

Newspaper Clips

March 29, 2012

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IITs want say in new test format

Chennai: The Indian Institutes of Technology want a say in the new entrance examination that the Centre has proposed to replace the IIT-Joint Entrance Examination in 2013.

While members of the senate of IIT-Kanpur and IIT-Delhi have written to the HRD ministry asking that their suggestions be taken into consideration, the IIT-Madras Faculty Association has sent its views to other IITs to express solidarity on the issue. Some of these academics say they understand the intentions for the change, but charge the ministry with rushing through with the change without considering the views of stakeholders.

“We were never consulted on the proposed change. We are for the inclusion of higher secondary marks in the admission process and feel that the marking formula proposed by the Indian Statistical Institute is fair. But why is the ministry in such

We have asked the ministry to put out the proposal in a formal document so we can provide feedback

M Anandakrishnan
IIT-KANPUR BOARD HEAD

a hurry to start the new test in 2013 without looking into the pros and cons?” asked SK Das, president of the IIT-Madras Faculty Association. “We agree the system must be modified and want to provide suggestions on how best to make the change. The ISEET proposal is sketchy and nothing has been documented. Whatever we know is through a presentation and from media,” said chairman of the board of governors of IIT Kanpur M Anandakrishnan. **TNN**

Hindustan Times

Title : ht SPECIAL Indian engineers at bottom of BRIC layer: Study

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Indian engineers at bottom of BRIC layer: Study

ht SPECIAL

Vanita Srivastava

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NEW DELHI: A study by California's Stanford University has shown that among the four BRIC countries — Brazil, Russia, India and China — Indian engineers are the least prepared to play a leading role in the global economy. The study was conducted before South Africa joined the grouping that now goes by the acronym BRICS. Written by a multi-national

team, the study will be published later this year. In India, the five-year research project undertook 7,000 student surveys and interviewed 40 institutional heads and engineering faculty face-to-face. The yardstick was improving quality, being cost-effective and ensuring equitable access.

Stanford professor Rafiq Dossani points out that China is well ahead of India in providing quality education in mass institutions and elite colleges. "The spending per student at China's leading Tsing Hua University averages \$51,000 (₹25.5 lakh) a year

while spending at the IITs averages \$8,000 (₹4 lakh)," he says.

Russia's advantage is a long-standing focus on science and engineering. Its population is not growing, so the existing pool of faculty is adequate, whereas India has to deal with finding a rapidly expanding pool of instructors.

In Brazil, the government is more like a consultant and financier while in India the Centre competes with the states to control the system, with the result that there is nobody to do important work on benchmarking and perspective planning.



BRICS
summit

- » Building BRICS for new world
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- » Member nations call for a united economic front

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Ombudsmen must for education sector

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 28

It will be mandatory for professional colleges in the state to have an ombudsman from the academic year 2012-13, to redress the grievances of students.

His/her jurisdiction will be over grievances related to denial of admission, ignoring merit in admission, non-implementation of applicable regulations for reservations, withholding of documents and original certificates and non-refund of fees in the case of cancellation of admission, or any kind of discrimination and other issues of students of the institution.

At first, it will be the engineering, pharmacy, MBA and MCA colleges that will have the ombudsman as the AICTE will soon issue a

notification to this effect to the technical institutions that come under its ambit. But the same requirement has been mandated by the Union ministry of HRD to the UGC, MCI, NCTE and deemed universities.

“Each institute has to appoint an ombudsman with legal experience,” said Prof. S.S. Mantha, chairman, AICTE. “If the college managements find it difficult to find persons with legal experience for each and every college, some colleges, located in a particular area, can come together and constitute a cluster ombudsman,” Prof. Mantha said, adding, “In that case, it should comprise three experts, including a retired High Court judge, an eminent social personality from the education field and an academician.”

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'Economic centre of gravity to shift eastward'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Indian economy will reach a size of \$85.97 trillion in terms of purchasing power parity by 2050 while the Chinese GDP would be \$80.02 trillion during the same period, said the report by global property firm Knight Frank & Citi Private Bank. The US — currently the world's largest economy — is expected to have a GDP of \$39.07 trillion by 2050.

In terms of growth from 2010-2050, India would be the

second fastest with its economy growing at the rate of 8% annually during the period.

