में क्षतिग्रस्त तंत्रिका तंत्र को दुरुस्त करने में काफी मदद मिलेगी। टीम ने मलबरी रेशम के रेशों का गोल्ड नैनोपार्टिकल्स (जीएनपी) के साथ मिश्रण कर

शल्य चिकित्सा में प्रत्यारोपित की जा सकने वाली कृत्रिम तंत्रिका नली का निर्माण किया है, जिससे चोट लगने से तंत्रिकाओं में पैदा होने वाले अंतर को भरा जा सकता है।

नया तत्व व नई पद्धति बनाई

आईआईटी-जी के बायोसाइंसेस एंड बायोइंजीनियरिंग विभाग के प्रोफेसर उत्पल बोरा ने बताया, 'हमने एक नए तत्व एवं नई फैब्रिकेशन पद्धति ईजाद की है, जिससे तंत्रिका नलियों का निर्माण किया जा सकता है। तंत्रिकाओं का पुनर्निर्माण होने पर वे मांसपेशियां भी दोबारा काम करने लगती हैं, जिन्हें ये जोड़ती हैं। इसके फलस्वरूप न्यूरो-मांसपेशियों का फिर से निर्माण होता है। खोजी टीम ने मलबरी रेशम के कीड़े

(कोकून) से प्राप्त रेशम को जीएनपी के साथ मिलाया ताकि इससे तैयार होने वाली तंत्रिका नली में रेशम जैसी मजबूती एवं लचीलापन और सोने के विद्युतीय प्रवाहकीय गुण का सम्मिश्रण हो सके। यह तंत्रिका नली तंत्रिका ऊतकों का अनुसरण करती है और उसके बाद तंत्रिका कोशिकाओं का फिर से निर्माण करती है, जिससे चोट लगने से पैदा हुए अंतर वाली जगह पर तंत्रिका ऊतकों का दोबारा निर्माण होता है। तंत्रिका नलियों का मुख्य तौर पर गंभीर चोट के मामले में प्रत्यारोपण किया जाता है, जो जख्म से पैदा होने वाले अंतर को भरता है। हालांकि यह अंतर पांच मिलीमीटर से अधिक होने पर शरीर उसे खुद सुखा नहीं पाता। यह तकनीक सड़क हादसों में गंभीर रूप से घायलों को नया जीवन दे सकती है।

IIT-B campus hirings: 310 companies offer 1,118 plum jobs

BS REPORTER

Mumbai, 25 June

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay completed campus placements for the academic year 2014-15 with 310 companies making 1,118 job offers to the graduating batch (till June 2015). Over 100 job offers were made by startups.

The campus placements for the academic year 2014 were conducted in two phases. The first phase started in December 2014 and saw participation from around 240 companies with 1,000 jobs on offer. December 1, 2014 — the first day of formal placements — saw 36 firms giving out 214 jobs. A total of 1,675 students registered for campus placements in 2014-15 but it is important to note that all registered students do not necessarily

WE'RE HIRING

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- Data analytics saw 155 job offers from 47 organisations, making it one of the biggest recruiters after engineering and information technology
- The consulting space saw over 31 leading consulting firms, including several global leaders, giving away 107 offers, including management consulting
- In the financial services, over 100 offers were made
- A total of 109 job offers were made by startup companies spanning sectors such as Information technology, education, analytics and engineering

participate actively in campus placements. Some may have alternate plans like higher education etc., but still register for campus placements. Moreover, many students also get placed through channels

other than campus placements. In the field of engineering and technology, there were 388 job offers from 88 organisations. Data analytics saw 155 job offers from 47 organisations, making it one of the biggest recruiters

after engineering and information technology.

The consulting space saw over 31 leading consulting firms, including several global leaders, giving away 107 offers, including management consulting. In the financial services, over 100 offers were made.

IIT-B saw an increase in organisations hiring fresh graduates in the R&D sector. A total of 15 R&D organisations offered 48 positions this year. Also, over 45 students, including several with doctoral degrees, have been offered jobs with public and private educational institutions through campus placement. Startups also made their presence felt. A total of 109 job offers were made by startup companies spanning sectors like IT, education, analytics and engineering.

India Needs to Stop Obsessing Over IITs

<http://www.ndtv.com/opinion/forget-the-iits-heres-what-smriti-irani-should-focus-on-775224>

When people discuss higher education in India, they often talk about what is happening at IITs and IIMs. Once in a while, people talk about NITs or the internal politics of Delhi University. India's barely functional universities are elephants in the room - direly in need reform and rejuvenation, and yet largely missing from public imagination.

Understandably, Education Minister Smriti Irani has also largely focused on IITs and IIMs within her higher education portfolio. These institutions take in less than 20,000 students a year all put together, and are currently in a shape where they can largely take care of themselves. Even if Education Ministers were to largely let IITs and IIMs cruise on autopilot for the next decade, India will be just about fine.

Where India desperately needs someone in the cockpit is in rescuing our universities from oblivion and irrelevance. According to the UGC, India has almost [25 million students enrolled in higher education](#) - with an intake of about 5 or 6 million students a year. Those who graduate are far from employable, and most struggle to participate in the modern Indian economy.

