

Youngest Indian to make it to international mgmt meet

Shruti Maheshwari
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SHE'S NEITHER an IIM graduate nor is she studying at one of the top-notch private management institutes in Delhi. Yet Yavnika Khanna is the youngest and the first BBA undergraduate this year from India to make it to the 35th International Students Management Symposium — an annual event organised by the Harvard alumni-run International Students Committee (ISC) in Switzerland.

Yavnika, a second year student of Bachelor of Business Studies at the College of Business Studies, Sukhdev Vihar, had submitted a paper on 'Liberty, Trust and Responsibility' that spoke of the status of community radio in India. Hers was among the 200 pa-



Yavnika Khanna

pers selected from a total of 1,000 entries that had been sent from across the world.

"I wrote about how stringent government regulations were responsible for the stillborn community radio in India. My paper strongly recommended that community radio should be handed over to free market forces if it was to be truly developed," she says. She cites the example of Jammu University that had sought permission from the government for

starting its own community radio, but was denied, ostensibly for "security reasons".

"It seems as if the government does not trust its own people and thinks they have malafide intentions, or else why would it impose regulations on the ownership and running of such a simple tool," she wonders.

The seminar begins on May 19 at St Gallen University in Switzerland.

Yavnika has also authored a book of poems titled *Poems from a Child's Pen* and is already working on its sequel. She has also hosted TV programmes for the BBC and Doordarshan and is a regular contributor to *Hindustan Times Next*.

"In the long run, I want to become a media tycoon," says Yavnika. "I want to have a company of my own to help young entrepreneurs."