

# Newspaper Clips

April 18, 2011

Hindustan ND 18.04.2011 p-1

आईआईटी कानपुर के छात्रों ने  
बनाया अनूठा ऑनलाइन प्रोजेक्ट

कुछ  
अलग

## इंटरनेट के बिना भी होगी लाइव चैटिंग

कानपुर | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

अब इंटरनेट के बिना भी दोस्तों से लाइव चैटिंग करना मुमकिन हो सकेगा। आईआईटी के मास्टर ऑफ डिजाइन के छात्रों ने कैम्पस ऑनलाइन नेटवर्क तैयार किया है, जिससे न सिर्फ लाइव चैटिंग कर सकते हैं बल्कि कैफेटेरिया से क्लास रूम तक हर पल दोस्तों की निगरानी भी की जा सकती है।

इस नेटवर्क को मोबाइल और नोटबुक पर आसानी से इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है। 20 अप्रैल को इस डिजाइन प्रोजेक्ट को छात्र फिनलैंड यूनिवर्सिटी को सौंपने वाले हैं। प्रो. सत्यकी रे की देखरेख में आठ छात्रों की टीम ने विदेशी यूनिवर्सिटी के साथ साझा प्रोजेक्ट तैयार किया है, जो अगले सप्ताह से कानपुर के साथ अन्य देशों के कैम्पस में भी इस्तेमाल हो सकता है। इंटरनेट की तर्ज पर इस नेटवर्क में लाइव चैटिंग होगी जबकि निर्धारित लिंक की सर्फिंग भी की जा सकेगी। प्रोजेक्ट टीम में

इमरजेंसी में कारगर

- वाई फाई और ब्लू टूथ नेटवर्क तकनीक के आधार पर बनाया गया है कैम्पस ऑनलाइन नेटवर्क
- इंटरनेट के बिना भी ऑनलाइन सुविधा वाला यह नेटवर्क 500 मीटर की रेंज तक करता है काम
- किसी दुर्घटना की स्थिति में ऑनलाइन इमरजेंसी की भी सुविधा
- आटो मैसेज के जरिये 200 मीटर के दायरे से गुजर रहे किसी भी व्यक्ति से मांगी जा सकती है मदद

शामिल फाइनल ईयर छात्रा.रिया खेरे ने प्रयोग के तौर हाल ही इस नेटवर्क को एडेक्स 2011 में प्रस्तुत किया, जिसको देश-विदेश के कॉरपोरेट जगत ने भी सराहा है। एमएससी छात्रा के मुताबिक वाई फाई और ब्लू टूथ नेटवर्क तकनीक के आधार पर कैम्पस ऑनलाइन नेटवर्क बनाया गया है। इसका इस्तेमाल कैम्पस के दायरे में 500 मीटर तक किया जा सकता है।

Tribune ND 18-Apr-11 p-5

# Young faculty proves a boon for premier institute

MEGHA MANN  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROPAR, APRIL 17

Twenty-nine-year-old Dr Apurva Mudgal, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) here, is the youngest faculty member of the premier institute, which boasts of a brigade of young teachers who quit jobs abroad to teach here.

The IIT has most staff members aged below 35. "It is a boon for us as we have young minds at work and coming out with new ideas," says Prof BK Dhindaw, Dean, Academics and Research.

Young faculty members like Dr Jatinder Prasad who



has worked at Mumbai for four years and been a post-doctoral fellow in orthopaedics and sports medicine at the University of Washington at Seattle, US, feel that the young IITs provide enough space for experimentation.

"At the new IIT, we have the best infrastructure. We have got the state-of-the-art electron microscope that even caters to the need of students from Guru Nanak Dev College of Engineering

in Ludhiana and other institutes of Punjab," says Prof Harpreet Singh.

Similarly, Dr Navin Kumar, who earlier worked as post-doctoral fellow at Stevens Institute of Technology, New Jersey, US, feels that the new IITs have an edge over the old ones in terms of infrastructure and fresh talent.

