

Staying ahead EdLive

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pwc

Message from the Sector leader



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Dear friends,

Welcome to this edition of EdLive.

India proposed a 17% increase in the education budget to INR 65,867 crore (from ~61,407 crores last year) for the fiscal starting from April 2013. School education received the maximum focus with the outlay for fiscal 2014 pegged at INR 49,659 crore (up from 45,969 crore last year) while higher education received an outlay of INR 16,198 crore (up from INR 15,438 crore last year).

Greater stress has been correctly given to school and vocational education as depicted below:

Scheme	Allocation 2013-14	Allocation 2012-13	Increase (%)
Sarva Shiksha Abhyan (SSA)	27,258 crores	25,555 crores	~7%
Mid Day Meal Program	13,215 crores	11,937 crores	~11%
Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)	3,983 crores	3,124 crores	~25%

Target of skilling 50 million people in the 12th Plan period, including 9 million in 2013-14

Youth to be motivated to voluntarily join skill development programmes. National Skill Development Corporation to set the curriculum and standards for training in different skills. Students completing such training programs to be awarded a certificate as well as monetary reward of ~INR 10,000. Government has set INR 1000 crore apart for this scheme which aims to train ~10 million youth

Funds to be released from other schemes/ funds such as National Rural Livelihood Mission, National Urban Livelihood Mission, Border Area Development Programme Fund etc for skill development activities

In totality, increased allocations for RTE - SSA and for RMSA reiterated the government's commitment towards strengthening school education. Allocations of INR 17,700 crore for Integrated Child Development Services scheme and INR 13,215 crore for National Programme of Mid-Day Meals in schools for the year 2013-14 were also some of the welcome initiatives.

As per the economic survey, ~64% of Indians will be of working age by 2021. In this context, universalizing access to skill training is necessary and Government's promise to motivate youth to voluntarily join skill development programs is a welcome move. Market reactions were also favorable as press reports indicate that education stocks rallied 5-10% after the Finance Minister P. Chidambaram in the Union Budget 2013 increased allocation to education ministry to INR 65,867 crore

However, increased spending must be accompanied by increase in quality and learning amongst students. As per the Economic Survey 2012-13, India has a very poor basic reading level amongst school children with as many as ~53% of all children in Grade 5 being unable to read Grade 2 level text and ~47% of Grade 5 children being unable to solve simple 2 digit subtraction problem with borrowing. In addition, a recent study by the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) found that out of 74 countries, Indian school students at the higher secondary level ranked almost at the bottom, with only Kyrgyzstan faring worse than India.

New four-year undergraduate course at DU to start in June

Mere presence at an exam will soon be enough to ensure success at Delhi University, as students scoring even a “zero” will be promoted from class-to-class under the new four-year undergraduate course starting June.

“The only catch to the scheme is that a student has to have an aggregate score of 45% in his theory papers if he has to get his associate degree at the end of two years or a degree at the end of three years,” said S. K. Garg, a key member of the admissions committee which took the decision recently. He added that 50 per cent in the aggregate is all that is required for the Honours degree

The special scheme of the four-year course is that once you have exited, you can always come back for a higher degree after a while. “A time limit of eight years has been fixed within which even the honours degree has to be completed or else the student will lose his chance,” added Mr. Garg. The admissions procedure has mostly remained the same. There will be centralised admission forms and then colleges will have to declare cut-offs, but this time round, a college can list just four cut-offs, unlike in the past where some colleges had even a tenth cut-off list

(Source: *The Hindu*)

Canara Bank moots insurance-linked education, agricultural loan products

Canara Bank has proposed insurance-linked education and agriculture loan products to prevent the recurring trend of delinquencies. R.K. Dubey, Chairman and Managing Director of the bank, said this while speaking to newsmen at the end of the session of the State-Level Bankers’ Committee of which it is the convener. The proposal came up during discussions Dubey had with Chief Minister Oommen Chandy earlier on Tuesday morning. The Chief Minister had sought the bankers’ help in sorting out the issues surrounding education loan disbursements in the State. Dubey said he responded positively to the request but,

in return, sought the State Government’s help with recoveries. The service area and management quota stipulations did not apply anymore in the case of educational loans and banks were in a position to lend even more, he said. But the bank is worried over the increasing trend for education loans to go into default even as the State has come to account for 13 to 14 per cent of all such loans disbursed in the country as a whole.

(Source: *Business Line*)

Oxford Executive MBA delivers first module in India

The Oxford Executive MBA (EMBA) programme at Saïd Business School, University of Oxford has delivered its first module in Bangalore. Taking place during the first year of study on the 21-month part-time modular programme, the new week-long Operations Management module is taught through a series of ‘live’ case studies and will include collaborative sessions with a range of companies, including software services provider Wipro, specialist manufacturer Moog and an Indian NGO involved in food production.

