

PHYSICS
The Amalaki University, Chennai, is offering a distance learning course in BSc (Physics). Applicants must have passed their 10+2 with physics and maths. The last date to apply for this course is September 3. To apply or for more details, call (4144) 23736/78/9 or visit university.ac.in.

HUMAN RIGHTS
The Indian Institute of Human Rights is offering a two-year distance-learning post-graduate diploma course in human rights. Graduates from any discipline from a recognised university may apply. The last date to apply is August 9. Visit www.rightsedu.net for more details.

CYBER LAWS
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BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
The Asia Pacific Institute of Management Studies, New Delhi, is offering an industry integrated BBA (Bachelor's in Business Administration) course. Candidates may be graduates in any field from a recognised board. To apply and for further details, visit www.asiapacific.edu.in.



There's always some room for improvisation.
SATYAJIT RAY, FILMMAKER

HINDUSTAN TIMES, MUMBAI, WEDNESDAY AUGUST 04, 2010

college heads-up r. a. podar college of commerce and economics

Excellence in sports

If you're a student of Class X or XII, you're probably wondering which college or stream to opt for next. **HT Horizons** is here to help you make an informed choice. Read on to learn about R.A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics, which stands out for its achievements in sports



The R.A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai has had a long history, which commences with freedom struggle of India. In August 1940, the trust known as 'Shikshana Prasarak Mandali', Pune, made an application to the Bombay University for permission to start a commerce college. Seth Ramdeoji Anandilal Podar, an industrialist and philanthropist, was deeply interested in the cause of education. At the cost of Rs.1,50,000, he constructed the building that houses the college today, and gifted it to the S.P. Mandali on the 7th February 1941. The S.P. Mandali's objective in regard to commerce education have been to extend popular and reasonably affordable higher education in Maharashtra and to develop an institution that would impart appropriate education both in commerce and economics. The institution first started the B.Com. degree course in 1942 and the word 'economics' was added to the name of the college. It then became 'Rammiranjan Anandilal Podar



College of Commerce and Economics'. The College received permanent affiliation from the University of Mumbai on 17th August, 1950. Infrastructure and facilities The courses offered here are B.Com.(bachelors in commerce), B.M.S. (bachelors of

management studies), at the graduate level and M.Com.(masters in commerce) at the post graduate level. There is a computer-aided library. The placement cell sends student profiles to companies such as JP Morgan and Deloitte and conducts job interviews. Also,

the women's development cell and self-development cell conduct workshops and aptitude tests respectively. A computer lab is also there. Podar College has an intra-college festival, RAPPORT, which has cultural, sports and fine art events. Apart from that, Rostrum

Spectrum is a purely literary festival held every year in September. Some clubs in the college are quite active such as the hikers' Club, photography club, the literary circles. The group discussion cell holds discussions regularly. On the sports front again the Podar College is not behind

fav facts
The best things about R.A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics
 ■ Very active in sports.
 ■ The college campus is very green.
 ■ The Matunga gymkhana and ground are right opposite the college.

The camaraderie here is great. We are like a close-knit community and that has to be the best thing about my college.
 - Siddhi Mehta, SYBCOM student

lookout for
Facilities around the college:
 ■ The Matunga station is very close by.
 ■ There are various eating joints that fit the budget such as DP's, Snow Point, Manis, Gulshan etc.

Getting ready for social change

The Piramal Gandhi Fellowship aims to bring about social change by transforming rural education

Eva Mary Pangracious

The Piramal Gandhi Fellowship (PGF), initiated in 2008, is a youth leadership-development programme, which the Kalvalya Education Foundation (KEF) hopes to develop as a platform to generate the next batch of nation builders. They are set to follow in the footsteps of luminaries like Verghese Kurien, the father of India's 'white revolution', and Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Azad, former president of India, who are both known for providing grass-roots level leadership. PGF provides a platform to get engaged, understand rural issues, build skills, confidence and networks to bring about social change. "The biggest constraint to social change in our country is no longer money but skilled people" says Aditya Natraj, director, KEF.

Start with education
The foundation had identified a gap that needed to be filled and developed the Principal Leadership Development Programme. The KEF decided to work with headmasters because in villages, headmasters hold significant influence over a child's learning outcome. KEF had found that headmasters across Indian villages didn't have the kind of support that would bring about the necessary social change. The foundation says that headmasters usually receive little or no training to develop their skills and abilities. It formulated a plan to send urban-educated youngsters to aid and support these educators. For the first batch, started last year, the foundation received over 800 applica-

tions from across India for just 40 seats. KEF selected candidates for the first batch of fellows on the basis of their ability to display empathy and teamwork.

A different world
Qualities of empathy and teamwork were important because these urban-educated youngsters would face very different conditions from the ones they were used to. "I am a girl who would never think of going and staying in slums. But this programme, that I conducted in a village in Rajasthan, has changed me a lot", says Shreya Tiwari, who is doing her Master's in elementary education from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Leaving behind all the comforts of city life, Tiwari immersed herself in the village's community. She says she immediately took on the role of a trainer, teacher and stakeholder in the success of the programme.

