

## MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS



Pics: Zarina Fernandes

# SHOULD INDIA'S WATER RESOURCES BE NATIONALISED?

**WANT TO PURSUE MANAGEMENT? GIVING ENTRANCE EXAMS? FOR ALL TEST TAKERS AND MANAGERS-IN-THE-MAKING, DNA ACADEMY PROVIDES AN INTERACTIVE PLATFORM BY CONDUCTING GROUP DISCUSSIONS (GDS). MUNIRA LOKHANDWALA, ALUMNA, IIM CALCUTTA, A CAT AND A CFA® TRAINER, WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH THIS LEARNING EXPERIENCE!**

**PARTICIPANTS:** (The GD was conducted at HR College and participating students were from the same college.)

Karan Gandhi, Parth Shah, Sanket Gandhi, Kunal Sonaiya, Manish Shah, Jainish Surana, Poonam Mehta, Shabnam Kanchwala, Sananda Bhattacharya, Nishita Jain, Ritu Taparia, Monish Navlani, Varun Thakur and Nirmal Maktani

**MODERATOR:** Munira Lokhandwala

**TOPIC OF GROUP DISCUSSION (GD):** Should India's water resources be nationalised? (Comments in RED are by the moderator)

**Karan:** I am against nationalisation. Till date whatever has been nationalised has not succeeded. An example can be banking and other nationalised industries that become underperformers and waste resources. Water is most precious and should not be wasted. Look at agro-based industries; the number of suicides committed by farmers are indication enough that nationalisation is not a good idea. Nationalisation leads to mismanagement and bureaucracy. (A very heavy beginning; too many points together may reduce the efficacy of some of them and of course the usual problem of starting with a conclusion is also there.)

**Nirmal (cuts in):** Considering the global political position, India has an advantage



I am against nationalisation. All nation-lised industries become underperformers. **-Karan**

over Pakistan. If they have the Iran pipeline we can use the Indus water pipeline as a hold. If they cut off gas line we can cut their water supply. Both are equally important. Moreover, nationalisation may make sense considering the number of water disputes in India — currently these tiny disputes are blown up as political issues.

**Karan (replying to Nirmal):** If the southern States' water issue is important then we can interlink rivers; nationalisation may not be the only solution...

**Sanket:** Interlinking rivers may sound easy but there are a lot of concerns. It involves a lot of implicit cost.

**Karan (interrupts Sanket):** Interlinking of rivers is not happening because of the government and the bureaucracy. Isn't this a good indication of how nationalisation will actually be more negative than positive? (Good point)

**Nirmal (continuing with interlinking):** Interlinking is quite valid but it won't happen overnight. It will take time — what about now? There is ecological imbalance and water scarcity. A state or national

Interlinking is valid but won't happen overnight. A state or national authority in place will ensure no wastage.

**-Nirmal**

authority in place will ensure no wastage. (The argument is good but finding authority doesn't necessarily mean no wastage.)

**Karan:** How can you say that? Haven't we already seen a lot of mismanagement?

**Sanket (changing the flow of the argument):** Look at prices; mineral water is more expensive than crude oil. Bisleri is more expensive than crude oil. (Wrong to compare crude with mineral; crude oil is far more expensive than crude water)

**Karan:** With nationalisation we'll move away from market economy. Interlinking has been in the pipeline since 1980 but nothing has been done so far.

## COMMENTS ON THE GD:

This GD as usual began with the conclusion without providing sufficient reasons for arriving at the conclusion. In spite of the number of students the GD didn't turn into a fish market because a lot of students didn't participate. With a group size of 14 more participation was expected.

## ADVICE:

For any topic, look at the past and see whether any similar activity has already taken place. This will be like empirical data that will be difficult to argue against. In this case, looking at the past for any nationalised industries and mentioning their effects and side-effects would be advantageous.



## DOUBTS?

**What happens if you have no knowledge about the topic under discussion?**

as whole then that could be a good starting point.

**-Poonam Mehta**

If you do not know much about the topic then listening becomes paramount. You could provide some sort of coherent structure on how to evaluate the topic from scratch. Sometimes not knowing much is good because then you question basic issues which a lot of people who are knowledgeable will ignore. Another way to look at the topic is to focus on what you know. If you have no idea about nationalisation but know about uses of water which are needed for the country

**What if you are the only person in a Group Discussion with a different point of view from the group?**

**-Karan Gandhi**

Only one person against the group is a very unlikely scenario but if that occurs and you have good points that explain your individual point of view then of course, you do get noticed. But at the end of it, this is a group discussion; try to understand the group's point of view and explain your own. Avoid extreme argument in such cases.

