

# EDUCATION MAIL



## EDUCATION IS BROAD BASED

■ How do you pronounce your name?

*It's Avatar. People often get it wrong. Some even call me Otter. But now after Cameron's Avatar it is easy to tell people the correct pronunciation.*

■ You won America's highest honour in undergraduate teaching last year. Tell us about the recognition.

*The award was given by Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education for my efforts in using technology, including YouTube, Twitter and even mobile devices to expand learning opportunities around the world.*

■ For someone so keyed in to technology you refuse to use power point presentation inside classrooms, why?

*With power point you are not really able to see how the instructor has gone from one step to another, how he/she has solved a problem. You are not showing the entire process and students will not be able to make the connection.*

■ How many Indian students are there in your department?

*We have four Indian students at the undergraduate level and 10 Indians at the graduate level. The university has a total strength of 41,000 (in the main Tampa campus) students with around 2,000 international students. Of this 300 are Indian students.*

■ How competitive are Indian students vis-à-vis students from other countries?

*Indian students are bookish. There is inhibition among Indian students to do experimental work. You cannot design a project without experimental work. Applying things to the real world is what most American students are good at. The broad based American education exposes students to real life situations.*

■ What are some of the most sought after programmes at USF?

*We received 1,500 applications from India this year*



### THE HOT SEAT

**AUTAR KAW** is a professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of South Florida (USF). A graduate from BITS, Pilani, this Kashmir born engineer bagged America's top teaching honour last year when he was conferred the Professor of the Year Award for his initiative in using online tools for classroom learning. In the Capital recently on a private visit, Kaw talked to **SANGEETH SEBASTIAN** about the strengths and weaknesses of Indian students and why he is grateful to Hollywood filmmaker James Cameron

*most of them were for Management, Engineering and Management Information Systems. In the Engineering stream the popular programmes are*

*Electrical, Mechanical and Computer Science. We are expecting around 100 students from India this year.*

■ Do USF offer scholarships to Indian students?

*Academic scholarships are available to international students through the office of admissions. Information regarding scholarship deadlines, requirements, awarding timelines and scholarship renewal terms can be obtained from [www.usf.edu/admissions/scholarships.html](http://www.usf.edu/admissions/scholarships.html)*

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## Japan to revive foreign dreams

The upcoming Japan Education Fair in the Capital on Friday will be attended by nine top universities offering programmes in English

By **Sangeeth Sebastian**

**I**T MAY not be the best of times to make a pitch for foreign education. But for the delegates of Japanese universities who will be in the capital on Friday, the goal is long-term. Japan has set itself an ambitious target of enrolling 300,000 foreign students by 2020. To make its universities attractive, the country offers programmes in English under Global 30, an initiative by the government to attract some of the best students from across the world.

To spread the message a day-long education fair supported by the Embassy of Japan and Japan Foundation will be held at Hotel Lalit from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday.

The fair promises to have representation from nine top ranking universities in Japan that were among the first to impart academic programmes in English. Another six universities will be represented through brochures and pamphlets, according to the organisers.

The event will provide guidance and counseling to aspiring students who wish to explore the East-Asian nation for higher education. All queries, right from finding the right course and application procedures to scholarships

and campus life to career support and food, will be answered by faculty members and staff from the universities.

Some of the institutions expected to turn up are Ritsumeikan University, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Doshisha University, Keio University, Kyushu University, Nagoya University, Tohoku Univer-

sity, The University of Tokyo and Waseda University. The universities represented by brochure include Kyoto University, Osaka University, Sophia University, Meiji University, Hiroshima University and Asia University. An obvious gain of studying in a Japanese university for Indian students is their employability in Japanese firms, which is expanding



IELTS scholarship winners with the British Council officials

By **Education Mail Bureau**

**EIGHT** Indian students have been declared as the winners of the British Council IELTS Scholarship Award 2013. Five of the winners will pursue post graduate programmes in the U.K., while the rest will study in Australia, Canada and the U.S. The students will receive Rs 3 lakh towards the cost of tuition fees. The scholarship winners are Avrina Jos Joslin, Masters in Writing, University of Warwick, U.K.; Gowri Rastogi, Interna-

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