

# School from India tops MBA target

BY JANE NG

S.P. JAIN Centre of Management, a reputable business school from India, which aimed to have 200 students in its new campus here in five years, has topped that number in just six months.

The school has 250 full-time and 90 part-time students reading its master's degree courses. Three of the full-time students, and most of the part-timers, are Singaporeans.

Only five in every 100 applicants are admitted. The school has now set its sights on getting 1,000 students in the next five years.

Education Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam yesterday declared the school, located off Alexandra Road, open. Mr Tharman said the school's early accomplishment of its enrolment target spoke well of its standing among Asian business schools, and is testimony to "the draw of the Singapore Education brand".

S.P. Jain is the first Indian tertiary institution to have its own campus in Singapore, adding to a list of around 10 other leading foreign institutions here, including the University of Chicago.

The school's full-time MBA students are mostly Indian professionals who will spend half of their year-long course here and half in Dubai. Mr Tharman predicted that, with the Middle East, India and East Asia poised to ride the next wave of growth, Dubai, Mumbai and Singapore will become the next global cities.

"I think the students who go through these types of global experience...will command a premium wherever they go," he said.

Said MBA student, Mr Vineet Garg, 26, who is a software engineer: "Singapore is an IT hub and has fantastic infrastructure. I also get six months in Dubai backed by visiting faculty and industrial exposure."

The total cost of the MBA, including tuition, accommodation, food and the Singapore-Dubai air fare, is \$38,000.