"The IIT is all about innovation. We are fortunate to have the freedom to express ideas and work on these simultaneously. At the older IITs, there are set patterns of working, whereas the new ones are flexible and open to innovation," feels Dr Ekta Singla, the only woman faculty member from the school of engineering, materials

and energy engineering.

Before joining the IIT here, she was senior project engineer at the IIT-Kanpur. She has done post-doctoral research at the Institute de Systems Intelligence et de Robotics (ISIR), UPMC, Paris, France, in the evolutionary design.

Anshu Dhar Jayal, PhD, University of Utah, US, feels that the opportunity to work in premier institutes in India offers experience like no other. Prior to joining the IIT here, Dr Anu Vaidyanathan of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering was CEO, PatNMarks, the first Indian company to offer value-added services in intellectual property.



Young teachers who have left jobs overseas to join IIT-Ropar. A Tribune photograph

Times of India ND 18-Apr-11 p-17

# Now, an eye jab to cure blindness

## Implant Releases Drug To Prevent Loss Of Sight & Also Restore Vision

© Corbis

**London:** In what could be called a major breakthrough, scientists have developed a new jab which they claim could cure blindness. An international team, led by Britain's Yorkshire Eye Hospital, has created the steroid implant which releases an anti-inflammatory drug near the retina to help stop the onset of blindness and also restore loss of vision.

The treatment, which costs £2,000, is used to prevent the sudden loss of sight caused by a blockage of veins at the back of the eye; but, it could also be used to prevent many other causes of blindness like diabetes and age-related macular degeneration, the Sunday Express reported.

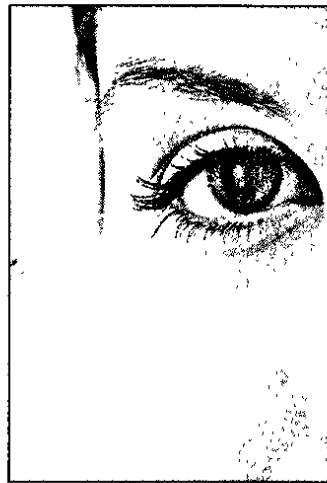
Shafiq Rehman, a specialist at

the Yorkshire Eye Hospital in Bradford, said: "This is exciting and could be used in a wide potential range of sight loss problems. The results are astounding."

52-year-old Carol Johnys, who suffered from severely impaired vision in her right eye caused by macular eye disease, is said to probably be the world's first patient to have her sight saved by the new treatment.

Her sight loss put her job as a printing company quality controller at risk but after having the steroid implant fitted she rates her eyesight as "brilliant".

"There was a definite improvement in my vision just a week later. It has given me a new lease of life," she said.



A POKE THAT SAVES

Widowed Margaret Sheard, 83, of Cleckheaton, Yorkshire, said: "It definitely saved my sight." Sheard, a retired photographic artist, said: "It's improved my eyesight no end and the quality of my life."

Experts have also hailed the jab. Oliver Backhouse, consultant ophthalmologist at Leeds Teaching Hospitals, said: "This is new, it works and it's wonderful. To date there have been no really safe and effective treatments for people with inflammation at the back of the eye. This is the first."

The Royal National Institute of Blind People in Britain has also hailed the breakthrough, saying the implant is an "exciting new development".

Times of India ND 18-Apr-11 p-17

# Digital brain map gives insight into Alzheimer's

**Washington:** Scientists claim to have created the world's first digital brain map that they say will help doctors better understand a range of conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, autism and mental health disorders. A team at the Allen Institute for Brain Science has created the map after spending four years piecing together minute details from brain tissue including millions of genes, the Wall Street Journal reported.

The brains were chopped up into sections to extract the RNA and find the 25,000 genes present in the human genome.

Each detail was loaded into a computer to provide the exact directions from one point of the brain to another. In fact, the scientists hope

that the digital map will help doctors understand how the brain works and aid new discoveries in disease and treatments.

