Nascent AI heading towards Cognification
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Banks and financial institutions speak of AI as the next frontier but at present its uses are just peripheral though the scope is infinite

Breakthrough innovations transform BFSI companies
New technologies like augmented reality, chatbots, blockchain, etc, are accelerating the pace of innovations in India’s BFSI sector

A pragmatic legislation
The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 is a major overhaul of the existing framework dealing with insolvency of corporates, individuals, partnerships and other entities. Two experts discuss the provisions

BoB, Punjab & Sind Bank expanding e-lobbies
K. Venkateswarlu, GM and head - Digital Banking & Fintech E-Lobbies at Bank of Baroda, and Harvinder Sachdev, GM-IT at Punjab & Sind Bank, provide updates on their respective e-Lobbies and growth targets

National Academic Depository is now operational
The National Academic Depository changes the way degrees are preserved, the way verifiers access academic data of an applicant

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The National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM), besides providing training to banking professionals, has a strong focus on research and publishing as well:

The National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM), which came into being in 1969 at the time of the nationalization of banks, today caters to the manpower needs of the public and private sector banks as well as other financial services institutions, including cooperative banks, NBFCs and prestige organizations like NPCI and CIBIL. The institute was formed with the support of the government of India, Reserve Bank of India and State Bank of India and was functional from Mumbai, but its campus was shifted to Pune in 1985. As of now, most of the senior officers of the public sector banks, including MDs, have either been trained or have been associated with NIBM.

Says Dr K.K. Dingra, director of NIBM: “During the current financial year from April 2017 to October 2017, we have conducted 101 training programs, of which 46 have been for individual banks (in-company programs) and 2627 participants have benefited, of which 1465 are from in-company programs.”

Recently, the institute organized a workshop on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016, which attracted a large number of participants. Former finance secretary Ashok Lavasa had addressed the participants.

CUSTOMIZED TRAINING
The institute offers customized training programs for banking professionals from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. It has collaborative training programs with Kellogg School of Management (USA), Frankfurt School of Finance and Management (Germany) and Asian Institute of Management – School of Executive Education (the Philippines). Diminga says the international training programs the institute is conducting cover a variety of topics such as asset-liability management, financial management with the focus on risk management and Basel accords – II & III, corporate governance, etc. “During 2016-17, we conducted 5 international programs such as Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC), Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme (SCAAP) and Colombo Plan (CP), wherein 161 participants attended various courses. Of the total 5954 participants, there were around 873 participants from smaller economies like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Afghanistan and some of the African countries too” he elaborates.

For the program calendar 2018-19, the institute proposes to hold programs on issues confronting the banking industry, particularly in the area of information technology like as cyber frauds, data analytics, IT governance besides leadership development programs.

PGPBF, E-CERTIFICATES
In 2003, the institute introduced a 1-year Post-Graduate Program in Banking and Finance. “It is heartening to mention that this program has, right from its inception, been able to achieve 100% placement of its students. Currently, we are running 2 batches of PGM concurrently,” says Dhingra.

The institute is identified by IBA to conduct e-certificate courses, as mandated by the RBI. In It started offering these courses in September 2017 on topics such as credit management, risk management, treasury management and accounts and audit. The course was formally inaugurated by Dr Viral Acharya, deputy governor, RBI.

RESEARCH PAPERS, ARTICLES
The institute brings out a variety of publications in the form of books, journals, reports, mimeographs and working papers in tandem with its research and training functions. It has 2 quarterly journals – Prajnan and Vinimaya. Dhingra says during 2016-17, the institute’s faculty was able to publish 13 research papers in the Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) accredited journals under B & C category and 7 articles in other journals.

CONSULTANCY PROJECTS
The institute has undertaken research projects for various government institutions and multilateral agencies. It has conducted research in as diverse areas as competency assessment validation of ICAAP, credit guarantee scheme for education loan, customer satisfaction survey, alternate channels and payment products, organizational restructuring, and training need analysis. Research projects are also undertaken on topics such as impact of implementation of Ind-AS on credit ratings of borrowers; branch risk profile; formats for conduct of risk assessment under RBIA; operational risk capital estimation under BIA and TSA; credit management; customer segmentation analysis; and financial awareness among gen-next. “Recently, we have completed research projects on ‘improving efficiency of retail payment systems in India,’ ‘competency mapping’ for some public sector banks,” says Dhingra.

KL Dhimna has identified topics such as cyber frauds, data analytics and IT governance for conducting training programs

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