

Apex court allows private B-schools to conduct own entrance tests

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Upholding the autonomy of around 545 private institutions offering post graduate diploma in management, the Supreme Court has reportedly allowed PGDM institutions to conduct their own entrance exams and admit students for admissions in 2012-13.

The apex court is said to have extended its March 17 interim order on AICTE notifications by another year. The final order, however, is expected to come in the next few months.

This may be seen as a setback to All India Council for Technical Education's (AICTE) proposal of a single-test-window for all PGDM institutions.

In December last year, the AICTE had notified that admissions to B-schools would be conducted by State Governments, as opposed to multiple national level tests such as CAT, XAT, MAT, ATMA and JEE. The apex court has allowed AICTE to conduct its own all-India entrance test, in addition to the existing five tests.

The PGDM institutions have also been allowed to fix their fee, but would have to intimate AICTE and respective State Governments of the same.

The eight clauses notified by AICTE had proposed more participation of State Governments in B-schools

regarding admissions, duration of programme, starting of admission and governance of board of management. This was seen by B-schools as a threat to their autonomy.

At a time when the Government was giving more autonomy to the Indian Institutes of Management, curbing their freedom smacked of hypocrisy, according to Dr H. Chaturvedi, Alternate President, EPSI and Director, Birla Institute of Management Technology.

"It is an irony that the Ministry of HRD is engaged in restoring greater autonomy to IIMs and IITs for making them world class while allowing AICTE to withdraw the autonomy granted to the PGDM institutions," said Dr Chaturvedi.

Prof V.K. Gupta, Director, Management Development Institute, Gurgaon, welcomed the Supreme Court order and said, "The AICTE is saying there are complaints against some of the PGDM institutes. If that is the case, they should recognise which ones and go after them. Why penalise all of us?"

The writ petition was filed by Education Promotion Society for India (EPSI), Association of Indian Management Schools (AIMS) and Jaipuria Group of Institutions.

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