

OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

HIGHER
EDGE

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LET'S GO CANADA

Online learning picks up in India

With an increase in the number of homes getting wired, distance or open learning in India could be the next big thing. The scope of open learning in corporate training, K-12 or higher education in India is immense. Advances in satellite technology, Internet and global education have prepared the ground for an e-learning revolution in the country. According to a fact sheet released by the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, the prospects of e-learning in India look promising and e-learning across the corporate training, higher education, and K-12 sectors could generate compound annual growth rates (CAGRs) of 20%-60% in future. To cash in on this trend, multinationals like McGraw-Hill, Digital Think, SkillSoft, Mentergy, etc. are in the process of consolidating their operations in India.

In India, around 20 per cent of the student population complete their higher education through correspondence or distance education courses. There are 70 distance-teaching units called Correspondence/Distance Education Departments located within certain Indian universities, 9 State Open Universities and 1 National Open University. Distance-teaching programmes are also offered by some private institutions (MBA courses for working executives) and television companies (example Zee Television which runs the successful ZED Education programme, the management programmes offered by Jain Television, Sun TV and others). Over the last couple of years, foreign universities have also starting offering their courses in India by collaborating with appropriate agencies to deliver the programmes. British Council, Australia's APESMA-La Trobe MBA Program, the University of London (External) Programme are popular examples. There are also cases of corporations joining the e-learning bandwagon in India.

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

China's plan to create world-class universities

As part of a strategy to raise the profile of Chinese universities worldwide, the Chinese Government is spending billions of dollars, in recruiting foreign-trained Chinese scholars and overseas-born ethnic Chinese as professors, and creating state-of-the-art research laboratories to promote the study of science and technology. In recent years, expansion of the country's domestic education and training sector has resulted in a greater number of students completing their higher studies in China. Countries like the U.K, USA have registered a fall in numbers of Chinese students taking up courses at their campuses. The number of undergraduates and doctoral degree holders in the

country have increased five-fold in a span of ten years.

Source: ["China spending billions to better universities."](#)
[International Herald Tribune, October 27, 2005](#)

OVER THE COUNTER

Report holds teachers responsible in plagiarism cases

Britain's Prince Harry was accused of taking a little "help" to clear his A-level exams. While the allegations were found to be baseless, the incident brought to the forefront the issue of plagiarism and cheating in British schools, colleges and universities. While students have often been pulled up for cheating in exams and copying from the internet in their coursework, a report by the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA) Board has revealed that "guidance" provided by some teachers also lead to "mass plagiarism" making it difficult to tell certain candidates apart.

The AQA examiner's report, is based on the GCSE English exams taken by 424,000 students in June. In many cases, examiners have found samples of coursework marked in-house by teachers with glaring instances of plagiarism. In such cases, the examiners have been surprised that the teachers have not taken any action against the students involved.

Source: ["Student work 'rife with plagiarism'."](#)
[Times Online, November 3, 2005](#)

GLOBE TIPPING

Quicker immigration checks at Indian airports

A notification issued by the Government of India will make immigration clearance for passengers arriving on international flights an efficient and trouble-free process. According to the new mandate, all airline and shipping companies have to provide immigration authorities with passenger details within minutes of their departure from abroad. This will speed up the immigration paperwork and make checkouts faster for international travellers.