

## Newspaper Clips September 27, 2013

Hindustan Times ND 27-Sep-13 P-21

### **BYPL, IIT-D to collaborate until 2016**

Continuing with its path-breaking industry-academia collaboration to foster cutting-edge research in realm of power distribution, BSES Yamuna Power Ltd (BYPL) has renewed its agreement for a period of three years with the In-

dian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Delhi. An agreement has been signed between Arvind Gujral, CEO, BYPL and Dr Anil Wali, MD, Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer - a society established by IIT-Delhi.

Indian Express ND 27-Sep-13 P-7

## THE REPLACEMENT

WHILE the Pallam Raju-led Human Resource Development Ministry had wasted no time in 'retiring' Prof Yogendra Yadav from UGC within days of shooting off a showcause notice to him, it has been equally quick to find his replacement. Former IIT Kanpur Director Prof Sanjay Dhande, who was a contender for the IGNOU top job earlier, has been nominated to the UGC by the ministry to fill up the vacancy.

HT ND

### **Ex-IIT Kanpur director appointed UGC member**

**NEW DELHI:** The HRD ministry has appointed former IIT Kanpur director Dr Sanjay Dhande as a member of University Grants Commission in place of Yogendra Yadav who was removed from the commission last week for being a member of Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party. **HTC**

HT Kolkata



FILE PHOTO

# IIM-C world's best place for Finance

**HT Correspondent**

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**KOLKATA:** If you live in Kolkata and are looking for the best place to study Finance, you won't have to search too far. According to one of the most reputed B-School surveys worldwide — the Financial Times (FT) Global Masters in Management B-School Rankings — the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta (IIM-C) is the best place in the world to study Finance. IIM-C's alumni also tend to have the best career trajectories within three years of graduation, and the institute has also been ranked world No. 2 in Economics in the survey.

This year, IIM-C has already placed 19<sup>th</sup> rank in the Financial Times Global Masters in Management Rankings, just a notch below IIM, Ahmedabad.

"It's heartening to see that IIM-C is ranked No.1 in Finance and No. 2 in Economics among the top 70 global business schools that offer a Masters in management. This is a recognition of the quality of faculty, research and academic rigour that IIM-C stands for," said Professor Ashok Banerjee, dean of new initiatives and external relations at the institute.

The FT rankings place IIM-C

above several renowned international universities, such as the London School of Economics and Political Science, Copenhagen Business School and Manchester Business School.

"Until now, we have been regarded as the best institute for Finance in India, but we're delighted to learn that we're best in Finance globally as well. This isn't just our achievement, but also speaks highly about the entire Indian higher education system," Banerjee added.

IIM-C has also been ranked No. 1 in the Career category, a rank based on the career status of its alumni 3 years after graduation.

"We believe that these rankings are a recognition of the overall quality of our post-graduate programmes and the performance of our alumni after they graduate. Having said that, these rankings will also increase our responsibility to perform even better in the years to come. This is a challenge and we'll take all possible measures to continually improve the quality of education that IIM-C offers," Banerjee promised.

The Financial Times rankings list the world's top business schools under several subject categories. IIM-C and IIM-A were the only two institutes from India to feature in this list.

# How to engage foreign universities in India

We need a policy framework that is in line with the reality of global higher education and the needs of Indian higher education



RAHUL CHOUDAHA

**W**ill foreign universities establish campuses in India? This has been one of the recurring questions over the last few years. Unfortunately, not only the question but also the corresponding answers have been far from the reality of global higher education and its fit with the needs of India.

The proposal of allowing foreign universities through an executive order of the University Grants Commission, bypassing the pending Bill, is one such recent development. Like the Bill, the intention of the proposal to allow foreign universities is laudable. However, the execution is still questionable on at least three grounds: it lacks understanding of the segments of foreign institutions and creates impractical barriers to entry; does not recognise the diversity of needs of India, and misses a perspective of transparency for student decision-making.

Here are three suggestions to better facilitate engagement of foreign universities in India:

**Understand segments of foreign universities and eliminate impractical barriers to entry:** Global higher education systems are diverse and within each system there are a wide range of institutions with varying missions and quality. However, there are two primary motives for institutions seeking to enter India — prestige or profit/revenue. Between these two extremes, there are many foreign institutions with a different mix of prestige and profit motives that can be broadly classified as prestige-enhancing, prestige-seeking and profit-maximising.

**Prestige-enhancing:** This segment of top-ranked universities is not interested in India as a source of revenue and would not establish full-fledged campuses in India. However, they would be keen on establishing partnerships with universities in the form of student exchanges, faculty exchanges and collaborative research projects.



**Prestige-seeking:** This next tier of institutions seeks internationalisation to build their prestige and, at the same time, seeks opportunities to enhance revenue. They are more likely to engage in more extensive arrangements including joint degrees and twinning programmes and are still constrained by investments needed in establishing campuses.

**Profit-maximising:** These institutions are primarily looking for additional sources of revenue/profit through quicker increase in enrollments. This segment aims to address the mass market of students. Many are quite keen on coming to India; however, current policy directions indicate that for-profit institutions will not be allowed in India.

Current policy directions are attempting to attract only the prestige-enhancing segment by creating requirements such as requirement of a deposit of ₹25 crore or a world ranking of being among the top 400 institutions or not-for-profit status. These requirements are not only impractical, but also fail to leverage the opportunities from other segments.