"We believe the cities to watch in 2050 are the 400 emerging market middleweights — fast growing cities with populations between 200,000 and 10 million. This dynamic group includes many cities that are not household names today: Linyi, Kelayayi and Guiyang in China; Surat and Nagpur in India; Concepcion and Belem in Latin America," it said.

Citing calculations by Lon-

don School of Economics professor Danny Quah, the report predicts that the world's economic centre of gravity, a theoretical measure of focal point of global economic activity based on GDP, will shift eastwards to lie somewhere between China and India. Professor Quah calculated that in 1980, it was in the middle of the Atlantic.

The growing importance of Asia is also reflected in the rise of the super-wealthy population in the region. For the first time, the number of Asians

with at least \$100 million in disposable assets has overtaken those in North America. "There are now 18,000 centamillionaires in the region covering South-East Asia, China and Japan. This is more than North America, which has 17,000, and Western Europe with 14,000," the report says.

South-East Asian decamillionaires (those with \$10 million or more in assets) outnumber those in Europe, and are also expected to overtake those in the US in the coming decade.

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'Going online for work and social network'

Mahafreedi Irani | TNN

Mumbai: India's netizens consider work and social networking, in that order, as the two most important tasks online. A survey by anti-virus company Norton revealed that online socializing took up an average of 9.7 hours a week against a total of 58 hours a week spent online.

After social networking came "convenience of life" activities like paying bills and shopping online. In fact, 83% of users said they couldn't live without the internet for more than 24 hours. According to Norton, the need to stay constantly connected is a new trend among Indian net surfers.

Then again, "Indian netizens clearly place a high value on their personal information", says David Hall of Norton, who points out that 40% of India's online community has declared that they value their financial information the most, followed by 35% who place a premium on their online accounts, including email and social networks.

Three out of four respondents to the survey said they would give up \$1 million than grant a stranger full access to their computers.

The survey—conducted using a sample size of 500 respondents between the ages of 18 to 64 years—also concluded that Indian users own an average of 2.8 devices that are connected to the Internet. "While the people interviewed used multiple devices to be online, half of them had little or no understanding of online security solutions that are available to them," Hall says. And while 60% of users are content with basic security, the antivirus expert said it wasn't enough to protect them from the advanced malware and phishing attacks.

"We advise people to change their passwords regularly. That's the least they can do to make sure their information is safe," he adds.

"As far as mobile devices are concerned, setting up password protection and software that can help you remotely lock your phone are two ways you can keep your private data protected."

Times of India ND
29/03/2012 p-3

E D U S C A M S

Impersonation racket at GGISPU

Jatin Anand

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FRAUDS IN UNIVERSITIES

NEW DELHI: After a high-tech cheating racket was uncovered at AIIMS and a fake mark sheet scandal in Delhi University's (DU) annual medical entrance test, another possible racket at an academic institution has come under the scanner.

This time, it is an impersonation racket that, according to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), could have been in the works for five to six years at the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGISPU) at north Delhi's Kashmere Gate.

"On directions from the CBI, a case of cheating and criminal conspiracy has been registered against unknown officials working at the university's administration and examination branches," said a senior police officer.

Police said they were asked to lodge and investigate the case after the CBI received information about the impersonation racket, apparently being run by one Mayank Kumar, a resident of south Delhi's Alaknanda, in late September last year.

Kumar, according to the complaint forwarded to the Delhi Police, was found to have appeared in IP University's Common Entrance Test 'on behalf of' a candidate who had enrolled himself as Suraj Bhasin who was also a resident of Alaknanda in

March, 2012: Four persons, including a woman, arrested for running a fake mark sheet racket in northwest Delhi's Pitampura

February, 2012: Seven men arrested for using Bluetooth devices and high-tech mobile phones to cheat during AIIMS' national PG medical entrance test held

November, 2011: Arrests made in a fake mark sheet scam at Ramjas College. More than 40 persons identified and half a dozen held

July, 2011: Eight candidates suspected of having committed fraud in DU's medical entrance test — now being probed by the CBI

2010.

"Our information also states that this was not the first time that Mayank had impersonated a candidate during the university's annual entrance exam. However it is difficult to state how many people he had 'helped' so far, since investigations are still in the initial stage," the officer said.

Meanwhile, when contacted, a spokesperson for GGISPU said, "We have not been questioned by any authority and do not know anything about the case."