The programme with 70 students aims to help students get an understanding of how competitive advantage is shaped in India, the implication this competition has for global business, and develop the tools needed to do business in this challenging environment. Kathy Harvey, EMBA Programme Director said, “The rise of India as a global power is well documented but this poses critical challenges for global business. Companies of every size, from start ups to large corporates are working with Indian firms already. It’s vital that managers from across the world gain a greater understanding of the corporate landscape and the insights Indian businesses can bring to a global marketplace. Participants will have the opportunity to experience a new business environment and culture first-hand while still benefiting from Oxford’s education.

(Source: *Business Standard*)

Schools ‘collecting fees’ from children admitted under RTE

A 37-year-old taxi driver, Manjunath Gowda (name changed), brought a chocolate cake for his family after his six-year-old daughter secured a seat in a sought-after private school in Uttarahalli under a provision of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009, which guarantees 25 per cent of the seats in private unaided schools to “children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups.” But his initial euphoria soon died down when he went to the school and realised that he would have to shell out Rs.5,700 as fees to get his daughter admitted. “The school is demanding Rs.1,600 for the school day expenses, Rs.1,500 as computer fees, Rs.2,500 for books and Rs.100 for application form,” a worried Mr. Gowda told *The Hindu*. He says that with a monthly income of Rs. 8,000, he would be unable to pay the fees as he has to pay his house rent and buy food, besides paying his son’s school fees. “I certainly cannot afford to pay such a huge sum. Apart from this, I will have to spend on uniforms. So I have to explore other options,” he said.

(Source: *The Hindu*)

CBSE to train school principals on leadership, school management

In what is seen as one of the biggest initiatives by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), principals, vice principals and head teachers of the schools that are following CBSE curriculum have been mandated to spend at least a week to train themselves in effective leadership and school management. Representatives from about 13,500 schools belonging to almost all the states of the country are expected to attend the skills-oriented and behavioural programmes which will commence from April 1, 2013. CBSE has chosen Organisation Development Alternatives (ODA), a consulting firm, to offer this programme.

“In keeping with the changing times we believe the school principals too need to expand their leadership capability to

manage the entire education process. The leadership and school management programme will empower them to play a bigger role in leading their schools and to improve the overall education process,” according to an official spokesperson of CBSE. The 5-day behavioural programme on Leadership and school management would be offered in both residential and a non-residential format. The programme has been divided into two parts of behavioural learning on leadership. That would include among others unraveling leadership styles, goal setting, collaboration and team building, vision building, time management, conflict resolution. The technical learning would bring school heads up to speed on many reforms and policies of CBSE and government like Right to Education.

(Source: Business Standard)

Maharashtra ties up with Microsoft for healthcare, education biz

For the first time in India, the Maharashtra Government is collaborating with IT major Microsoft to develop applications for healthcare, education and social issues to help civic authorities interact with citizens. Over 75 organisations are participating in the Windows AppFest currently underway at Pune and will code through the night to build these apps, the top three of which will be announced by tomorrow morning. These will be selected for presentation at a conference to be hosted by the Asian Development Bank. Rajesh Agarwal, IT secretary, Govt of Maharashtra said that app marketplaces are proving to be viable platforms to host e-governance and socially relevant apps which can provide citizen centric services in an efficient, transparent and secure manner. Apps developed by Microsoft will be available on Microsoft phones. The State government is also in discussions with Blackberry, Andorid and IOS for development of similar apps for their respective platforms, Agarwal added.

(Source: Business Line)

IIT G'nagar to unveil architectural plan for permanent campus

Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) will unveil its final architectural plans and unique features of its permanent campus at a special event. The Institute expects to build the first phase and move to its new campus in June 2014. The institute's Board of Governors (BOG) meeting has also been scheduled for the same day.

Amongst notable features of IITGN's 400-acre permanent campus on the banks of the Sabarmati river in Gandhinagar include features like energy saving measures, accessibility and mobility inside the campus, green initiatives and aesthetic use of the location will be highlighted by architects involved in the design process. The institute adopted an innovative planning and design process by actively engaging the IITGN community, including its faculty, staff and students.

(Source: Business Standard)

Delhi High Court stops NIIT Ltd from using term 'turning point' for course

The Delhi High Court has restrained NIIT Ltd, an IT education and training firm, from using the expression “Turning Point” for a computer training programme on the plea of a coaching institute that it has the intellectual right over the term. “The use of the expression ‘TURNING POINT’ along with their mark NIIT by the Defendant (NIIT Ltd) at this initial stage deserves to be enjoined as the mark of the Defendant is deceptively similar to that of the Plaintiff Institution (M/s Turning Point). “As a result, the plaintiff's application for the grant of interim injunction ... stands allowed and accordingly, the defendant, its directors, employees, servants, agents etc are restrained from marketing, selling or using in any manner whatsoever the plaintiff's registered trademark “TURNING POINT” with respect to its services till the final disposal of the present case,” Justice Kailash Gambhir said.

