

## education first



CIBTAC examiner Rebecca Burbidge visits LTA School of Beauty to take stock, BAISHALI CHATTERJEE reports.



# Exam fever

**B**eauty is in the eyes of the beholder; and yet we spend hours and bundles of notes trying to make ourselves look better. How often have you stepped into your regular salon and refused to get any work done unless it is by your regular therapist or stylist? More often than not, right?

With increasing awareness and advances in technology, people the world over are becoming more particular about the kind of products and services they opt for. Trained and experienced beauticians are the order of the day. Along with this, the need for a body to verify these beauticians' credentials is also on the rise.

CIBTAC (Confederation of International Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology) is an international examination body responsible for the education and training of beauticians and therapists

worldwide. Associated with BABTAC (British Association of Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology), examiners from CIBTAC are sent to beauty schools across the globe to evaluate the students and to determine whether they are qualified to enter the professional beauty industry.

Rebecca Burbidge from CIBTAC recently paid a visit to LTA School of Beauty to examine the progress of the students and while there, chatted with us about how CIBTAC works and what their criteria is while marking. The Board tries to send different examiners to a centre every time to prevent any biases. "Also, we are sent for trainings and workshops every year to maintain consistency — we are not allowed to examine if we don't attend these sessions," explains Rebecca.

The exams are held in almost 150 countries. They comprise theory and practical exams, and after the

completion of the nine-month courses, students are tested on aspects such as technicalities in the services and processes, whether or not what the students are doing is correct and whether or not the client is likely to be satisfied. "CIBTAC also helps students with teaching skills in case they want to get into the training field," shares Rebecca.

Having been in the Indian beauty industry for a while now, Biju Nair of LTA School of Beauty says, "There was a need in this market for a third party to certify and verify the qualifications the students got. There are three international bodies, CIBTAC, CIDESCO and ITEC, who act as this third party. Today, spa and salon employers can trust a CIBTAC certification. The holistic approach is examined, including the body language and inter-personal relations.