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TOI, Aug 24

CAT window expanded, to begin on Oct 27

M Ramya / TNN

Chennai: The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have flagged off the admission season to Bschools by announcing the dates for the Common Admission Test (CAT), which is set to begin on October 27 in 33 cities across the country.

Based on last year's feedback, testing agency Prometric has made several changes to ensure smooth conduct of the exams this year. CAT 2009, when the test first went online, was riddled with glitches. This year the testing window has been expanded from 10 days to 20 days. The exam will be spread out between October 27 and November 24 to ensure that too many candidates don't log in at the same time and jam the server.

The implementing agencies, too, have been changed this year. The IIMs have decided to let go of NIIT, which was the implementing agency for CAT 2009, and have instead chosen Everonn Education and Meri-Trac as delivery partners for this year's test. Everonn is an existing test delivery partner of Prometric's IT certification business, and Meritrac, too, has a good track record in conducting examinations in India.

"They will ensure site-readiness of the test centres, and be in charge of test administration and onsite technical support," said Soumitra Roy, managing director of Prometric, India.

Cabinet clears edu bill, ignores panel suggestions

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Monday cleared the Educational Tribunals Bill without incorporating any of the suggestions made by the Standing Committee of Parliament.

Ministry sources explained that the standing committee has fully supported the idea of tribunal.

The ministry is trying that the Bill gets passed in the Lok Sabha on Thursday and goes to the Rajya Sabha next Monday. HRD minister Kapil Sibal is likely to meet leaders of the Opposition parties to reach a consensus before the Bill is tabled in Parliament.

As for the main criticism that the term 'unfair practices' is not defined in the proposed Bill, sources pointed out that the Bill is clear that going against the existing regulations is, indeed, unfair practice.

Presently, University Grants Commission regulations, which are in place, will be followed. "When Unfair Practices Bill becomes law, it will be followed," the source said.

HRD min seeks overhaul of engg distance courses

Akshaya Mukul / TNN

New Delhi: In a bid to substantially overhaul engineering and management education through distance mode, the HRD ministry has said any approval of these courses by Distance Education Council will have to be done jointly by the tripartite committee of University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Distance Education Council (DEC).

In case of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (Ignou) — the largest university imparting distance education — the ministry has said though it does not require AICTE clearance, Ignou will have to follow its regulations. The ministry has also set up a committee under noted legal expert N R Madhava Menon to suggest how to resolve overlapping areas of work among the three regulators — UGC, AICTE and DEC. AICTE regulations will specify how to carry out management and

engineering courses in the distance mode.

“It will spell out how much of the course should be done through classroom teaching, laboratory work and distance modes,” a source said, adding engineering cannot be done without laboratory experience. The ministry’s decision comes in the wake of widespread complaints against institutes imparting management and engineering courses in the distance mode without seeking the mandated clearance from AICTE.

Scientists developing a computer that can read the human mind

Intelligent environment in the offing

Science-fiction movies have long foretold of a future where humans are able to achieve the ultimate synergy with intelligent machines. Where people drive cars simply through voice commands or have their wardrobes pick out their outfits depending on the weather outside. That future is now at our doorstep. Scientists at Intel Corporation are developing a computer system that can actually read the human mind and process commands accordingly. In other words, if someone wants to check his e-mail or type out a text document, he would simply need to think about it and the computer would interpret his thoughts and perform the requisite function.

This interpretive thought processing technology is a huge game-changer. It firmly fuses the human operator with the computer network. Apart from operating personal laptops, the technology can be scaled up for a variety of applications. Imagine walking into a department store and thinking about your shopping list. A computer could read those thoughts and send out an order form to the storekeeper who could then have all your groceries packed for you. On a visit to the local museum your palm pilot could instantly provide you with details about that exhibit you wanted to know more about. After a hard day at work, a computer could accurately interpret your weariness and greet you with dimmed lights and soothing music as you enter your home. The possibilities are endless.

Critics of the technology are bound to term it as ‘invasive’ and point out security concerns. These are mere exaggerations. At the end of the day, people will decide if they want to use this technology or not. They, not computers, will be in control. But by embracing this technology we could create an intelligent environment that would certainly make our lives a whole lot easier.