(Source: The Indian express)

IIMs plan to conduct road shows abroad to attract foreign students

NEW DELHI: The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are gearing up to make a bigger mark in the global arena in order to attract more foreign graduates and make the country's top business schools operationally and financially more autonomous.

The IIMs plan to conduct road shows abroad to attract talent that will make the batch of students more diverse. Some foreign students are already studying at some IIMs but the government expects the number to rise after the proposed law empowers them to award MBA degrees instead of the diploma currently offered.

(Source: The Economic times)

Right to Education haunted by teacher shortage

Three years since it came into being and promised free and compulsory education to all children in the 6-14 age group in India, redressing violations of the Right to Education (RTE) Act across the country has been apparently poor, a fact ascribed by the chief monitoring body to teacher shortage and lack of educational infrastructure.

An RTI reply reveals that till date only 32% cases of violation have been dealt with. According to the RTI reply, of the 3,632 complaints received over the last three years, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the chief monitoring body for the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, has been able to act on just 1,191 cases. In other words, 68% of the cases remain unacted

(Source: *The Hindu*)

Bill in Lok Sabha to set up 20 more IIITs

A Bill to establish 20 more Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) and declare the four existing ones as institutions of national importance was introduced in the Lok Sabha.

The new IIITs would be set up under the public-private partnership mode, with the HRD Ministry, the State Governments where these are to be established and the industry being partners, the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Bill 2013 said.

“The main objective in establishing IIITs is to set up a model of education which can produce world-class human resource in the field of information technology,” the Bill, introduced by HRD Minister M.M. Pallam Raju, said.

The Bill, which seeks to give the IIITs administrative autonomy, would confer the status of institutes of national importance on existing IIITs, situated at Gwalior, Allahabad, Jabalpur and Kancheepuram.

The establishment of each IIIT is expected to cost Rs 128 crore, with the Centre bearing 50 per cent of the cost and the State Government concerned 35 per cent. The remaining 15 per cent would be borne by industry partners.

(Source: *Business line*)

Cabinet nod for NRI doctors to practice, teach in India | The Economic Times

NRI doctors are a step closer to be able to practice or teach medicine in India. The Cabinet recently cleared the National Council of Human Resources in Health (NCHRH) Bill that allows doctors who hold the Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) status to work in India. They can also join medical college as faculty. The Bill also brings in penal provisions against authorities running private medical colleges who fudge figures like bed strength, number of faculty members or infrastructure to get registration. At present, the only punishment they face is the institute’s de-recognition. However, the Bill stipulates that errant authorities will face three years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 25 lakh.

According to the Bill, an overarching body will have under it the Medical Council of India (MCI), Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), Nursing Council of India (NCI), Dental Council of India (DCI) and the proposed Central Councils for Paramedical and Allied Medical Sciences Education

(Source: *The Economic Times*)

First private accreditation body for varsities set up

Even as the National Accreditation Regulatory Authority Bill for higher education remains to be passed by Parliament, the country’s first private accreditation body came into being. Registered as a non-profit council, the Indian Centre for Assessment and Accreditation (ICAA), with Manipal University head T V Mohandas Pai as chairman and former University Grants Commission (UGC) chairman Arun

Nigavekar as chief advisor, aims at monitoring and assessing universities on a set of criteria that would keep in mind the domestic realities and international expectations .

There are two government accreditation agencies in the country - the National Assessment and Accreditation Council and the National Board of Accreditation. “In 19 years, these agencies have accredited only 28% of universities and 14% of colleges,” said S P Thyagarajan, former vice-chancellor of the University of Madras. “With grading of colleges gaining recognition, it’s time we had a private body that will ensure transparency while assessing universities and colleges.”

(Source: *TOI*)

Bill for setting up 3 private universities

A bill to establish three new private universities in Gujarat will be tabled in its assembly next week. The Gujarat Private Universities (Amendment) Bill will pave the path for establishing Lakulish Yoga University-ITI at Tarsali in Vadodara, and CU Shah University in Wadhwan. With these universities, the total number of private universities will go up to 13 in the state. The state government will also table the Gujarat Professional Technical Educational Colleges or Institutions (Regulation of Admission And Fixation of fees) (Amendment) Bill, 2013, to allow admission to students from other states on vacant seats in professional and technical education colleges and institutions, besides centres of excellence

(Source *TOI*)

International news

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Treehouse acquires Brainworks Learning System

Indian educational services company Tree House Education and Accessories plants has acquired its local competition Brainworks Learning System from its parent company Better Value Brands. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed. "We want to enter markets like Delhi and Punjab where Brainworks' has presence and we think it could be a mix," Tree House managing director Rajesh Bhatia advised. Brainworks was founded in 2008 by local brands managing company Better Value Brands Limited as a paid playschool, nursery and day care facilitator. The brand now manages 74 center in 11 states. Tree House was incorporated in 2006 and is also a private preschool group with 350 centers in 38 cities.

(Source: Emerging market information service)



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