"Until now, a definitive map of the human brain at this level of detail simply hasn't existed. For the first time, we have generated a comprehensive map of the brain that includes the underlying biochemistry," Allan Jones from the Institute was quoted as saying by the Wall Street Journal.

The institute is making the digital map freely available at [www.brain-map.org](http://www.brain-map.org), along with a set of computational tools to help them analyse the data for clues to conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, autism and mental health disorders like depression. PTI

Mail Today ND 18-Apr-11 p-15

# India to send telescope into space to examine the sun



Radio bursts from solar flares (above) can interfere with cell phone and radio reception.

By Max Martin in Bangalore

INDIAN scientists are getting ready for the next round of peak solar activity. On the anvil is a new telescope to be sent in two years on board a dedicated spacecraft to study the sun. On the launch pad at Sriharikota is a campus satellite with another smaller instrument ready for launch next week.

The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) this week signed an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to build the coronagraph for Aditya, the first dedicated satellite to study solar flares that will be launched in 2013. The institute will be the principal investigators in the Aditya project, IIA director S.S. Hasan said.

Solar activity waxes and wanes in 11-year cycles. It is predicted the current solar cycle will peak in May 2013. The previous solar cycle peaked during 2000-2002. During such peaks, there will be sun storms and flares

caused by the eruption of energy and gases.

On February 15 and on March 9, earth-orbiting satellites of Nasa detected a pair of 'X-class' solar flares - the most powerful kind of x-ray flare. Another eruption on March 7 hurled a billion-ton cloud of plasma away from the sun at 2200 km per second. The rapidly expanding cloud wasn't aimed directly at earth, but it did deliver a glancing

## Scientists are targeting the peak of solar cycle in 2013

blow to our planet's magnetic field.

Radio bursts from solar flares can interfere with cell phone and radio reception while coronal mass ejections can hit the earth causing power outages. So their study is very important, especially during peak solar activity, scientists said.

Aditya-1 is intended to study the solar

corona in the bands of visible light and near Infra Red. 'Basically it is an instrument to study energy eruptions, planned to be ready during the solar maximum,' Hasan said.

Youthsat, a Russian campus satellite that is slated to be launched onboard PSLV C-16 next week, too will carry an instrument to study solar activity. The satellite also carries two different ISRO payloads.

SolRad, built by the Moscow State University studies the kind of radiation emitted from the sun. The university and other collaborating institutions will be the primary researchers and Indian campuses could participate after an initial workshop slated for later this year.

An ISRO group from different centres will be involved in the solar studies, scientists said. People have been identified from the Space Physics Laboratory in Thiruvananthapuram, the Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad and the Space Application Centre and the ISRO Satellite Centre in Bangalore.

## Hindustan Times ND 18-Apr-11 p-8

### Countdown for PSLV C16 launch begins today

**CHENNAI:** The countdown for the April 20 launch of the country's latest remote sensing satellite Resourcesat-2 and two small spacecraft on board PSLV C16 rocket from the Sriharikota spaceport will begin Monday. The RESOURCE-SAT-2 is an advanced remote sensing satellite to facilitate study and management of natural resources.

## Hindustan Times ND 18-Apr-11

p-9

# 24.04.11

## AIEEE e-exam

The All-India Engineering/Architecture Entrance Examination (AIEEE) will go online on **Sunday**.

The exam will be conducted by the CBSE. Nearly 100,000 candidates will be allowed to take the exam online on a first-come-first-served basis in 20 cities with a capacity of 5,000 per city, the CBSE said. This will be the first time that the exam will be conducted combining computerised and pencil-paper testing options.



ABHIMANYU

# GMAT targets smaller cities as candidate trends shift

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA  
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NEW DELHI

India's management education market has matured to an extent that the owner of the graduate management aptitude test (GMAT), a widely used gateway to MBA programmes, is planning test centres in smaller cities such as Coimbatore and Visakhapatnam.

The Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), a US-based association of business schools, in February opened an India office, its third overseas establishment after London and Hong Kong.

