

Newspaper Clips

February 19, 2012

Deccan Herald ND 19.02.2012
P-4

Decision on new IIT test pattern soon

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Joint Admission Board of the Indian Institutes of Technology held a meeting on Saturday here ahead of the state education ministers' conference next week, where a final call is likely to be taken on holding a pan-India test.

IIT members discussed the modalities of the common entrance test at the meeting. The pan-India test has already been approved by the IIT council.

The test, to be known as 'Indian Science Engineering Eligibility Test', will be held in May next year. The issue will be placed before the state education ministers' conference on February 22.

CBSE may conduct ISEET-2013, while an 'academic group' will oversee the entire test guided by the director of IIT-Kanpur.

The process of transferring school board results data to ISEET will be worked out, a source said.

Nai Duniya ND
19-Feb-12 P-1

आईआईटी बोर्ड की बैठक में एकीकृत परीक्षा पर चर्चा

नई दिल्ली (प्रेट्र)। आईआईटी के संयुक्त प्रवेश बोर्ड ने शनिवार को अखिल भारतीय स्तर पर एकीकृत इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा लिए जाने के संबंध में महत्वपूर्ण बैठक की। यह अगले सप्ताह राज्य शिक्षा मंत्री के साथ होने वाले बातचीत से पहले की गई है। इस बैठक में आईआईटी के प्रमुखों ने भाग लिया। ऐसा समझा जाता है कि इस दौरान आईआईटी के लिए एकीकृत इंजीनियरिंग की प्रवेश परीक्षा लेने की रूपरेखा के संबंध में चर्चा की गई। इसे आईआईटी काउंसिल ने पहले ही अनुमोदित कर दिया है। मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने कहा कि इंडियन साइंस इंजीनियरिंग एलिजबिलिटी टेस्ट अगले वर्ष अप्रैल या मई में ली जाएगी। अधिकारियों ने कहा कि आईएसईईटी दो भाग में ली जाएगी, आईएसईईटी मैन और आईएसईईटी एडवांस। प्रत्येक परीक्षा तीन घंटे की अवधि की होगी। इसे एक दिन में ही लिया जाएगा। स्कोर कार्ड के लिए मंत्रालय ने प्रस्ताव दिया है कि टेस्ट में 60 फीसदी और 12वीं के परीक्षा में 40 फीसदी से कम अंक नहीं होने चाहिए। यद्यपि मंत्रालय ने इस मामले में राज्यों को कुछ छूट दी है।

More students for IIT-JEE counselling this year
NEW DELHI: More students will be called for counselling for the IIT-JEE 2012 examination. This was decided at a meeting of the Joint Admission Board at IIT Delhi on Saturday. The directors of all IITs were present at the meeting. The number of general and OBC category students who will be called for counselling for the IIT-JEE 2012 exam will be double the number of seats in that category. The corresponding number for the SC/ST and physically disabled category will be three times the number of seats in their categories respectively.

Hindustan ND 19-Feb-12 P-5

नए फॉर्मेट को शिक्षकों ने छात्र हित के खिलाफ बताया, अपना फार्मूला भी किया पेश

आईआईटी परीक्षा के नए प्रस्ताव पर कई सुझाव

नई दिल्ली | अनुपम मिश्र

शिक्षकों की राय

आईआईटी परीक्षा के नए फॉर्मेट को लेकर शिक्षक भी अड़ गए हैं। आईआईटी दिल्ली, कानपुर और मुंबई के शिक्षकों ने बैठक कर नए सिस्टम को जायज नहीं ठहराया है। साथ ही विभिन्न आईआईटी के शिक्षकों ने परीक्षा को लेकर अपना फार्मूला भी दिया है। इस बावत इन आईआईटी ने अपने निदेशक को भी अपने सुझावों के बारे में जानकारी दे दी है।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के फैकल्टी फोरम के अध्यक्ष संजीव सिंचवी का कहना है कि नया फॉर्मेट छात्रों की मुश्किलें आसान नहीं करेगा। उन्होंने बताया कि आईआईटी दिल्ली के शिक्षकों ने एक बैठक की है और अपने सुझाव निदेशक को सौंप दिए हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि बैठक में सभी शिक्षकों में इस बात पर सहमति बनी कि इंजीनियरिंग की कॉमन परीक्षा को दो चरणों प्री और मुख्य परीक्षा में बांट दिया जाए।