While the challenge of overhauling this system is gargantuan, a sizeable start would be to set up 30 top-notch universities across India - with each of them housing 40,000 to 50,000 students. Instead of a focus on ten to twenty

thousand engineering graduates from IITs , let's focus instead on quarter of a million graduates from across disciplines.

There are about five broad things that MHRD will need to enable to rejuvenate the Indian university system.

First, Indian universities need a management overhaul. Politically-appointed Vice Chancellors have limited mandates and incentives to reform universities. CEOs with budgets and a mandate to revamp varsities are essential. CEO-led teams are needed to improve infrastructure, curriculum and most importantly, create an institutional ethos - even if they have to do it department by department. Some of these efforts are already underway, but need greater articulation and thrust.

Second, India has a pigeonholed education system where engineering students and academia have little to do with the science stream which has little to do with arts and commerce. Harmonizing the streams and providing a common academic system can have scale effects. For example, within a university, one can do away with a separate Physics department that teaches only engineering students, or a separate English department that teaches only Commerce students. Having common departments can aggregate faculty talent, improve teaching quality, allow for a better flow of ideas and provide better career paths for academics.

Third, India needs to bring high-quality research back into the university system. Over the years, India has set up a few hundred research institutes and labs across the country, such as the CSIR institutions that operate across the country. This has forced the nation's best research far away from the universities and students in general. Academic curricula change slowly - but university teaching faculty need to be exposed to cutting-edge research and be familiar with what is happening at the frontiers of their field. Without knowing what is hot and exciting, how can teachers inspire their students? At the same time, we also want India's top researchers to play a larger role in mentoring undergraduates, PhD students and post-doctoral scientists. While not all good researchers make good teachers, having them share an ecosystem is essential. It is no accident that Harvard and Stanford in the USA and Oxford and Cambridge in the UK are known for both their undergraduate programmes and their research.

Fourth, Indian universities need to attract and hire better faculty - and also inculcate better processes for their appraisal, rewarding performance with financial and other benefits. The academic talent pool is global - and Indian universities need to hire globally in order to be competitive. Most university ranking metrics look at the international nature of students and faculty - they are often a proxy for whether the university system favours talent and ability over other considerations.

Fifth, there is no reason for the Government of India to be alone in rejuvenating universities. Domestic private actors and international educational institutions must be encouraged to set up full-fledged universities in the country. The government's role here can shift from control over inputs to a monitoring of outcomes, of whether students are learning, and are employable upon graduation. The government also has a role to play in increasing the contestability of university and college options, so that prospective students have a better sense of what they can expect once they enroll. Private higher education in India today suffers from excessive input regulation and insufficient contestability - where educational quality is not always recognized or rewarded.

A [recent ranking by Times Higher Education](#) of the best universities of BRICS and emerging economies shows three from China, three from Turkey and one each from Brazil, Taiwan, Russia and South Africa in the top 10. If India's education minister prioritises the resuscitation of Indian universities, India could enter that list by 2019.

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MHRD Secy to be Chairman in-charge of IIM-Indore

— By [Our staff reporter](#) | Jun 25, 2015 02:46 am

<http://www.freepressjournal.in/mhrd-secy-to-be-chairman-in-charge-of-iim-indore/>

Indore : Ministry of Human Resource Development Secretary will be Chairman In-charge of Board of Governors of Indian Institute of Management Indore, till a new chairman is appointed.

Consequent to his appointment as President of BRICS Bank, KV Kamath has stepped down from the position of Chairperson, IIM Indore Board of Governors (BoG) and Society. Kamath was nominated by the Government of India as Chairperson of the BoG and Society on May 18, 2012.

“As per the Memorandum of Associations and Rules of IIM Indore, the Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, will be the chairperson until a new chairperson is appointed,” IIM Indore Media In-charge Akhtar Pervaz said.

Only 100%?

Crazy college cutoffs give an artful tutorial on India's education system

Delhi University has been gracious enough to help us appreciate the idiom, ignorance is bliss. With school students expected to aggregate more than 100% to be eligible for some college courses, we become acquainted with mathematics that is unique to Indian education. In the future perhaps students will be asked to appear for the same paper twice to survive this new era of 100% plus cutoffs. Given such mathematical artistry, it is no wonder that Indian school students fare poorly in international proficiency tests like PISA. Nobody gets us.

One Indian has a harmonious relationship with 100. The ageless Leander Paes has played doubles tennis with 100 different partners.



It is all about chemistry, he feels. Paes's views might trigger interest in ICHR, and research into India's ancient knowledge of chemistry may eventually lead the government to challenge patent applications currently held by Bayer and Novartis – fancying that this knowledge was

once the property of Delhi University, in whatever form it existed in an earlier era. When these companies are shown their place, it might be time to appoint Paes the university's vice chancellor. He could surely give Smriti Irani a tutorial or two on numeracy.

In this joyous age of permanently inflating marks, there is one kill-joy the nation has to be wary of. RBI's Raghuram Rajan seems to have issues with anything that inflates. He wants to pull everything down as close to zero as possible. Some say his education leaves a lot to be desired – he went to an American university. Perhaps if he had studied economics in Delhi University, RBI could by now have increased its policy interest rate to 101%. As RaGa might say, it is all a state of mind.