The council seeks to work in close collaboration with top domestic business schools, Ashish Bhardwaj, regional director, South Asia, said in an interview.

The scope of management education is changing in India. "One important trend is that the trend of preferring one destination is changing," Bhardwaj said. "Historically, the preference was to go to the US. Now, the US is still number

# GMAT targets smaller cities as trends shift

► FROM PAGE 1

Bhardwaj added that Indian aspirants are increasingly applying to top Indian B-schools through GMAT, which has risen to 14.34% last year compared with 9.3% in 2006.

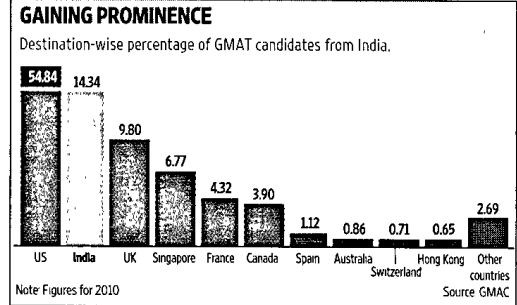
one (for Indians wanting to do an MBA abroad), but Asia has come up strongly. Fifteen per cent of GMAT scores Indian candidates send are to Indian B-schools. Destinations like Singapore have become visible." GMAT scores by Indians sent to US universities dropped sharply to 54.84% in 2010 from nearly 76% in 2006, he said. Last year, Indians sent 6.77% of their GMAT scores to Singapore institutes, almost double than five years ago.

**GMAT scores by Indians sent to US universities dropped to 54.84% in 2010 from 76% in 2006**

Though students are still applying in US universities, admission to local institutes are also being preferred by many, he said.

GMAT is accepted by 45 Indian B-schools for over 105 programmes.

The council, which aims to reach out to nearly 300 management schools in the country, says GMAT will also allow international students to enter



Indian classrooms.

Bhardwaj said that beyond the six metros, the council has opened test centres in Patna, Ranchi, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Allahabad, Pune and Kochi.

"We are looking at Visakhapatnam and evaluating Coimbatore," he said. "In the west, we are evaluating Nagpur, and in the north, Lucknow."

Though the number of students taking GMAT dropped in 2010, Bhardwaj said there was a similar drop in people taking

the Common Admission Test, necessary to gain admission to the premier Indian Institutes of Management.

"My understanding in the drop is that it is an industry-specific drop. We have had relentless growth in last five years. Five years back, we delivered 9,000 tests in India. Last year, we gave 18,900 tests," he said.

"With this kind of fantastic growth, there has to be a correction."

TURN TO PAGE 2 ►

# Robots to gauge radiation in quake-hit plant

**Tokyo, Apr 17:** The operator of Japan's stricken nuclear plant said on Sunday it would send two remote-controlled robots into a reactor building damaged by a hydrogen explosion to gauge radiation and temperature levels.

Emergency workers battling to stabilise the plant after a massive earthquake and tsunami knocked out cooling systems on March 11 have not been able to enter any of the reactor buildings since the disaster.

The explosion, one of several caused when a build-up of hydrogen reacted with oxygen in the atmosphere in the days immediately after the quake blew the roof off the outer structure housing reactor three. A spokesman for the Tokyo Electric Power Co (Tepco) said the two American-made robots would enter the reactor three building today to check radiation, temperature, humidity and oxygen levels.

Radiation from the overheating reactors has made its way into the air, land and sea, leading the government to impose exclusion zones around the plant in Fukushima prefecture and damaging local fishing and farming industries. The news came as Yukio Edano, the right-hand man of Japan's prime minister, made his first visit to Fukushima, where he met local officials and emergency workers.

Edano, who is also Japan's top government spokesman, said the safety of people in the area was Tokyo's main priority, as new data indicated highly radioactive water may still be leaking into the sea from a nuclear plant.

"The government will place the highest priority on the safety of local residents," he told reporters in Fukushima city.