Economic Times

ND 29/03/2012 p-4

Innovative 3D Design for Solar Energy

Intensive research around the world has focused on improving the performance of solar photovoltaic cells and bringing down their cost. But very little attention has been paid to the best ways of arranging those cells, which are typically placed flat on a rooftop or other surface, or sometimes attached to motorized structures that keep the cells pointed toward the sun as it crosses the sky. Now, a team of MIT researchers has come up with a very different approach: building cubes or towers that extend the solar cells upward in three-dimensional configurations. Amazingly, the results from the structures they've tested show power output ranging from double to more than 20 times that of fixed flat panels with the same base area.

The biggest boosts in power were seen in the situations where improvements are most needed: in locations far from the equator, in winter months and on cloudier days. The new findings, based on both computer modelling and outdoor testing of real modules, have been published in the journal *Energy and Environmental Science*. "I think this concept could become an important part of the future of photovoltaics," says the paper's senior author, Jeffrey Grossman, the Carl Richard Soderberg Career Development Associate Professor of Power Engineering at MIT. The MIT team initially used a computer algorithm to explore an enormous variety of possible configurations, and developed analytic software that can test any given configuration.

Business Standard ND 29/03/2012 p-12

Manipal University in expansion mode

To establish four new universities in India and one each in Sri Lanka and Africa

KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai, 28 March

Manipal University has set itself a new task — to have four large universities in India in the next five years. While the ones in Jaipur and Bangalore will take shape soon, the group is looking at setting up two more in the eastern and western regions of the country. That's a big leap from the two universities it has in India at present.

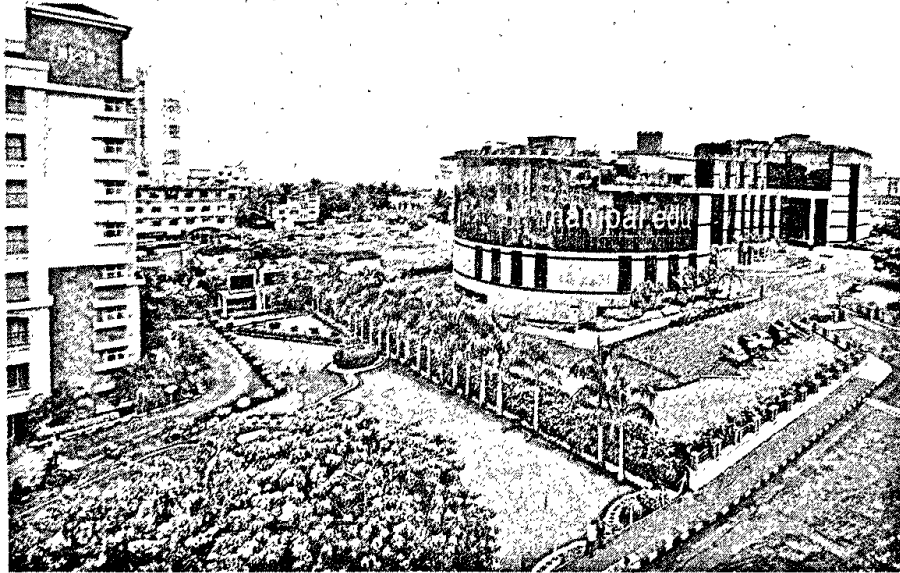
Manipal is also looking at increasing its global footprint. In addition to the three universities and two medical colleges abroad, it is planning to set up two more universities, one each in Sri Lanka and Africa.

The ambitious plans shouldn't be a surprise for a group which had gone off the beaten track much ahead of the others in the area of corporate training. The company recently added banks such as Kotak Mahindra, Axis and Bank of Baroda to create employable workforce for them. It is now looking at creating similar corporate training academies for the manufacturing sector, insurance, consumer services, etc.

"We start with one area, implement it and then go on to other areas. In the last four years, we have done detailed work with ICICI Bank which we took to other banks, recently. We have the ability and the capability to structure and create programmes for which companies are approaching us. We are in talks with other companies to give them a similar experience," says Anand Sudarshan, MD and CEO, Manipal Global Education Services (MaGE).

MaGE is the corporate entity of the Manipal group. MaGE gets 60 per cent of its total revenue from Manipal's international higher education operations — primarily from its four institutes in Antigua, Malaysia, Nepal and Dubai. Other than this, U21 Global, an online graduate school that offers globally recognised postgraduate programmes, also contributes significantly.