Breaches privacy and human control Jay Kumar

It is understandable that humans should continuously innovate and devise better ways to increase their standard of living. But technology is not universally good, which is why there’s a ban on human cloning or nuclear proliferation. Unfortunately, Intel Corporation’s quest for computers capable of mapping and reading the human mind belongs to the category of dangerous technologies. It offers the capability of mind control and may eventually lead to disaster for humankind.

Even with existing technologies such as the internet, there are concerns about how much they breach privacy. What goes on in the human brain is the ultimate bastion of privacy, but with machines capable of reading the mind even this bastion would be breached. We might as well abolish the concept of privacy once such machines are invented. What, after all, makes the human being different from other living and non-living beings? It is the human brain, the edifice of human civilisation. Until now, if we have been able to harness technology, it is because of our superior ability to think and control the world through the brain.

However, with the creation of mind-reading computers, we will breach that difference. This would be the first step towards giving up human control to a machine. We would be moving towards a situation of technological singularity that’s predicted to happen sometime in the 21st century. The dangers posed by intelligent machines, which have inspired countless science-fiction movies, now look like a real possibility. It is in the interest of humanity that we strictly ban such inventions that not only breach the human mind, the ultimate bastion and guarantor of privacy, but also potentially relinquish human control and turn it over to machines.

Stricter norms for all edu institute ads

Mumbai: Ever been fooled by the glossy ads for [educational institutions](#) replete with tall claims of high salaries and fancy affiliations?

After numerous complaints from parents and students, the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), the country's apex self-regulatory body for advertising content, is all set to release a list of stringent new guidelines explicitly for [educational institutions](#), including schools, colleges, coaching classes as well as any other [educational](#) programme/course. As per the new guidelines, [educational institutions](#) will have to back the claims they make in their ads. TNN

Aug. 25

OPEN HOUSE

Peer review out, scholars face web test

Instead Of Select Experts, Netizens To Judge Papers

Patricia Cohen

For professors, publishing in elite journals is an unavoidable part of [university](#) life. The grueling process of subjecting work to the up-or-down judgment of credentialed scholarly peers has been a cornerstone of academic culture since at least the mid-20th century.

Now some humanities scholars have begun to challenge the monopoly that peer review has on admission to career-making journals and, as a consequence, to the charmed circle of tenured academe. They argue that in an era of digital media there is a better way to assess the quality of work. Instead of relying on a few experts selected by leading publications, they advocate using the internet to expose scholarly thinking to the swift collective judgment of a much broader interested audience.

“What we’re experiencing now is the most important transformation in our reading and writing tools since the invention of movable type,” said Katherine Rowe, a Renaissance specialist and media historian at Bryn Mawr College. “The way scholarly exchange is moving is radical, and we need to think about what it means for our fields.”

That transformation was behind the recent decision by the prestigious 60-year-old Shakespeare Quarterly to embark on an uncharacteristic experiment in the forthcoming fall issue — one that will make it, Rowe says, the first traditional humanities journal to open its reviewing to the web.

Mixing traditional and new methods, the journal posted online four essays not yet accepted for publication, and a core group of experts — what Rowe called “our crowd sourcing” — were invited to post their signed comments on the website Media-Commons, a scholarly digital network. Others could add their thoughts as well, after registering with their own names. In the end 41 people made more than 350 comments, many of which elicited responses from the authors. The revised essays were then reviewed by the quarterly’s editors, who made the final decision to include them in the printed journal, due out September 17.

The Shakespeare Quarterly trial, along with a handful of other trailblazing digital experiments, goes to the very nature of the scholarly enterprise. Traditional peer review has shaped the way new research has been screened for quality and then how it is communicated; it has defined the border between the public and an exclusive group of experts.

Each type of review has benefits and drawbacks.

The traditional method, in which independent experts evaluate a submission, often under a veil of anonymity, can take months, even years. Clabby exclusiveness, sloppy editing and fraud have all marred peer review on occasion. Anonymity can help prevent personal bias, but it can also make reviewers less accountable.