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## TWO-REMOTE CONTROLLED ROBOTS WILL BE SEND INTO THE REACTOR BUILDING DAMAGED BY A HYDROGEN EXPLOSION TO GAUGE RADIATION AND TEMPERATURE LEVELS

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Edano also said Tepco was "in the final stage" of coming up with a detailed strategy for solving the world's worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl, adding it would be made public soon.

Japan's Prime Minister has said bringing the situation at the plant under control was his "top priority" and pledged to "maintain transparency" over the crisis.

"We continue to make the utmost efforts to address the issue of outflow of radioactive water from the plant into the ocean," Naoto Kan added in an article published in the *International Herald Tribune* on Saturday.

His comments came as TEPCO said levels of radioactive iodine-131 in the sea near reactor number 2 had risen to 6,500 times the legal limit on Friday, up from 1,100 times on Thursday. Tepco said earlier it had managed to plug a leak of radioactive water from a cracked pit into the ocean and was checking for any more water runoffs from the plant. The company has also been forced to empty containers with lower-level radioactive water into the ocean, sparking protests from local fishermen and concern in neighbouring countries. AFP

Financial Express ND 18-Apr-11

# The curious case of research

Failure to attract talent? Poor resuoures? May be ! But there's is more to why our B-schools lag in research

Vasant V Bang

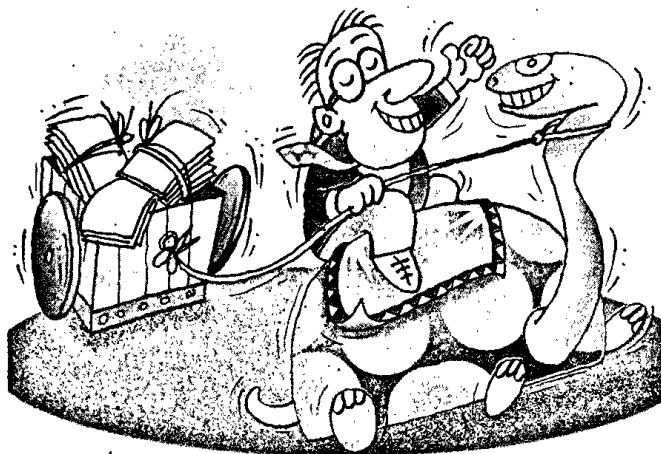
**A**N empirical study carried out by London Business School professors Nirmalya Kumar and Phanish Puranam reports dismal publication record of Indian management schools. Often various reasons are cited for poor research performance. These include failure of academia to attract talented people, lack of resources, poor industry-institute interaction and so on. This article focuses on some other reasons, which are as much important but are seldom discussed.

**Inadequate scientific temper:** Scientific temper necessitates objective thinking based on critical and in-depth analysis. Simply put, being scientific means accepting nothing on face value without evidence. The case in point is popular belief about the alleged extent of loss to exchequer in 2G telecom spectrum allocation scam. Not only the common man but many highly informed people also believe in the figure of ₹1,76,000 crore, ignorant of the fact that estimates of alleged loss vary based on underlying assumptions.

Pained by a general perception that analytical reasoning and critique are essentially western traditions, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen strongly put across his thesis that India had a strong tradition of scepticism and argumentation. In his book *The Argumentative Indian* he cites examples of not only mathematicians like Aryabhata and Brahmagupta but also emperors like Ashoka and Akbar. But one must not misinterpret Sen's thesis as a proof of strong scientific temper in today's Indian management schools.

**Inadequate understanding of the scientific method:** Lack of scientific temper is a fallout of the inadequate understanding of the scientific method. Focus of teaching research methodology in management schools is on application of tools and techniques rather than critical literature review and careful formulation of research problem. No wonder, in India, there is a popular belief that statisticians, economists or psychologists are better suited to teach research methodology rather than mainstream management professors.

Some management experts argue that scientific method, as practised in physical sciences, is not applicable in case of management. They suggest approaches like grounded theory, which require observation of a phenomenon as it unfolds. However, even among exponents of grounded



ASIT BAGCHI

theory, there is a consensus about the need to establish validity and reliability.

