

B-SCHOOLS TO TAKE AICTE TO APEX COURT

Will challenge guidelines on postgraduate courses

KEY AREAS OF DEBATE

AICTE	B-schools
All PGDM programmes shall not be less than 24 months	The period of 21 months can be spread over 24 months if required
Admissions to all PGDM courses shall be through common entrance test such as CAT/MAT or examinations by respective state governments	No necessity for state governments for conducting tests.
Admissions shall not start before March 31	The actual admission can be made on April 1
Curriculum to be issued by the council.	There should be nationwide consultation before that
Admission processes to be conducted by respective states	State governments have no authority to conduct admissions to private unaided management institutions
Fees to be fixed by the government	Every institute is free to devise its own fee structure
AICTE to conduct exams	Is impermissible
Academic sessions to be from June to May	Not necessary

PIYALI MANDAL
New Delhi, 7 February

Taking the war over autonomy to the court, the Association of Indian Management Schools (AIMS) and the Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI) today decided to file writ petitions in the Supreme Court, challenging the recent guidelines on postgraduate management diploma (PGDM) courses by the technical education regulator.

AIMS and EPSI will file separate writ petitions by February 14. "We have decided to take a legal action and file petition in the Supreme Court challenging the notifications of AICTE," said H Chaturvedi, alternate president, EPSI, and director, Birla Institute of Management and Technology.

The B-schools, however, made it clear that if they did not get a stay order they would not accept students qualifying through state-level interviews

and group discussions.

Among key suggestions of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), a model curriculum for all PGDM programmes should be issued by the council, and admissions to PGDM programmes must be conducted by state governments through a competent authority, among others. Representatives from over 200 B-schools today gathered in the national capital to attend a national convention called by EPSI and AIMS.

"The convention resolved that AICTE's notification clearly violates landmark judgments of the Supreme Court in TMA Pai and P A Inamdar cases which defined the autonomy of self-finance PGDM institutes," Chaturvedi added. Bakul Dholakia, former director of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), added, "well-performing B-schools must stand united to solve this problem".

Two consortiums of business schools have already filed pe-

titions against AICTE notifications in Delhi and Bombay High Courts. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci), which supported EPSI, also took part.

"The notification is a retrograde step which takes us backward. It is likely to have an impact on the quality of the management education," Ficci Director Shobha Mishra Ghosh said. EPSI and AIMS had met Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal last week. "We will meet the Prime Minister and UPA Chairperson this week and will finalise our final course of action," Chaturvedi said.

Of the AICTE guidelines issued in December 2010, B-schools strongly oppose the norm that admission to PGDM courses must be through common entrance tests such as the Common Admission Test (CAT), Management Aptitude Test (MAT) or examinations conducted by state governments.