In some respects scientists and economists who have created online repositories for unpublished working papers, like

repec.org, have more quickly adapted to digital life. Just this month, mathematicians used blogs and wikis to evaluate a supposed mathematical proof in the space of a week — the scholarly equivalent of warp speed. NYT NEWS SERVICE

Crisil to rate B-schools

Mumbai: Crisil, the Indian arm of global ratings major S&P's, will soon start rating business schools. Management institutes that award MBA degrees will be evaluated on a number of factors including curriculum, faculty, infrastructure, standard of research, use of technology and interaction with the industry.

The rigorous process of rating a B-school will involve Crisil officials spending time on campus, interacting with the stakeholders like faculty, students, alumni and recruiters, Roopa Kudva, MD & CEO, Crisil, told TOI. TNN

Outbound training: lessons to learn

With offices going 'virtual', innovation has struck the heart of technology in today's world. Applying the principles of the same helps keep employees happy and firms are achieving just that by organising several outbound activities

To set the ball rolling, recent innovations in training and an increased focus on outdoor training can go a long way. Outbound training gives the employees a chance to learn outside the four walls of the office, in an environment where they can freely participate in team activities in the most 'natural' way. Take the case of Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. As a travel company, they feel that outbound training can be very effective. Adds Prashant Nair, president and head, HR, Thomas Cook (India) Ltd, "By its very nature, this concept is unique because a lot of employees see this as a break from the normal professional routine. Since this is different from the mundane daily activities, it leads them to explore their distinct identity during outbound trainings. Having their subjects in a relaxed frame of mind also gives the trainer an opportunity to tap into the developmental nature of their colleagues in a 'natural' environment. At such times, outdoor activities also help identify the employee's individual talent that perhaps one never knew existed. Moreover, interacting in an environment that is hierarchy-agnostic, one is able to assess interpersonal relationships and the dynamics of working together, that can going forward, be addressed quite effectively."

Thallin Shetty, senior HR executive, Tavant Technologies explains, "Outbound Training (OBT) is a trend that is fast catching up. It is neither a picnic nor a team exercise held in the office. It is a combination of both. It focuses more on team achievement and team-centered goals. Individual achievements don't matter if the team is not doing well. It helps generate fresh ideas and better attitudes and acts as a trigger for each individual to work together towards the fulfillment of a larger objective and achieve individual goals and its organisational mission. In India, OBT has existed for a long time; it has eventually evolved from its infancy stage to a fully developed business line. It ultimately aims at stimulating a number of aspects in team dynamics like communication, problem-solving, decision-making and managing change."

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www.timesascent.in

ET, Aug 25

India's first patent technology auction in Ahmedabad this week

Event Will Be Country's First Step Towards Commercialising Patents

Vishal Dutta AHMEDABAD

A HERBAL drink that tastes like beer, a bioinsecticide product that attracts and kills mosquitoes using bird feather, a transdermal patch for contraceptives drug delivery and a **technology** that can make a snake venom into analgesic that can help cure neuropathic pain: these are samples of patented **technologies** that would go on auction in Ahmedabad on August 28. It will be India's first step towards commercialising patents.

Organised by Foundation for MSME Cluster in alliance with Skyquest **Technology** Consulting, a private company engaged in facilitating buying and selling of patents in India, the one-day patented **technology** transfer platform, Tech Transfer 2010, will showcase 50 **technologies** from across India.

Skyquest **Technology** co-founder & CEO Shriya Damani said this is the first time that patent holders (sellers) and companies (potential buyers) would come face to face on same platform to discuss, negotiate and strike a deal. "There is a huge potential for developing business in patent auctioning as the economy grows, companies need more products to add to their existing portfolio and with patented products the companies can create niche market for themselves," she added.

Currently, there is no common platform where companies can go for shopping patented products, which is now a common practice in developed countries. Similarly, a large number of patent holders in India are not able to monetise their knowledge as they hardly have any place to go for selling or licensing their patented products.

And if things go as planned, India would soon join the club of elite countries like US, Europe, Japan and Australia, where economic growth is fuelled by **technologies** bought and sold through auction on a regular basis. "Patent auctioning is quite popular in developed countries," said Abhishek Pandurangi, founder of Closer2patents, a patent consultancy firm based in Mumbai. He said patent commercialisation practice in India is unorganised and there are few online modes of commercialisation and hence it is difficult to record such data. "My experience and observation says that there are quite a few patent commercialisation deals taking place at college and individual levels, facilitated by local law firms/ patent consultancy firms," he added.