Finding acceptance
The first batch, which comprised 11 fellows, were allotted different villages to work in. In the second year, the number was brought down to three to four headmasters. At first, the fellows faced some resistance from the headmasters some of whom questioned the fellow's experience levels. However, with the passing of time, there was a substantial change. The headmasters, who were used to meting out corporal punishment took the cue from the fellows and started mixing with the students and even danced with them as part of the learning activities. All this helped break the ice with the formerly reticent students and learning became fun.

STUDENT SPEAK

ENGINEERING ABROAD

"I am excited at the prospect of meeting new people abroad"

My favourite subject is communications and networking as there are an incredible number of practical applications in this field. In the upcoming academic year I will be attending the McMaster University in Canada. I had applied to a few select universities in Canada and this was the best University to which he was admitted. I have decided to study Electrical Engineering, and major in wireless communications and networking. This subject is one of my favourites and I hope that through the course I will gain enough expertise to work in this field, with the intent to set up an independent busi-



Student: ANIRUDH IYER Winner of TOEFL Scholarship for Canada

ness in future. I am excited at the prospect of the independence, the chance to interact with students from several countries, the opportunity to network with industry leaders and to get an insight into how they work and think.

success story jimmy mistry

'Experience is my biggest strength'

Architect Jimmy Mistry finds experience and flexibility are the keys to success, reports Sharanya Mishra Sharma

Coming from an engineering background, Jimmy Mistry made it big as an architect on the basis of years of experience coupled with inherent designing skills. His company- Della Technica's most recent project has been the Della Adventure Park at Lonavla.

How did you come to be an architect?
I have actually had no formal education in architecture or design. I passed out from a college in Nagpur in 1991, after graduating in mechanical engineering. I started my career by doing odd contracting jobs and executing projects. I worked with the Italians for three years as an importer that basically gave me a lot of experience and understanding of building materials, execution, design and layout. With this experience I entered the field of Interior design by doing Turkey Interiors. Then with this expertise I realized that I could enter the field of architecture. Its almost like a dream come true.

HIGHLIGHTS
 ■ Mechanical engineering
 ■ Contract jobs
 ■ Worked with Turkey Interiors and in Italy

Do you think a background in architecture is essential to be successful in this field?

Yes it is helpful. But worldwide exceptions like me are there, what is essential is experience. Newcomers should realize that even though strong inherent designing skills are important, so is the knowledge of other areas that this profession demands- technology, basics in engineering, execution, materials etc. Moreover, I feel that the syllabi across universities are not good enough to equip students of architecture with what is required on field.

What is the scope of growth in architecture?
In any field the scope of growth is great provided one is willing to give it time. The demand is everywhere. But one should be patient and know that big clients or phenomenal projects will not come your way immediately. One needs to prove oneself and display caliber through work. Also, look around and compare your work to others' works and try and learn from everything you see. Lastly, apart from the designs in your country, look at the international scenario as well.

ADVICE
 ■ Be open to suggestions and listen to people.
 ■ Be honest with your clients.
 ■ It's 90% homework and 10% work.



War Room Strategies

In our July 14 edition, **HT Horizons** gave you the basics to understanding the GMAT Reading Comprehension section. This is a continuation of those strategies



Reading comprehension, truly, is critical reasoning in its expanded form. It does not matter what approach we take to reading comprehension passages; the skill to read meaningfully and quickly can come only with time. Yet, we can formulate certain key notes to crack the passages. Pertaining to the earlier article, I suggest we look into some thumb rules to start with. Time management is probably more important on this type of question than on any other, because you could burn up minutes poring over unimportant details in the passage if you don't know where to look; if that happens, you will shortchange your time for Critical Reasoning and Sentence Correction. You need to read strategically. This does not mean speed reading, and it does not

rushing your answer. There are parts of each passage that you should read slowly and deliberately, and each question deserves time for careful thought. The trick here is to focus on the information you need and to waste as little time as possible on information that will not help you answer any questions. Style and tone questions ask about the expression of a passage and about the ideas in a passage that may be expressed through its diction—the author's choice of words. You may be asked to deduce the author's attitude to an idea, a fact, or a situation from the words that he or she uses to describe it. You may also be asked to select a word that accurately describe the tone of a passage—for instance, "critical," "questioning," "objective," or "enthusiastic." To answer this type of question, you will have to consider the language of the pas-

sage as a whole. It takes more than one pointed, critical word to make the tone of an entire passage "critical." Sometimes, style and tone questions ask what audience the passage was probably intended for or what Woe of publication it probably appeared in. Style and tone questions may apply to one small part of the passage or to the passage as a whole. To answer them, you must ask yourself what meanings are contained in the words of a passage beyond the literal meanings. Did the author use certain words because of their emotional content, or because a particular audience would expect to hear them? Remember, these questions measure an author through his or her choice of words. (to be continued)

(The author of this article is Rohit Majumdar, who works with CPLC in the Verbal Faculty)

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