प्री परीक्षा सरकार द्वारा और मुख्य परीक्षा का आयोजन आईआईटी करें। सिंचवी ने बताया कि प्री-परीक्षा में

- आनन-फानन में 2013 से न लागू हो व्यवस्था
- आईआईटी में बहुविकल्पीय परीक्षा के साथ एक लिखित परीक्षा भी हो
- यूरोपससी की तर्ज पर प्री और मुख्य परीक्षाओं का आयोजन कराया जाए। प्री-परीक्षा सरकार आयोजित करे और मुख्य परीक्षा आईआईटी
- मुख्य परीक्षा में भी बारहवीं के अंकों को वेटेज दिया जाए पर प्री-परीक्षा के मुकामले इसका अनुपात कम हो
- विभिन्न बोर्डों के अंकों में समानता के लिए बनाया जाए नया फार्मूला

बारहवीं के अंकों का वेटेज अधिक और मुख्य में कम रखा जाए। आईआईटी मुंबई के एक शिक्षक ने बताया कि हमें आईआईटी के नए प्रस्ताव के बारे में जानकारी ही नहीं दी गई। इस बावत निदेशक को कहा गया है कि आईआईटी के शिक्षकों को इस प्रस्ताव से अवगत कराया जाए और उनकी सलाह भी मानी जाए।

प्रोफेसर आचार्य समिति का सर्वे

सर्वे में कुल 2063 लोगों ने लिया भाग

59%	छात्र	23.4%	पेशावर (शिक्षा से इतर क्षेत्र से जुड़े)
08%	शिक्षक	01%	कोचिंग
5.5%	अभिभावक	80%	छात्रों ने दी प्रवेश परीक्षा

समिति की सलाह

- एक ही हो परीक्षा
- ज्ञान को जांचा जाए, 12वीं के सिलेबस पर रहें फोकस
- कोचिंग पर निर्भरता कम हो और छात्रों पर दबाव भी
- एटीट्यूड पर जोर (90% से अधिक)
- प्रक्रिया में बढ़ाई जाए पारदर्शिता
- नकारात्मक मार्किंग को कम करें
- ऑनलाइन प्रक्रिया हो
- अधिक और विभिन्न परीक्षा केंद्र, समय सीमा बेहतर हो

समिति की सलाह

- विभिन्न प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं के स्थान पर एक प्रवेश परीक्षा
- विभिन्न स्कूल बोर्डों के स्कोर को समान बनाने की मैथेडोलॉजी बनाई जाए
- छात्र को स्कोर सुचारुने के एक से अधिक मौके मिलें
- एक सिंगल प्रवेश परीक्षा हो, जो एटीट्यूड (जैसा कि सेट में होता है) और एडवॉस (जैसे कि जेईई) का मिश्रण हो



इस आधार पर समिति ने की है परीक्षा की सिफारिश

रामारामाणी और आईआईटी खड़गपुर के निदेशक दामोदर आचार्य समिति की रिपोर्ट प्रमुख है। रिपोर्ट में नए टेस्ट में 12वीं के अंकों को तरजीह को लेकर 30, 40 और 50 फीसदी के तीन विकल्प सुझाए गए हैं। सरकार 50 फीसदी के विकल्प पर गंभीर है। 12वीं के अंकों को वेटेज देने के लिए सभी बोर्ड के अंकों को समान किया जाएगा। इसके लिए भारतीय सांख्यिकी संस्थान ने एक फार्मूला तैयार किया है।

इससे छात्रों पर दबाव अधिक बढ़ेगा ही, कोचिंग संस्थानों की संख्या में भी बढ़ोतरी होगी। दुनिया भर में आईआईटी की साख भी प्रभावित होगी। प्रिंस, आईआईटी छात्र