According to Ms Damani said, it is hard to give a figure to the global market size of patent commercialisation. "US-based **universities** have turned their research into revenue generating models, making them self-contained. The same can be replicated in India, as the country has a large pool of **university** and individual research," she added.

"In the West, there are big firms that deal in commercialisation of patents," said Ms Damani, who is optimistic of the new emerging business opportunity in patent selling space.



JAIRAM RAMESH MINISTER, ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

Putting environment on the centre stage

In popular imagination, he has two different avatars. The truth is somewhere in between

Our Political Bureau NEW DELHI

IN POPULAR imagination, Jairam Ramesh has two, starkly different avatars. In which he is a hero, he is the protector of the ancient Dongria Kondh tribe in Orissa. He is the sole power that can stop a rampaging multinational mining giant from digging deep into a sacred mountain that is the source of their livelihood and one they worship as god. Under his watch, our forests, natural resources and endangered tribes stand a better chance.

In which he is a villain, he is an entrepreneur's worst nightmare, raising obstacles before every large infrastructure project in the name of environment, in a country that can't wait to get charging down the superhighway of development. He is an enemy of development, a "green-fundamentalist" unmindful of the opportunity costs of delays and entangled foreign investment.

It is tempting to say the truth is probably somewhere in between, but 56-year old Ramesh, educated at IIT Mumbai, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Carnegie Mellon University, has so dramatically altered the scope of environment in the discourse on India's governance, that judgment time can come only in the future. If his cabinet colleagues and chief ministers of several states, not to mention assorted billionaires at home and overseas, are irked with him, it's partly because of the inglorious past of the ministry of environment and forests that Ramesh now runs. Under previous governments, it had been a rubberstamp without teeth at best, and an effective mechanism for largescale extortion for parties in power at worst.

With one broad brushstroke of assertion, Ramesh has brought environment and forests to the centre table. And all he has had to do, he says, is to carry out his constitutional duties. "Any ministry in any government is called upon to formulate policy, execute programmes and enforce laws passed by Parliament. No ministry can abdicate its responsibility of enforcing laws. My ministry and I have to enforce the Environment Protection Act, 1986, Forest Protection Act, 1980, and the Forest Rights Act, 2006," Ramesh says. If rightful execution of existing laws is causing so much consternation, it's anyone's guess how much administrative attention these laws, and the subjects they were supposed to protect, received in the past. In denying clearance to the Vedanta alumina refinery in Orissa's Kalahandi district and the feeder bauxite mine in the Niyamgiri hills, Ramesh has heavily leaned on the Saxena Committee report, the Forest Advisory Committee's recommendations and Attorney General G.E. Vahanvati's opinion. Understandably, the state of Orissa, and its chief minister Naveen Patnaik are upset with him. The Vedanta project had received in-principle clearance from the Supreme Court in 2008. They are befuddled that despite meeting the conditions, the MoEF has now denied final clearance.

"An in-principle clearance doesn't make the final clearance a fait accompli," Ramesh says. "My ministry can't function on fait accompli. My ministry must be allowed to apply its mind and exercise its judgement. There has been a lot of new material since 2008," he says. The attorney general's unambiguous opinion that his ministry is in no way restricted by the apex court judgment, aided him in reaching the decision.

The decision on the Vedanta project is purely based on "cognisance of new evidence", he says. "There is no emotion, no politics in this decision. I have taken a decision in a purely legal approach. Laws have been violated." There will always be critics who will scoff at that, and charge that he is softer towards Congress-ruled states. Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, Congress-ruled states where an airport and large mining projects, respectively, are hanging in the MoEF balance, will beg to differ.