The group has acquired 140 acres in Dubai and will be moving into the new campus shortly. Manipal University, Dubai, is a full-fledged multi-disciplinary university. The campus is



GROWTH STORY Manipal Global Education Services says the focus for the next year will be on new projects

enhancing itself to attract students not only from the UAE region but also from West Asia and North Africa. The Dubai and Nepal campuses are MaGE's 100 per cent subsidiary.

"The focus for MaGE for the next year will be on new projects of this kind — existing services business providing student services, testing and assessment services as well as the new campuses that we have built," says Sudarshan, adding several strategies are being evolved over the next 12 months many of which will get launched by July 2013.

The American University of Antigua (AUA) College of Medicine,

which Manipal acquired in 2008 and has spent around ₹150 crore, received recognition from the Medical Board of California last July. Last year, the college moved from a three intake system to a two intake a year system. Sudarshan describes these as a big deal, saying no one has done anything like this before.

"We decided on this in October 2010. There were two significant reasons for this. In a three-intake system, the semester time for students gets compressed. We felt medical education being what it is, for us it is important to provide for better academic outcomes. It will also allow students more time to understand the context behind what

they learn," said Sudarshan.

In Malaysia MaGE has spent over ₹200 crore on its Melaka Campus, a medical school. It is building another university in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital. Over the next five years, the group plans to spend ₹500 crore on its Malaysian ventures alone.

In Dubai, the institute has already spent about ₹150 crore and plans to spend another ₹100 crore in the next three years.

But with such investments lined up, how will the group finance its big plans, given the fact that it has postponed its plan for an initial public offering?

"We may be expanding, but we do not plan to finance these via Initial Public Offering. Our international universities are doing well and we do not need the funds urgently. While our domestic universities will get seed fund from Manipal University and will also borrow long-term funds from banks. MaGE will look at international universities," said Ranjan Pai, MD & CEO, Manipal Education and Medical Group.

Sudarshan adds that the



"We do not need funds now. We have made a beginning with a number of new projects over the last 12 to 24 months. Over the next 12 months, our efforts would be to make sure these projects stabilise"

ANAND SUDARSHAN
CEO & MD, MaGE

group's domestic and international businesses are doing well. "We do not need funds now. We have made a beginning with a number of new projects over the last 12 to 24 months. Over the next 12 months, our efforts would be to make sure these projects stabilise."

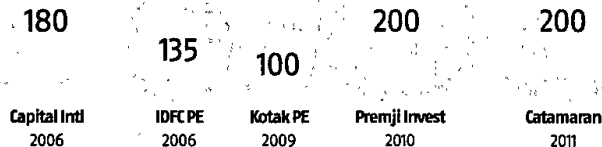
The total annual revenue of MaGE is approximately ₹1,100 crore. Of this, revenue from domestic operations is about 40 per cent. This includes revenue from distance education services, corporate education and training, vocations skills, training and assessment.

Manipal's IRize initiative, which looks at setting up job and skill centres in partnership with educational institutions, local partners and the government to provide right jobs for candidates and productive workforce for companies or businesses, plans to set up close to 1,000 employment exchanges across the country in the next five years, creating over 1.5 million jobs.

"None of our businesses are in a shape which is of concern to us. We are doing well and going strong," says Sudarshan, while explaining the four private equity investments the group has attracted so far (see graphic).

INVESTORS IN EDUCATION

Amount invested by private equity players (₹ crore)



HindustanTimes

Title : Expats talk about the city

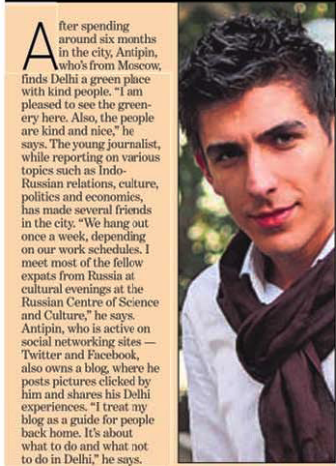
Author :

Location :

Article Date : 03/29/2012

Expats talk about the city

NAME: Alexander Antipin, 22
FROM: Russia



DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BRICS?
Yes, it's an important annual meeting of five nations.

FAVOURITE HANGOUT
I am very impressed by the monuments of the city. I love to hang out at the Qutub Minar with my friends.