22 फरवरी को होगी बैठक आईआईटी-जेईई और एआईआईटी प्रवेश परीक्षा के लिए केंद्र सरकार सिंगल एंटेस टेस्ट आयोजित करने की योजना के लिए मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिबल ने राज्यों के शिक्षा मंत्रियों की 22 फरवरी को बैठक बुलाई है। इसमें यह तय किया जाएगा कि एंटेस में बैठने के लिए न्यूनतम अंक सीमा क्या हो। अभी आईआईटी जेईई के लिए यह सीमा 12वीं में 60 फीसदी अंकों की है जबकि एआईआईटी में 50 फीसदी की है।

इससे छात्रों में नंबरों की दौड़ शुरू हो जाएगी, जिस वजह से फर्जीवाड़ा बढ़ेगा। वैसे भी दाखिला पाने के लिए फर्जी मार्कशीट के मामले सामने आते हैं। - सतीश यादव, छात्र आईआईटी

The Statesman ND 19/02/2012 P-5

HRD ministry to launch 50 educational channels soon

statesman news service

NEW DELHI, 18 FEB: The human resource development (HRD) ministry plans to soon launch 50 round-the-clock channels to boost education in the country through television.

The HRD ministry has already approached the information and broadcasting ministry for permission to launch these 50 channels. The process for appointing a consultant for setting up the infrastructure for the 50 direct-to-home (DTH) channels has also been initiated.

These channels are a part of the National Mission of Education through Information and Communication Technology (NME-ICT) initiative.

A senior HRD ministry official

said the content for these channels will be prepared by premier educational institutions like Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). The educational material to be telecast will include lectures by the faculty of these institutions.

The HRD ministry initiated steps to launch the 50 channels after clearance of a major technological hurdle with the Department of Space assuring the use of two 36 MHz KU Band transponders in satellite GSAT 8 spacecraft for the channels.

Meanwhile, the President, Mrs Pratibha Patil, today flagged off a nationwide campaign to promote India's adult literacy programme, Saakshar Bharat. Undertaken by the National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA), the

objectives of the Saakshar Bharat Yatra include to draw the attention of the entire country towards this programme.

It will also aim to enhance participation of learners, voluntary teachers and other stakeholders in the programme. The Saakshar Bharat Mission launched by the Prime Minister on International Literacy Day on 8 September 2009, has completed nearly two-and-a-half years. The Mission's main focus is on women, SCs, STs, minorities and other disadvantaged groups in rural areas.

The programme is being implemented in 1.6 lakh Gram Panchayats in 372 districts, including some of the Left-wing extremism affected districts. Nearly 13.5 million learners are already enrolled in the programme.

Scientists teach computers to assess psychiatric risk

REUTERS
London, 18 February

Computer programs can be taught to select between brain scans of healthy young people and scans showing adolescents who are at higher risk of developing mental disorders such as anxiety and depression, scientists said Thursday.

In a study in the Public Library of Science (PLoS) ONE journal, British researchers said their findings suggest it may be possible to design programs to predict which at-risk adolescents will go on to have psychiatric problems, giving doctors more time to intervene before illnesses set in.

"Combining machine learning and neuroimaging, we have a technique which shows enormous potential to help us identify which adolescents are at true risk of developing anxiety and mood disorders, especially where there is limited clinical or genetic information,"



In a study in the Public Library of Science (PLoS) ONE journal, British researchers said their findings suggest it may be possible to design programs to predict which adolescents will go on to have psychiatric problems. PHOTO:THINKSTOCK

said Janaina Mourao-Miranda of University College London, who led the study.

Depression and other psychiatric disorders are a major cause of death, disability and economic burden worldwide.

The World Health Organization predicts that by 2020, depression alone will be the second leading contributor to the global burden of disease across all ages.

Two studies published late

last year found that up to 40 per cent of Europeans suffer from mental and neurological illnesses each year, and the annual cost of brain disorders is almost 800 billion euros.

But experts think that being

able to diagnose potential problems earlier, and intervene to help at-risk young people, could significantly reduce the damage caused by psychiatric disorders and help ward off serious or recurrent illness.

As yet there are no known biological measures, or biomarkers, that can predict future psychiatric disorders and even genetic screening can't accurately predict individual psychiatric risk, the researchers explained in their study.