However, Ramesh might be biting off more than he can chew. As large projects tripping on his ministry's clearances mount, political resentment is also building. He is hurting all sorts of interests, with project cumulatively worth billions of dollars are clamouring for clearance. In a country with superpower aspirations, it will hurt politically to be perceived as an enemy of development—after all the Indian middleclass loves airports, highways and big ticket projects that give

employment to engineers and other skilled workers. His alleged activist zeal will have to be tempered by a desire to strike a balance between environment on the one hand and industrial and infrastructure development on the other.

In Ramesh, the Congress party also has a latent opportunity. In the last few years, the party has lost the support of tribal populations steadily in many north Indian states. Playing up his avatar as their protector is a great opportunity to regain that support.

HindustanTimes

Title : Cabinet clears Education Tribunal Bill

Author :

Location : NEW DELHI

Article Date : 08/24/2010

Cabinet clears Education Tribunal Bill

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet on Monday approved a bill to set up dedicated tribunals to settle education disputes without introducing any changes proposed by the Parliamentary standing committee on human resource development. The HRD ministry plans to introduce the bill in the Lok Sabha later this week. Ministry sources said the concerns raised in the panel's report had already been addressed in the Education Tribunals Bill, 2010. In the cabinet meeting, the PM asked sparring Ministers Kapil Sibal and C.P. Joshi to resolve their differences. Joshi wondered why the bill did not include secondary education and how the AICTE could have a higher body above it. To this Sibal and Kamal Nath said that the bill deals with higher education and the tribunal was needed as a redressal mechanism.

HindustanTimes

Title : ACT A MENDMENT - IITs may be free to go abroad

Author : Charu Sudan Kasturi charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

Location : NEW DELHI

Article Date : 08/24/2010

ACT AMENDMENT

IITs may be free to go abroad

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: The Indian Institutes of Technology may soon be legally empowered to set up campuses abroad even if their political masters oppose their international aspirations, under amendments to the law governing the technical institutions.

Kapil Sibal's HRD ministry is proposing amendment of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 to insert a clause specifically empowering the IITs to set up institutions abroad, government sources have told *HT*.

The move will mean that an IIT that wishes to set up a campus abroad will have the right to do so irrespective of the political whims of the government of the day. A future government would have to change the law to prevent the IITs from going abroad. The IITs are depending on a favourable interpretation of the Act by the government.

While Sibal is keen to allow the IITs to expand abroad, his predecessors Arjun Singh and Murli Manohar Joshi were against the move.

"It is a legal shield from political interference. The IITs will no longer be dependent on the politics or the whims of the government of the day. They can expand based on their needs and vision," a source said.

The Cabinet last week approved the inclusion of eight new IITs and the Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu

CHANGES IN ACT WILL ALLOW IITs TO SET CAMPUSES ABROAD WITHOUT DEPENDING ON POLITICAL WHIMS

University, under the Institutes of Technology Act. But it asked the HRD ministry to bring broader amendments to the Act, to reflect the changes that the IITs and India have undergone since the law was passed in 1961.

The proposed inclusion of a clause "empowering the IITs to set up institutions abroad" and other proposed amendments will be discussed by Sibal with Directors of the IITs at a meeting of the IIT Council on September 10. The IIT Council is the apex decision-making body of the IITs and is chaired by the HRD minister.

The HRD ministry will also use the Cabinet's push for broad amendments to once again try and obtain sanction for the IITs to start medical schools on their own. A proposal to allow them to start medical courses was put on hold by the law ministry after the health ministry's opposition, as was first reported by *HT* on August 1.

Other proposed amendments include induction of two members of the PM's scientific advisory council into the IIT Council, and empowering Directors to make most appointments on their own.

HindustanTimes

Title : IIT Bombay launches certificate in supply chain management

Author :

Location :

Article Date : 08/25/2010

IIT Bombay launches certificate in supply chain management

Shailesh J Mehta School of Management, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) and Hughes Communications India Ltd. launched the second batch of Certificate Programme in Supply Chain Management (CPSCM) on the Hughes Interactive Onsite Learning platform. The CPSCM programme will help equip managers and professionals with foundational and advanced knowledge required to manage a myriad of complex problems and issues that confront supply chain managers. The course leverages use of technology and has been designed to be highly interactive, which includes a judicious blend of lectures, case studies, live corporate examples and sessions from business leaders from different industry

“The supply chain management field over the years has evolved extensively, with suppliers playing a strategic role within the business management and success of the company. As company networks are becoming global, managers, too, have to operate internationally”, said Prof. Karuna Jain, SJMSOM IIT Bombay. “This programme is designed to help participants master enhanced skills, develop global mindsets and leadership styles to excel in their career. This programme also gives the aspiring participants necessary tools they require to create and manage market-leading supply chain.

