



[B-SCHOOL CORNER](#)

Aakanksha Srinivasan

Designing a ‘new age’ business school



Great Lakes Institute of Management's Gurgaon campus
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The dean of Great Lakes Gurgaon, Dr Debashish Sanyal, says AI and machine learning are the future of the MBA

Great Lakes, Gurgaon is a new age institution, the recently-appointed director Dr Debashish Sanyal says. Sanyal took over from Dr. Himadri Das in April this year.

“We are probably the only institution in India to offer courses on artificial intelligence, machine learning and business analytics as both core competencies and also as electives,” Dr Sanyal says. Speaking about the future of the eight-year-old institution, the former Dean of School of Business Management at NMIMS, Mumbai, said that the USP of the management course at Great Lakes, Gurgaon is the technology-driven courses that they offer. “Going forward, people with a specialisation in new age fields, such as data analytics, will be in high demand. Great Lakes is at the forefront of this and our USP is that we already offer courses that equip future managers with the skills they will need.” he adds.



Getting accreditations

Sanyal, who has been in the business for over three decades, also says that accreditation is something that is high on the list of priorities for him as he takes over the reins of the institution. "We are already in dialogue with the Association of MBAs (AMBA) regarding international accreditation and are set to file our self assessment report this year. If all goes well, we expect to get the international accreditation by early next year." he says, adding that getting accreditation from Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) will be a bit more difficult, as it is a longer process and takes about three to four years to complete the entire process.

"My job is to make Great Lakes, Gurgaon among the top business schools in the country. We have lots of plans, accreditation being the first thing we're tackling. We are also looking at increasing the faculty size, being published in journals more often, as well organising more international exchange programmes with other famed institutions." Sanyal says, while acknowledging the fact that the MBA as a course is changing everyday. Communication skills, for example, he says, are extremely important today, and the institution offers two courses that all students have to compulsorily take which will teach them to communicate better, both while speaking and while writing.

All this aside, Sanyal says catering to what the industry needs from b-schools is at the heart of their curriculum-formation. "A b-school cannot thrive without understanding the industry's needs. I strongly believe that there should be a continuous interaction with the industry, and moving forward, I see programmes offering electives that are owned and offered by corporate houses. It is something I'm looking at here as well," he says.

As far as the push for diversity at the workplace is concerned, Sanyal hopes to increase the percentage of women in the course to over 30 per cent, from the current 27 per cent, in the next few years.

The story can be read online [here](#).