**Vulnerability to power of propaganda:** A visit to the Infosys campus in Bangalore and a presentation there by then-CEO Nandan Nilekani made Thomas Friedman believe that 'the world is flat'. Forget about the whole world, even for a country like India, with 5,000-plus towns

and cities and 6 lakh-plus villages, an observation based on only a few sectors (eg, IT & ITeS) in a few cities (eg, Bangalore) is not sufficient enough to make generalisations. One may argue that Friedman's intention was not to generalise about the world *per se*. But the title of his book did make many believe so. This is what constitutes the power of propaganda. Later, Harvard professor Pankaj Ghemawat scientifically argued that the world is not flat. David Stewart, a former editor of American Management Association's *Journal of Marketing* says, "It is important for the most influential journals in a field to remain above the hype and faddishness ... credibility of the journal and discipline rests on the ability to distinguish the important general phenomenon from the trivial". Amartya Sen writes that intellec-

tual enquiry is needed to identify actions and policies that are not evidently injurious but which have that effect. For example, famines can remain unchecked on the mistaken presumption that they cannot be averted through immediate public policy.

**Vocational focus of management schools:** Noted management thinkers Rakesh Khurana and Henry Mintzberg be-

lieve that management schools are busy producing functional specialists rather than managers. With disproportionately high emphasis on placements, vocational focus is strong in India. This affects the curricular and pedagogical focus. For instance, within marketing discipline, this manifests itself in higher focus on line functions such as brand management, sales, advertising, etc, as compared to marketing research. Even within finance, wherein a lot of placement prospects exist in areas such as equity research, the type of research that is taught is more applied in nature than basic.

**Practitioner-led education model:** Ideally, institutes of higher learning should lead the world of practice rather than other way round. Noted management expert Jagdish Sheth observes that some companies are successful just by being in

the right place at the right time. Many a times successful outcomes are attributed to thoughtful managerial actions only in the hindsight. However, as a fallout of the lack of scientific temper in India, many management schools develop blind faith and pursue managerial hero worshipping. Such management schools take pride in the fact that most of their courses are taught by practising managers. Completely ignorant of the role of theory in human learning, many schools hardly make knowledge creation efforts. The ability to establish associations (causal or otherwise) is one of the most important requirements for knowledge creation. Researchers also need to possess ability to take a neutral and balanced perspective of problems, situations and actions. An argument that "those who can do and those who can't teach" does not by itself make one set of professionals superior to others. Like managing, teaching is a profession in itself. It requires a specific set of competencies that are not same as the ones required for managing. Just like all management teachers are not necessarily good managers, all successful managers do not necessarily qualify as management teachers.

**Lack of understanding of what do reputed journals look for?:** One of the critical requirements for publication in reputed journals is clear identification of research gap. This, in turn, requires in-depth literature review. For most journals, quality of a research paper is as good as quality of literature review. Top quality journals do not encourage references being cited from popular press. Another important requirement for publication in top quality journals is methodological rigour. Most journals ask for evidence of validity and reliability of constructs used in the study. The most important question that reputed journals ask is—does this study add to the existing body of knowledge? In many instances, opportunity or ease to apply specific research tools and techniques becomes the overriding concern in choice of research topics. Professor Nirmalya Kumar says that many management researchers get obsessed with application of esoteric methodologies to insignificant research issues. There is no reason to believe that this does not hold true in India.

*The author is director at Magarpatta City Institute of Management and Technology, Pune. These are his personal views*

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## '7% more Indians going to US univs'

**Chennai:** The number of Indian applicants to US graduate programmes has increased by 7% this year, according to a preliminary survey by the Council of Graduate Schools in the US.

This follows a 1% increase the previous year, while China, which saw a steady increase in the number of applicants to US universities, registered a 2% dip in 2010-11.