A family history of bipolar disorder, for example, confers a 10 per cent risk of future bipolar disorder, but also a 10 to 25 per cent risk of conditions like attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), major depression and anxiety disorders and it is impossible to say which, if any, is more likely.

Mourao-Miranda's team took 16 healthy adolescents who each had a parent with bipolar disorder, and 16 whose parents had no history of psy-

chiatric illness, and scanned their brains with a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) scanner while they performed a specially designed emotional test.

The researchers then used a computer program capable of machine learning to predict the probability that an individual belonged to either the low-risk or at-risk group and found it was accurate in three out of four cases.

The researchers also found the computer program predicted significantly higher risk probabilities for young people who were found in follow-up to have developed psychiatric disorders than for those who remained healthy at follow-up.

Mary Phillips of Pittsburgh University in the United States, who also worked on the study, said since most mental disorders begin in adolescence or early adulthood, early detection and treatment could delay or even prevent future illness.

Times Of India ND 19/02/2012 P-1

Business dull, 65 B-schools across India to shut down

Hemali Chharia | TNN

Mumbai: On the academic floor, the MBA programme was once supreme. Arrogantly and unambiguously, it became the final sign-off to schooling, attracting not only those interested in business but also all those who wanted to master the tools of

► Curriculum problem, P 17

management.

That hubris, thanks to its own profligacy, is now being shaken. The Indian management education sector grew so wildly when demand was

Bust after Boom

► There are 3,900 management schools in India with close to 3.5 lakh seats, indicating supply overshoot demand

► Experts question quality of many colleges in remote areas. With no job offers, students shun them, prompting many to contemplate closure

rampant (today there are 3,900 management schools with close to 3.5 lakh seats) that supply overshoot demand by a long shot. And now comes the fallout.

In a dramatic, though not entirely unexpected, development, as many as 65 business management colleges across India are planning to close down; these institutes no longer see business sense in offering an MBA course, preferring to use the land for more lucrative ventures. Experts predict that many more management colleges will close down in the days to come.

As S S Mantha, chairman of the All-India Council for Technical Education, puts it, "Colleges in remote India and institutes of poor quality are not getting students."

'Curriculum far from reality'

► Continued from P 1

For the students who choose not to apply to any of these lesser-known colleges, the decision is a no-brainer: the curriculum is far from business reality, faculty is minimal and, most importantly, very few respectable companies participate in the course-end recruitment drives. At one time, the archetypal Indian MBA did join anonymous business colleges. But now with no job offer at the end, the decision is no longer complicated: a young graduate would rather take up a job or prepare harder for another shot at an entrance exam which is the gate to a better B-school, says Stephen D'silva, director, Jammalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies.

However, while the lower-rung management schools are being bypassed, there are still tens of thousands who make a B-line to join an IIM. Pan-kaj Chandra, director of

IIM-Bangalore, boasts of the lakhs of students who sign up to take the Common Admission Test (CAT) for close to 3,000 seats that the IIMs have on offer. "It is a great time to do an MBA. The brightest ones still want to do an MBA," he adds.

Having said that, the manner in which India's business education sector has developed poses a vital question: Is the MBA for everyone? Across the country, academics, irrespective of the institute they are affiliated to, are relating to Henry Mintzberg of McGill University, Montreal, who devoted a book to his contention that "conventional MBA programs train the wrong people in the wrong ways with the wrong consequences".

Mintzberg's line 'Warning: Not Prepared to Manage' has become a popular catch phrase in internal meetings that B-school boards and faculty members hold.

Sibal's new entrance exam plan draws flak from IITians

Last updated on: February 16, 2012 11:12 IST



On February 14, students from IIT-Delhi, Patna and Roorkee expressed dissent for HRD ministry's latest announcement to scrap JEE and AIEEE for ISEET since 2013.

On February 14, while the world was busy celebrating the day of love, IITians all over the country had united to celebrate dissent.