## AN IDEAL GD:

The group should have started by discussing the following aspects:

- Most nationalised industries fall into one of these categories:
  - Defence Industries
  - Infrastructure Industries
  - Natural Monopolies
- The group could have discussed whether water falls into any of the above categories with reasons. Mentioning characteristics of each of the above

industries would help in recognising whether water belongs to one of them.

- Looking at nationalised industries in the past and the kind of advantages as well as disadvantages gained from nationalising.
- Mentioning deregulated industries and the growth there would also act as an argument against nationalisation.

These issues should have been the backbone on which the conclusion could have been reached.

Want to participate in our GD? Write-in at [management.dna@gmail.com](mailto:management.dna@gmail.com) or [management@dnaindia.net](mailto:management@dnaindia.net) and wait for our call!

**Nirmal:** But in the current scenario, states are fighting against one another. This isn't good.

**Sanket (cuts in):** With interlinking, we are talking about cutting forests. You think that is a good idea? (The statement seems to be addressed to Karan.)

**Poonam:** Let us analyse it by weighing the pros and cons involved. (Good idea.) There may be some disadvantages, but the biggest advantage is that all states will get water. (Not a good listing of pros and cons.)

**Sananda:** Yes currently states like Punjab and Haryana have no water.

**Karan (refuting Sananda):** There is ample water in Punjab and Haryana; places like Marathwada face water problems. But nationalisation will inevitably lead to corruption.

**Sananda:** How are nationalisation and corruption related? I don't think nationalisation leads to corruption.

**Manish (changing the issue under discussion):** Nationalisation will ensure that someone is answerable for water scarcity problems.

**Karan:** But nationalisation makes industries non-competitive. Our nationalised companies cannot compete with MNC's.

**Nirmal:** That may be generally true but there are exceptions like Indian Railways — they have come around for the better. There are other methods to handle water, like having better irrigation facilities

Let us analyse it by weighing pros and cons. A big advantage of nationalisation is that all states will get water.

**-Poonam**



around monsoon. This can be a better short-term project than interlinking.

**Ritu:** If no work has been done on the interlinking project since 1980 then there might be other reasons than inefficiency. Maybe the plan is not a feasible enough.

**Nirmal:** Two points need to be looked into — firstly; will the state government do a good job? Secondly, should a resource like water be given to industries like defense and railways?

**Karan:** We have spoken a lot why don't you say something? (This was addressed to a non-participating candidate who didn't rise to the bait. There was an awkward silence here. Avoid doing this to candidates who have not spoken. In a way you re-iterate their non-participating nature to the panel. Nobody likes to be singled out like this so you go against the spirit of group discussion.)

**Manish:** Who do you think will pay for the interlinking project?

**Karan:** It should be a public private partnership.

## BIZYB

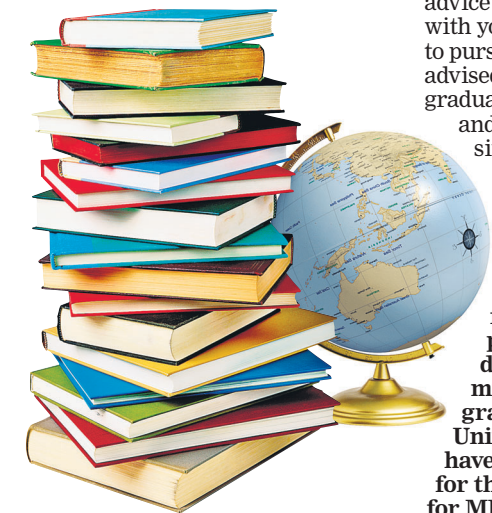
**CONFUSED ABOUT MANAGEMENT AS A CAREER? WRITE TO US ON [bizyb.dna@gmail.com](mailto:bizyb.dna@gmail.com) OR [bizyb@dnaindia.net](mailto:bizyb@dnaindia.net) AND OUR MANAGEMENT EXPERT SUNIL KARVE WILL REPLY TO YOUR QUERIES**

# DISTANCE MBA

I'm a class 12 (commerce) student. I had originally planned to go for a Company Secretary course or ICWA after class 12. However, my father thinks there's no scope in these. He's asking me to opt either for an MBA from an IIT centre or for IAS. Please suggest which of the two will be better and has more scope as a career option.

