

ARMY INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, KOLKATA

RESUME OF EVENTS / ACTIVITIES : JUNE 2020

Overview

1. June was characterised by the country entering the un-lockdown phase on 08 Jun, which did not significantly alter things for the Institute or for educational institutions for that matter, being non-essential services. The curve had not flattened & the nation probably had now reconciled itself to subsist with the problem. Our Placement Officer, Ms Puja Singh Ghosh, left us on 13 Jun (poached by a local business school on better terms) and the contract period of Prof Asmita Basu expired on 30 Jun. The Registrar's post which was lying vacant since Apr was filled with Col MKR Varma (Retd) reporting on 05 Jun. We finally packed off the 30 odd students staying in our hostels and closed the hostels on 25 Jun. To support the Command Hospital to conduct its OPD services we handed over the Faculty Block to them on 06 Jun. The uncertainty over the assessment system, exams and commencement of the next academic session remains and the state government has decided to extend the date of closure of colleges until 31 Jul (as per an earlier directive, exams were to be conducted in Jul).

Academics

2. Summer Internship Programme (SIP). MBA 23 Batch students joined their SIPs with various firms / organisations. The students undergo an 8 week internship programme during the summer break after the first year. Some students also subscribe to more than one SIP. It would be ideal if some of the placements get converted into pre-placement offers. Most of the students are working from home.

3. Revision Classes. With fuzziness over exams remaining it was decided to gainfully utilise this period by organising online revision classes.

4. Skilling Classes. Linguistics, quantitative abilities and IT skill (Excel) classes continued during the month.

5. AICTE Approval. The validity of the AICTE approval for the Institute was extended by another year (valid upto Jun 21) . We would be applying for re-location of the Campus when the AICTE portal opens in Nov-Dec.

6. Project Management India (PMI) Webinar (20 Jun). Maj Gen AK Sapra (Retd) Director delivered an online lecture during the PMI Webinar on 20 Jun.

7. Future of Academic Curriculum. Colleges have asked to remain shut until 31 Jul. it is unlikely that the semester exams for the ongoing semesters would take place & results for MBA 23 would most probably be based on internal assessments alone. For the terminal semester exams (MBA 22) a call should be taken soon.

8. Assessment Modalities (30 Jun). Word was received that no semester exams would be conducted and students would be assessed based on internal assessments and assignments. 80 per cent of the marks would be based on assessments already carried out and 20% on assignments to be conducted by mid Jul.

9. University issues. In June we got to know that some of our 4th Semester students had registered for the wrong subjects or had not registered at all! Action to rectify this & prevent recurrence) was initiated. It also came to light that Continuous Assessment 1 (CA 1) marks of our students too had not been logged this semester and we had missed the bus! Institutional measures to avoid recurrence are being contemplated.

Admissions

10. Admission MBA 24 : Online Group Discussion (GD) / Personal Interview (PI) (07 Jun). An online round of interviews was conducted on 07 Jun. 11 candidates (Army:04, General:07) appeared for the online interview. As on 30 Jun 105 seats have been filled (Army : 84, Gen : 21).

Placements

11. Placement Status (MBA 22). No fresh placements have taken place during the month. Transport corporation India (TCI) and Make My Trip (MMT) may rescind their offer, adversely affecting 11 of our students.

Student Affairs

12. Farewell Ms Puja Singh Ghosh, Placement Officer (13 Jun). The handful of students & staff in the campus had organised a befitting programme to bid farewell to Ms Puja Singh Ghosh, our Placement Officer, keeping in mind the ongoing restrictions.



Farewell function of Ms Puja Singh Ghosh, Placement Officer (13Jun).
Clockwise from TopLeft. 1. Maj Gen AK Sapra (Retd), Director presenting the Institute Memento to Ms Puja Singh Ghosh.2. Maj Gen AK Sapra (Retd) Director addressing the students and staff during his farewell event.3. The audience during the farewell event.4. One for the records, Ms Puja Singh Ghosh with the students and staff before leaving the institute. 5. The customary tea during the farewell event. 6. Ms Puja Singh Ghosh addressing the students and staff during his farewell event.

Administration

13. Visit Chairman IGB and MG Adm Eastern Comd to New Campus (22 Jun). Chairman IGB visited our New Campus to consider its feasibility as a quarantine facility, should the need arise. He was conducted by the Chairman and Director.

14. Establishment : Reporting of Registrar and Head of Administration (05Jun). Col MKR Varma joined us as our Registrar and Head of Administration on 05 Jun and was effective after his quarantine period on 19 Jun. The post was lying vacant since 30 Apr. Two abortive attempts had been made earlier to select a replacement for Col Sushen Chakraborty.

15. Establishment : End of Term Prof Asmita Basu (30Jun). The three year contract of Prof Asmita Basu expired on 30 Jun. She has applied for re-appointment. A request for his extension until then was turned down and the Placement Officer has since been nominated to officiate in the interim.

16. Establishment : Resignation Ms Puja Singh Ghosh, Placement Officer (13 Jun). After being with us for almost six years (16 Oct 2014 to 13 Jun 20), Ms Puja Singh Ghosh left us to join Praxis Business School, reportedly for a pay hike of 20 per cent. Her tenure had been extended by 3 years recently. Puja was popular among students and even some of the earlier batches would send her a cake on her birthday. A strong placement system is fundamental to the popularity of the institute.

17. Handing Over of Faculty Block to Command Hospital (CH) for OPD Services (06 Jun). The CH was conducting its OPD services in its Parking Area and with the onset of monsoons the conditions were far from satisfactory. The Institute handed over its Faculty Block to CH for OPD services on 06 Jun. The faculty did have some issues in the manner in which things were organised.

18. Shifting of Hostels to New Campus / Closure of Hostels. In view of the exacerbating CoVid situation in Alipore, it was decided to shift the 30 odd students staying in the Campus to the New Town Campus. Sanction of the Patron was obtained and the shifting was to take place on 15 & 16 Jun. The shifting was put on hold a day prior to the move as there was a possibility of the New Campus being utilised as a quarantine facility. With the safety of students in mind, it was decided to close the hostels (& Mess) from 2000hrs on 25 Jun. The students were not happy, but eventually did vacate the hostels by 26 Jun. Other educational establishments in the city had closed their hostels in Mar itself.

19. Infrastructure at New Campus. Work at the New Campus with on-site labour had been permitted earlier. With un-lockdown this became more formalised. Since 9 days scheduled construction period was lost (PDC of the project was Oct 19, Revised to Feb 20 and further to Mar 20), ie 31 Mar 20), GE(P) was hopeful he would now complete the work by 31 Jul 20.

20. Ascertaining Preference for Installation of ACs in Student Hostel Rooms. A survey was conducted to ascertain the preference of MBA 23 and MBA 24 Batch students to stay in AC rooms (provisions for which exist in the rooms). 74% boys and 63% girls opted to stay in AC rooms.

21. Change / Appointment of Bankers. Th Institute was banking with various bankers, SBI, Allahabad Bank and UCO Bank, complicating the process. Through an elaborate process a board of officers had selected HDFC Bank as our principal future bankers. The process of transition commenced this month.