While it is imperative to ensure that quality is maintained and profiteering

is contained, the requirements are missing the diversity of institutions across the world — what are their motivations to be in India and what role they can play? For example, there are many private liberal arts colleges in the US that are not listed in the top 400 but have a great potential to improve the quality of three-year degrees in India.

**Encourage diversity of programmes and regions:** As there are diverse segments of global higher education institutions, there are diverse needs of the Indian population. The current policy directions of engaging foreign institutions do not serve the complex needs of Indian higher education of balancing quality, cost and access. This could be better addressed by encouraging foreign universities to establish programmes in diverse locations and fields of study.

While there is interest from corporate houses and foreign players to engage with professional fields such as the Master of Business Administration, policy directions should also create incen-

**Students need better information about the options available to them and how they compare with each other**

tives for institutions interested in engaging with fields such as agriculture or types of institutions such as community colleges, or location of institutions in non-metropolitan cities.

Here, the need is for ingenious incentive mechanisms that attract leading foreign universities to engage with the next tier of cities and contribute towards their regional development.

**Establish and enforce highest standards of transparency:** Much of the qualitative challenges in Indian higher education is due to the lack of transparency about information related to institutional quality to students. Many private institutions have taken advantage of students' fascination for "foreign" education by providing sub-par education. This could be better addressed by enforcing high standards of information availability to students. For example, a central database of all foreign approved programmes could be created for students and families to make decisions.

Students need better information about the options available to them and

how they compare with each other. For example, although the Bill requires publishing an admissions prospectus, it does not aid students in easily comparing foreign institutions since the information is not available at a single portal in a common format.

If the government required the submission of data on institutional performance and academic offering through a common format and single website, then students would be able to compare their options better. This would help students in informed decision-making and create an accountability framework for institutions since their performance track record would be publicly available.

Engaging foreign universities is important to address some of the quality and access issues in India. However, it is important to create a policy framework which is better-synchronised with the reality of global higher education and the needs of Indian higher education.

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Mint ND 27-Sep-13 P-5

## MANAGEMENT TEST

# Fewer candidates register for CAT even as seats increase

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NEW DELHI

Fewer students registered for the Common Admission Test (CAT) conducted by the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) this year than at least in the past five, despite more seats being on offer, as slowing economic growth hurt students' chances of getting jobs.

About 200,000 aspirants purchased registration vouchers (not necessarily registered) to appear for the CAT exam that will be held over a 20-day testing window beginning 16 October for admissions to business schools, including the IIMs, IIM officials said on Thursday, the last day of registration.

The IIMs, India's top business-school brand, had hoped to get more than 250,000 registrations for CAT this year, they said. "We believe the total registration will remain around 2 lakh (200,000). Of this nearly 114,000 had applied online and rest (86,000) offline," said CAT convenor Rohit Kapoor.

That's 14,000 fewer registrations than in 2012 and the lowest since 2008 when the CAT drew 276,000 registrations seeking a berth in seven IIMs, according to official data. The IIMs couldn't immediately provide data on the number of students registered to take the exam before 2008.

Since then, the number of IIMs has increased to 13, but the number of aspirants has declined, except last year when

CAT drew 5% more applications.

All the IIMs together are offering 3,335 seats for the coming academic year, 115 seats more than last year.

A professor at one of the older IIMs blamed two factors as the main contributors to the declining number of aspirants—a tough job scenario during the previous placement season because of the weakening economy; and many IIMs trying to bring in diversity by discouraging the usual large intake of engineering students.

The "slow-down has impacted engineers more and there was an expectation that these will apply for IIMs. But in order to bring diversity, many IIMs are now giving extra points to non-engineers during final selection for admission", said the professor, requesting anonymity.

"There is oversupply of management graduates. India can do with 50 good B-schools instead of thousands. The education regulators need to stop giving approval for opening new institutes," said Pritam Singh, a former director of IIM-Lucknow and now director general of the International Management Institute, promoted by the Sanjeev Goenka group.

The supply of management degree holders has increased

by over 300% since 2006, according to government data. About 500,000 students graduate from nearly 4,000 business schools in the country every year.

A labour ministry study earlier this month said job creation in eight key sectors slumped in the three months ended 30 June compared to the preceding quarter. The Indian economy,

Asia's third largest, is trying to emerge from a slump that has caused growth to plunge to the lowest in a decade—5% in the fiscal year ended 31 March.

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CAT convenor Kapoor, a professor at IIM-Indore, said the IIMs are now of the view that 200,000 registrations is a good number and are "not worried about it".

"IIMs and non-IIMs who draw talent from the CAT pool offer some 10,000 seats together, which means we still have a healthy ratio of 1:20," he said.

"Instead of worrying about numbers, we are now focusing on delivering a smooth and secure exam," he said, when asked about how some 80 students had managed to inflate their CAT scores in the last admission season. "We have revamped our systems and (are) hopeful of delivering a secure exam experience to students and partnering B-Schools," Kapoor said.

## Best is not enough



"Now invest ₹15 to ₹17 lakh on an MBA degree from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and get a pay package of ₹6 lakh only". Granted, such an ad will never attract a student to a business school, but this statement reflects the mood during the placement season this year. If some media reports are anything to go by, this year, IIM Lucknow and Kolkata placed some of their students for not-so-attractive pay packages. Things were so bad that many students were forced to opt out of the placement programmes. By signing a document, a student can refuse to be a part of an IIM's placement procedure. You can well imagine what the placement scene at the non-IIM B-schools was like!