**-Sakshi Mittal**

There is definitely lot of scope for CS and ICWA. Both the prospects are extremely bright. Since the average time taken



to complete these courses is four-five years, these courses require a lot of hard work and patience. The competition for these courses is lesser compared to that of MBA entrance exams. CS and/or ICWA graduates climb the corporate ladder much faster. In order to pursue an MBA programme, you need to be a graduate whereas you can pursue CS or ICWA along with your graduation. You can always pursue MBA after your CS or ICWA and doing this will make you a 'sought after' candidate in the corporate world. If you decide to take my advice and pursue CS or ICWA along with your graduation and also plan to pursue MBA thereafter, it is advised that you take up Law at graduation level (instead of BCom) and pursue CS or ICWA simultaneously.

I am 26-year-old working in a BPO. I wish to pursue MBA. I thought of enrolling for a distance learning programme but found that the life of people pursuing MBA through distance learning is miserable. I completed my graduation from Utkal University, Bhubaneswar and have been staying in Mumbai for the past three years. If I go for MH-CET, will I be considered

among the 15 per cent quota allotted for outsiders? What are my chances of getting into MH-CET if I join a good coaching class like TIME? I am good at reasoning and English but not so good at Maths. Please Help.

**-Ziauddin Quazi**

Don't worry or get upset. Try and get rid of all the negative thoughts and emotions because they will come in the way of your decision making. Examine options with an open mind. It is quite possible that your job profile is causing all the stress. Consider a change in your job profile. Chances are that majority of stress will get alleviated. You must definitely try for the MMS programme. At the same time various reputed institutes like MET, Welinkar, K J Somaiya, SIES among others hold autonomous programmes that hold equal value in the corporate world; you must try for these too. Right attitude and adequate preparation will surely help you sail through. Your views about distance learning programmes are incorrect as there are many reputed institutes that conduct these programmes and their students are known to have climbed the corporate ladder successfully.

*The author is the founder trustee and vice chairman of MET League of Colleges.*

# PILL DOCTOR

Continued from page 1

## NEED OF THE HOUR

The first initiative towards getting Homeopathy its due recognition should be taken by the government. Public health centres need to be opened in the city and the government needs to run programmes for general awareness about the long lasting benefits of Homeopathic treatments as opposed to Allopathy.

(With inputs from Dr NO Goyal, Principal, CMP; and Dr Bina Wadhawan, practitioner Homeopathy and Alternative Medicine.)

Email: [a\\_shanya@dnaindia.net](mailto:a_shanya@dnaindia.net)

## HOMEOPATHY

Homeopathy focuses on treating specific physical and emotional symptoms to give long lasting benefits.

## ELIGIBILITY:

HSC with PCB. Entry is via the MH-CET. Duration: four years and six months followed by an year long internship. MD/ MS would be the next step followed by PhD, which are of three and two years duration respectively.

## INSTITUTES:

- Smt Chandaben Mohanbhai Patel Homoeopathic Medical College, Mumbai.
- Dhondumama Sathe Homoeopathic Medical College, Pune.
- Anand Homoeopathic Medical College and Research Institute, Bhale Road, Anand.
- Government Homoeopathic Medical College, Bangalore.

## FUTURE SCOPE:

- Private practice
- Teaching assignments in colleges
- Ministry of health and family planning

-Researched and developed by Disha Counseling Center

## LETTERSTOEDITOR

Although I'm not a regular reader of your paper, I make it a point to peek through DNA Academy every Tuesday, especially for the 'Carpus Connect' section. I need information on 'Correspondence studies for primary and secondary school level' as one of my family friends, who's in class four, is severely ill and cannot attend regular school. He's a brilliant student and we don't want his education to suffer. Correspondence learning seems the only available option.

Thank you,  
Anuragya Sinha

Write in to us at  
[letterstoeditor.dna@gmail.com](mailto:letterstoeditor.dna@gmail.com) or  
[letterstoeditor@dnaindia.net](mailto:letterstoeditor@dnaindia.net)

## ANSWERTOTHEWEEK

**Answer: C**

Since the two circles are touching each other at a point, both the circles will have one endpoint of their radius common. And so, x,y will

be equal to the distance between their centres, d. So, d=x+y in this case and so C is the correct relative position of the two circles that satisfies the given condition.

## THEWINNER



**Srinidhi Bheesette**  
Navy Children School, Mumbai