“This on-the-job learning programme offers an ideal option to working professionals to learn more and add value to their existing qualifi-

cations and skills. The Hughes Interactive Onsite Learning platform is a powerful user interface that enables a large number of geographically distributed participants to have a highly interactive ‘one-to-one’/ ‘one to many’ exchange with a central faculty. The system incorporates teaching through live broadcast video; two way audio and data interactivity to enable the participants to watch and interact with the faculty live on their PC’s,” said Partho Banerjee, president and managing director, Hughes Communications India Ltd.

This is the second consecutive year of the successful run of the Supply Chain Management Programme on Hughes Platform, and we look forward to a longer and stronger association with IIT Bombay in the years to come, Banerjee said.

The case-based curriculum offered through the course includes lessons on global business environment, metrics of measuring, strategising and planning an efficient supply chain.

IIT to study building that developed cracks during Metro construction

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AUGUST 23

THE Bombay High Court has appointed Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Powai to carry out an independent structural audit of the building that had developed cracks reportedly due to the vibro-hammer used in the construction of the Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar Metro rail corridor in Andheri in 2009.

Gautam Niwas and some other buildings, part of Varshna Co-Operative Housing Society, had moved the High Court in June requesting that an independent agency conduct the structural audit, as the earlier firm — Strucwel Designers & Consultants — was blacklisted by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation on February 5.

Rejecting the previous report of Strucwel Designers & Consultants, a Division Bench of the high court has directed the IIT to submit the report within six weeks.

The report submitted by Structwel's structural engineer Chetan Raikar stated that the building had suffered cracks due to the "original poor quality construction" and "not due to use of the vibro-hammer".

The Metro corridor is being constructed by Mumbai Metro One Private Limited (MMOPL), a special purpose vehicle including Reliance Infrastructure Ltd, MMRDA and French firm Veolia.

Educational Tribunals Bill gets Cabinet approval



A mechanism to provide for speedy resolution of matters relating to disputes in institutions of higher education was cleared by the Union Cabinet on Monday. A meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh gave its nod to the Educational Tribunals Bill 2010, which seeks to set up a two-tier structure of educational tribunals at the national and state level.

We need Phunsukh Wangdus

Investment and trade always run out of steam as growth-drivers. Innovation is the only source of sustained growth, what Schumpeter called 'creative destruction'. Fostering university-industry linkages is one way of incubating innovation



NIRVIKAR SINGH

ECONOMIC headlines in India focus on macroeconomic management. Soaring inflation, a burgeoning fiscal deficit or gyrating exchange rates all affect the economy's health, but prudent macro-economic policies only go so far. Long-run growth depends on factors like investment, innovation and trade (a different expansion of the initials IIT), which do not receive as much attention. Investment is perhaps the most basic driver of growth, since capital accumulation raises labour productivity and per capita output. High rates of investment helped East Asia grow at rates never seen

before. India, too, has seen higher growth associated with higher rates of investment.

International trade in goods and services has also helped India grow faster. According to economic theory, liberalising trade in goods should have just a one-time effect on output, rather than a permanent effect on growth, but the one-time effect could be spread over decades.

Openness to trade also brings new capital and ideas along with products and services, and these can give boost to long-run growth. India is a very different country now than it was two decades ago. Greater economic openness has contributed to that difference, changing attitudes towards foreignness, reducing the perspective of forbidden fruit. So did the openness of the US, which allowed Indians to migrate there, succeed economically, and now begin to bring back capital and ideas to their home country.

The hugely successful movie *3 Idiots* plays off the themes of globalisation and economic success. One of the unsympathet-



ic characters in the movie succeeds as one of those US migrants; another, also apparently with US links, cares only about the prices of things, not the values of people. The heroes of the movie are more indigenous types, and carry the message that human values and love of learning for their own sake matter more than material success. In

that sense, there are echoes of themes found over five decades ago in movies such as *Shree 420* or in the 1970s' *Roti, Kapda aur Makaan*: the moral corruption of business, wealth and success. The source of this corruption is now multinational but its essence is the same.