LOVES TO EAT AT
Side Wok at Malcha Maru, Chanakyaapur

LOVES TO SHOP AT
Ambience Mall and DLF Promenade in Vasant Kunj

HATES ABOUT DELHI
Police, they aren't helpful at all.
AS TOLD TO VAISHALI BHAMBRI

AS THE CAPITAL PLAYS HOST TO THE BRICS SUMMIT TODAY, WE SPEAK TO EXPATS FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS

The term BRICS is an acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — the current participating countries of the summit. The participating countries are all large economies and have a significant influence on regional and global affairs. As of 2012, the BRICS countries represent almost half of the world's population. Every year, member countries take turns to host a summit, where the heads of states of these five countries discuss the various aspects of international relations. The first BRIC summit was held in June 2009 in Russia. And, South Africa became a member in 2010. The fourth BRICS summit takes place today, with Delhi playing host for the first time.



HOW DID THE LOGO COME ABOUT?

The creative mind behind the BRICS logo is Sonesh Jain, a third year student of architecture at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee. Jain won the Ministry of External Affairs' BRICS Summit logo design competition, which was held in December 2011. The logo is a symbolic representation of a peacock with "colours suggesting resurgence and renewal".

NAME: Sam Hee, 38
FROM: China



DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BRICS?
No, I have no idea about it.

FAVOURITE HANGOUT
I love going to Dilli Haat near INA Market

FAVOURITE CHINESE OUTLET IN THE CITY
Any place that serves good non vegetarian.

LOVES TO SHOP AT
Dilli Haat
AS TOLD TO AAKRITI SAWHNEY

Sam Hee has been living in Delhi since November 2009, and works as Chef de Cuisine at Ano-Tai, Jaypee Vasant Continental. The chef finds his job both challenging and rewarding as it involves meeting new people and making delicious food to satisfy their taste buds. Hee, who resides alone in the city, says: "I love living in Delhi. There is so much to explore. The city has a rich cultural blend and is totally diversified." The chef has made many friends in the city and celebrates various festivals with them, as that's the time when he misses China the most. And, what does he think about the Chinese food preparations in India?

NAME: Anandi Schubert, 25
FROM: South Africa



DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BRICS?
Yes, I'm aware of it. My husband and the South African High Commission officials are heavily involved in the preparations.

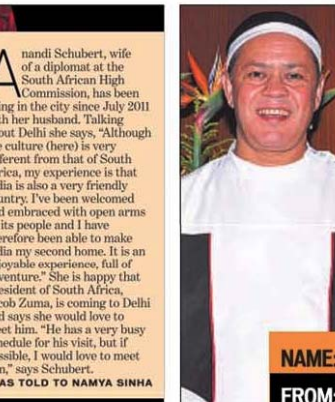
FAVOURITE HANGOUT
I love going to markets. I recently visited Hauz Khas market with a friend. I loved the restaurants, art galleries and shops, as well

LOVES TO EAT AT
Italian restaurant, Amici

LOVES TO SHOP AT
Sarojini Nagar market

HATES ABOUT DELHI
The traffic. It's so hard to get from one place to the other without being late.

AS TOLD TO NAMYA SINHA



Anandi Schubert, wife of a diplomat at the South African High Commission, has been living in the city since July 2011 with her husband. Talking about Delhi she says, "Although the culture (here) is very different from that of South Africa, my experience is that India is also a very friendly country. I've been welcomed and embraced with open arms by its people and I have therefore been able to make India my second home. It is an enjoyable experience, full of adventure." She is happy that President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, is coming to Delhi and says she would love to meet him. "He has a very busy schedule for his visit, but if possible, I would love to meet him," says Schubert.

NAME: Edmilson G de Azevedo, 45
FROM: Brazil



DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BRICS?
No, I haven't heard about it.

FAVOURITE HANGOUT
I keep trying different bars and restaurants in Gurgaon

LOVES TO SHOP AT
Ambience Mall, Gurgaon

HATES ABOUT DELHI
There's nothing to hate about Delhi. The people here are warm and supportive.

AS TOLD TO CHIRAG MOHANTY SAMAL

Chef Edmilson came down from Brazil in June 2011, to work in Wildfire restaurant at Crown Plaza, Gurgaon. Though his family stays in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, Edmilson has made himself comfortable in India. "I have many Brazilian as well as Indian friends in the city," he says, adding, "My experience in India has been fantastic so far. There are great and helpful people around and I have learnt so many new things." But what he enjoys the most in the city is rustling up authentic Brazilian meals for the guests at the restaurant.