Expressing satisfaction, US-India Educational Foundation executive director Adam Grotzky said: "The US welcomes all qualified Indian students to study in America. Indian students are a vital element of graduate schools on hundreds of American campuses." **TNN**



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# Globalisation of management education

By Robert F Bruner



Robert F Bruner

A new report issued by the Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the leading accreditor of B-schools in the world yields sobering results that suggest a big gap between what the world needs in management education and what schools actually do. A task force of deans that I chaired prepared the report *'Globalisation of Management*

*Education,'* AACSB International, 2011.

The highlights of the report are:

- The field of supply is vast: About 12,600 institutions in the world award undergraduate and/or graduate degrees of some kind in business. Only about 10% of these are accredited as meeting widely-accepted expectations of quality.

- Schools are partnering across borders at an increasing rate to provide joint degree programmes, exchange programmes, international immersion experiences, and so on.

- Case studies of nine schools reveal a wide range of approaches toward globalisation. One size does not fit all. Like early-stage moments in many industries, B-schools are in the early stage of a wave of innovation, experimentation, prototyping, and just trying stuff. Contrary to the perception of slow-moving academics, we see an effervescent moment at hand. But as we know from other industries, such moments end with successes and failures, winners and losers. Academicians and their constituents need to prepare for a range of possible outcomes.

- We reveal a gap in the curricula of B-schools, between the aspiration for global content and the reality. Most B-schools — even leading schools — aren't bringing globalisation into the classroom in ways that do justice to the subject or the needs of business.

The field of management education should do better.

What's standing in the way?

- The need for capital to transform the schools, talented faculty to implement the transformation

- Nationalist or localist cultures

- Regulatory barriers to the mobility of institutions, faculty, and students across borders

- Restrictions on the freedom of speech and association

- Even a lack of sheer imagination

We should worry about this because it should be the mission of business schools to spread the light of global best practices and competencies. The widening gap is antithetical to creating the kind of world in which we enjoy gains from trade, rising standards of living, the diplomatic benefits that accrue from strong trading relationships, and the competitive standing of one's country.

*(The writer is dean and Charles C Abbott Professor of Business Administration, Darden Graduate School of Business, University of Virginia, US)*



B-schools are partnering across borders at an increasing rate to provide exchange programmes and international immersion experiences



# 'International students are highest priority for us'

FINLAND, WHICH IS RANKED AMONG THE TOP IN PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS CONDUCTED BY ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT'S PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, HAS BEEN UNDERTAKING MAJOR REFORMS AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL TO ACHIEVE HIGH QUALITY IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION



Henna Virkkunen

*Henna Virkkunen, Finland's minister for Education and Science, talks to Faizal Khan about the opportunities for overseas students in higher education available in her country*

The higher education landscape has changed following a range of troubles in the UK, US and Australia. What has Finland to offer in this scenario?

One of the biggest reforms of our government has been a new University Act, under which the universities are separated from the state, though the government still gives funds to them. The aim is for our universities to have better research institutions. Education is free in Finland. We have, however, started a pilot project in some Master's programmes to charge fees from non-European Union students. International students are the highest priority for us.

**What is the status of the Bologna process?**

It has been an easy process for Finland. It is good that students can study in other countries. It is also important that the whole of Europe is modernising its universities. The professors were considered civil servants before. Now they have more freedom.

**What is your research strategy?**

The universities can focus on research areas where they are strong. The high quality of research is important. The Academy of Finland, under the state, is funding research. We want to support the quality of research and education in universities. We are also developing a new funding model for universities in co-operation with them.

**What is your ministry's policy for international students?**

Our universities can select their students themselves. The biggest group of international students is from Russia and China. In the future, we are going to have to charge some

fees from non-European Union students. International students are good for our country.

**Can Finland maintain the high quality and high spending in education?**

We have free education for everyone because public funding is important for education. Finland is one of the few countries, which haven't made any cuts in education spending. This year, our education budget is 6% more than last year's. We have also been investing in vocational education. We didn't have any other resources other than human resources. That is why we are investing in education. The European Union has set a target that by 2020, 40% of young people should get a higher education degree. In Finland, we have set a target of 42%.

**Q&A**