But in the past, the dilemma was that honesty meant poverty,

or at best a struggling middle-class existence. Hard work was no guarantee of success, or even of a job. The heroes of *3 Idiots* have very different options. One hero is rewarded with a good job for being courageously honest, another successfully pursues his creative passion. And their inspirational friend, the son of a gardener who loves learning and problem-solving, has 400 patents to his name a decade after graduating. This is a world that did not exist for Indians a few decades ago. *3 Idiots* can decry the rat race and blinkered pursuit of success while offering a much more glamorous alternative, based on creativity and innovation.

The alternative, though, remains elusive for the majority of Indians. The matching of education with talent requires reform of the system of education, which the film calls for repeatedly. A different system may produce graduates who are more creative and innovative. However, the other shoe that has to drop is the opportunities that await

those new graduates. India's economy simply does not generate enough new jobs, especially given its demographic trends. Investment and trade always run out of steam as growth-drivers, with innovation as the only source of sustained growth, in a process that Joseph Schumpeter called 'creative destruction'.

In Schumpeter's story, entrepreneurs are the vessels of creative destruction. Inventions have to be tested, refined, made cost-effective and brought to the market to make a difference to the economy. Entrepreneurs play this role, creating new companies and new jobs. To do this, they need an ecosystem that brings together money, ideas, specialised skills and experience. India does not have that yet. Starting a business in India is difficult. Failure is still not accepted, making risk-taking harder. The legal system is unwieldy and inefficient. Reforms of corporate governance, bankruptcy procedures and competition policy are all in the works. Legal system reforms are also on the agenda. For venture

capital to flourish, a mix of financial sector reforms and tax policy changes are still needed.

So, to get from the struggles of simple Raj 55 years ago to the easy success of Phunsukh Wangdu, a set of coordinated policy changes are required, the impact of which will not show up in any single number like the inflation rate or exchange rate, but instead in the way that thousands or millions of new ideas get translated into market-ready products and services. Schumpeter was pessimistic about the ability of democracies to support entrepreneurship. The question is whether democratically-elected politicians have any incentive to do so, if simpler ways of winning votes are available. One answer might lie in fostering links between universities and industry, to create incubators for commercialisation of new ideas, so that higher education reform and job creation are aligned. These could be a creative construction.

The author is professor of economics at the University of California, Santa Cruz

[The Pioneer, Aug. 25](#)

Education Tribunal Bill gets Cabinet nod

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet cleared Education Tribunal Bill 2010 on Monday, paving the way for speedy resolution of matters relating to disputes in institutions of higher education.

The meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh gave its nod to the Bill that proposes to set up a two-tier structure of Educational Tribunals at the national and State level. This novel tribunal would adjudicate on the entire gamut of disputes that arise in the higher education system, across the country, said the sources.

The tribunals will act as fora for fast-track and speedy resolution of issues in the various educational institutions in order to build an effective system of checks and balances in higher education.

They will decide on cases concerning teachers, employees and students of institutions in the respective States. The national tribunal would deal with all matters concerning regulatory bodies in higher education and also matters involving institutes located in two or more States.

The Bill provides for

IT PROPOSES TO SET UP A TWO-TIER STRUCTURE OF EDUCATIONAL TRIBUNALS AT THE NATIONAL AND STATE LEVEL

imprisonment up to three years or fine of ₹10 lakh or with both to those who fails to comply with the orders of the State or the National Educational Tribunals.

The Bill that was introduced in the Lok Sabha earlier, was referred to the concerned Parliamentary Standing Committee for its scrutiny. Sources said that the Bill is likely to be considered and passed in this session.

The passage of this Bill is being considered important to take up other educational reforms Bills like Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill, 2010 and National Accreditation Authority Bill.