These students are unhappy over the Human Resource Development ministry's latest announcement to scrap the Joint Entrance Exam and the All India Engineering Entrance exam, and replace it with the brand new ISEET or the Indian Science Engineering Eligibility Test – a new national level exam that will test class 12 students for their aptitude for science and engineering 2013 onwards. According to this new arrangement ISEET and board exam scores will now decide the fate of aspirants who want to join the famed Indian Institutes of Technology as well as other reputed technical institutes in India.

With the ISEET, the HRD ministry aims to scrap the

purpose of multiple exams held by various science and engineering institutions in the country with a common aptitude test thus reducing the pressure on lakhs of students who prepare for these tests every year.

However, IITians across the country haven't taken the new decision too well and pointed loopholes in the system. IITians chose to voice their discontent by organising press conferences and filing petitions to express their concerns to their respective institutes.

While students from IIT-Delhi organised a press conference on February 14, 2012, students of IIT-Roorkee filed a petition against the abolition of JEE and IITians from Patna displayed placards like 'Save IIT, Save JEE'.

Confirming the news to *Rediff.com*, a student of IIT-Roorkee says, "We have already filed a petition. The petition has been handed over to the director of IIT Roorkee signed by more than 1,500 IITians against abolition of JEE and inclusion of 40 per cent weightage of class 12 marks."

Reader invite: Dear Readers, do you agree with the HRD Ministry's decision to scrap the JEE and AIEEE? Do you think having a common entrance exam will really help reduce the stress among students? Let us know what you think by sharing your views on the message board below.

'It is absurd to even think of scrapping an exam like the JEE'

Last updated on: February 16, 2012 11:12 IST

Interestingly, the HRD ministry website has not clearly stated the criteria for eligibility to the IITs. This is what the agenda states:

"For admission, a student's performance at School Board Examination at the end of (10+2) level will be taken into account which would not be less than 40% of the scores. Besides this school board performance, it has been recommended that some weightage will be given to the performance of a student in a Main examination, to be called as ISEET 2013 Main, and some weightage to the Advance examination of ISEET 2013. However, the weightage accorded for the performance in the school board can go over up to even 100%. The combined weightage for the Main and the Advance paper under ISEET shall not, in any case, exceed 60%. It is for the each educational institution/ State Govt. to spell out the specific weightages to the scores achieved in school Board, Main and Advance examinations."

Although the HRD ministry will announce the details of the new exam only after they meet the state authorities on February 22, 2012, it is reported that ISEET will be effective 2013 onwards.

Also the first exam will be scheduled between April-May 2013, stated the agenda report.

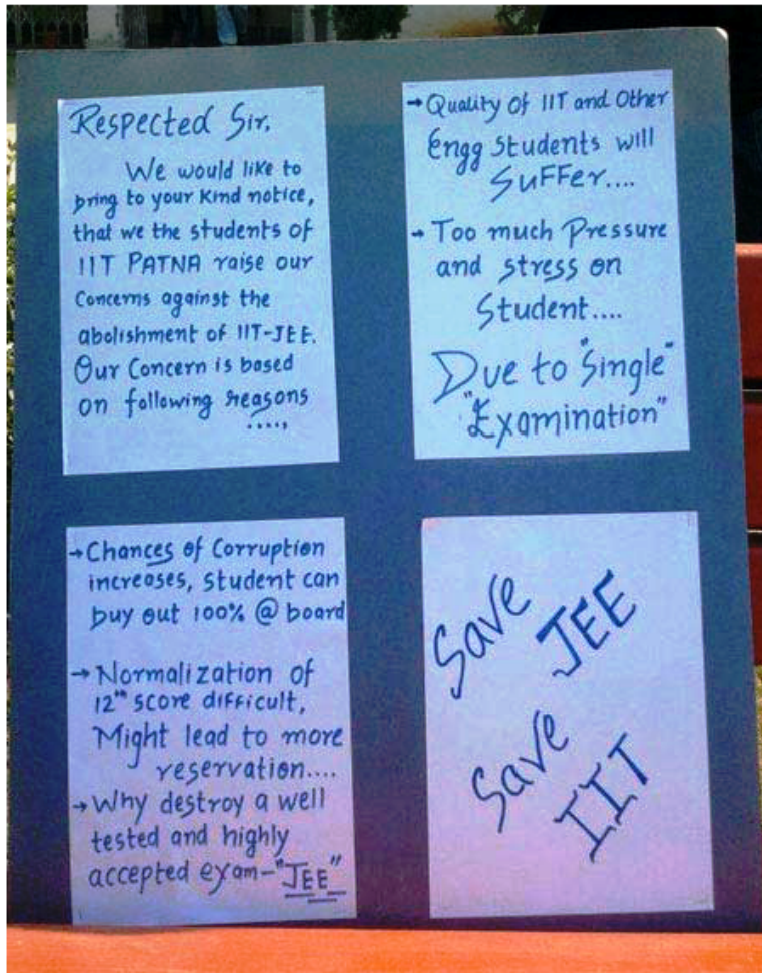
"It is absurd to even think of scrapping an exam like the JEE," says a final year student from IIT-Madras, who did not wish to be named.