[The Hindu](#)

Published: August 25, 2010 00:13 IST | Updated: August 25, 2010 00:13 IST NEW DELHI, August 25, 2010

Orissa Central University to set up medical college, hospital

“Such a facility in the extremely backward district of Koraput will bring relief to the people”

The Central University of Orissa is setting up a medical college and a hospital that will bring health care at the doorsteps of the people in the region.

The university is situated in Koraput, an extremely backward district, which is inaccessible and Naxal affected.

“A hospital in the region would bring relief to the people,” the Vice-Chancellor of the University Surabhi Banerjee told *TheHindu*.

A detailed interim project report has been submitted to the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The Koraput District Hospital is well equipped, but lacks trained people to run it.

Keeping this in mind, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) for establishing a School of Health Sciences, for collaboration in teaching and research in Masters in Public Health Management. The school will also run courses in Nursing Sciences and Allied Health Sciences.

A similar MoU will be signed with Narayana Hrudayalaya, Bangalore, for training in medical and allied health sciences. “Availability of trained manpower in the healthcare sector will be a boon for the people in the region,” Professor Banerjee said. The Delhi-based Jamia Hamdard University has also extended help in the field of allied sciences.

As the university enters its second year at the end of this month, it intends to tie up with the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation for setting up a School of Bio-Diversity and Conservation of Natural Resources, and with the Chennai Institute of Mathematical Studies, that will offer a 5 year Integrated M.Sc in Mathematics

Grooming students

“But only obtaining a degree is not enough in today's competitive world. Personality development is equally important. I have involved the British Council for improving the communication skills of students. The Council has already commenced classes where 75 students have enrolled,” he explained.

In addition to imparting training in Information Technology, efforts are being made to groom and counsel the students before they are ready to “take off.”

At present, 150 students from across the country have been enrolled in the University in the School of Languages and the School of Social Sciences. The former offers Post Graduation courses in English and Oriya, while the latter provides Post Graduation courses in Anthropology, Sociology and Mass Communication and Journalism. The Academic Council has also approved Ph.D Programmes.

Professor Banerjee is also working on a proposal to start an Institute of Marine Biotechnology.

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On ragging

Ragging is common in our educational institutions. It is no longer fun as it has assumed the form of human rights violation. But it is not treated with the seriousness it deserves. The reality is that many cases go unreported and many are covered up by the managements so that the reputation of their colleges is not affected.

John M. Baby,

Kochi

Schools and colleges are the abode of learning, where friendship and lasting ties are built. But some students make lives hell for others. What they assume is a prank causes mental agony to others. Some are even driven to suicide. It is for students to rid schools and colleges of the menace and make them havens of friendship.

S. Arul Gnanapragasam,

Thumba

The setting up of inquiry committees and expelling students who indulge in ragging are not enough to end the menace. The guilty should not only be expelled but also barred from admission to any other college. In cases where the victim commits suicide or dies after being subjected to torture, the perpetrators should be put behind bars and awarded exemplary punishment. The increased incidents of ragging have exposed the flaws in our education system which may be successful in churning out academically brilliant students, but has failed to inculcate proper values in them.

David Peniel,

Tiruchi

I remember my days as a freshman in an engineering college. There was not much awareness those days and ragging was prevalent in almost all professional colleges. I was lucky as I was a day scholar. My classmates who stayed in the hostel endured nightmares. It was difficult for many of us to talk to our seniors after the ragging period was over.

There is no place for the humiliating practice in any institution.

Varad Seshadri,

Sunnyvale

Ragging in the past was one way of familiarising freshers with senior students. But, of late, it has become ugly and senior students go to any length to tease the new entrants. For the freshers, it is harassment, humiliation and torture. Ragging is banned and punishable under the law.

But the purpose of the law will be served only when the government, police and college managements act firmly to curb ragging.

Nagendra Kumar Vempally,

Hyderabad

The portrayal of college campuses in films adds fuel to the fire of ragging. Many films depict educational institutions as centres of crass entertainment and unregulated enjoyment. Staff members are shown as silent spectators. Such treatment in movies motivates students to indulge in bad behaviour and unlawful practices on college campuses.

Movie-makers should have a sense of social responsibility and exercise restraint. The censor board should discourage scenes that glorify ragging.

B. Nagalingam Pillai,

Nagercoil