Read the full HRD report here: <http://education.nic.in/CABE/Agenda-SCEM-22022012.pdf>

Reader invite: Dear Readers, do you agree with the HRD Ministry's decision to scrap the JEE and AIEEE? Do you think having a common entrance exam will really help reduce the stress among students? Let us know what you think by sharing your views on the message board below.

'We really hope Mr Sibal knows what he is talking about'

Last updated on: February 16, 2012 11:12 IST



Do you think having a common entrance exam will really help reduce the stress among students? Let us know what you think by sharing your views on the message board below.

'State board students are always at loss with such tests'

Last updated on: February 16, 2012 11:12 IST

This student was very vocal in his criticism of the HRD minister for his decisions in the past.

"We really hope Mr Sibal knows what he is talking about. Isn't he happy after scrapping the CBSE board exam? Probably, he wants us to ape the West. The difficulty level of the exam is what attracts the best brains to IITs. How can he call them stressful?"

In fact, the Facebook page of IITian.org, a social networking page created by IITians across the country is loaded with pictures and messages like 'Stop corrupting IITs' from unhappy students.

But Surinder Pal Singh, general secretary academy affairs, IIT-Bombay plays down the dissent that has arisen for this exam and says that one cannot completely write off the intention of the ISEET.

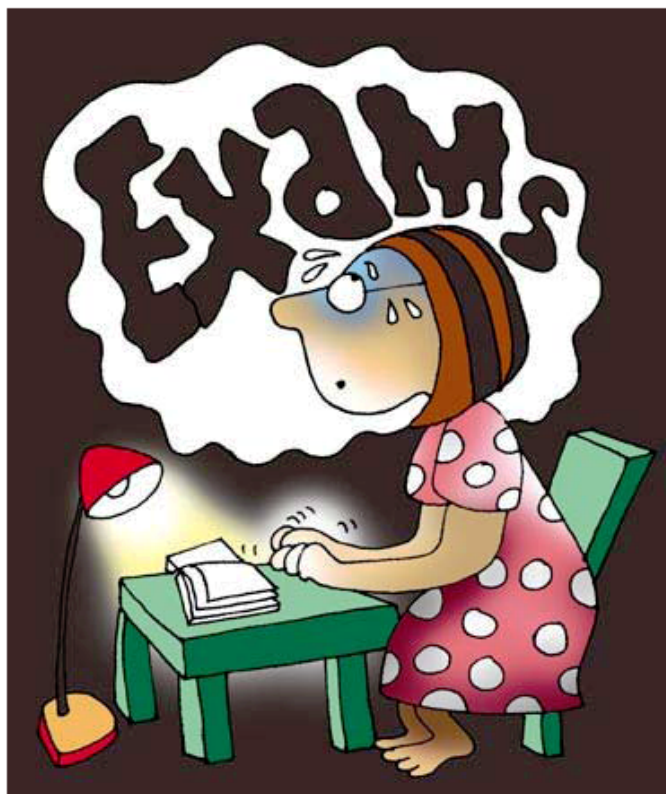
Singh feels it is better to have a single test than have multiple exams as it is stressful for students to prepare and appear for multiple tests in a single stream.

"The fact that the new exam will test English skills is definitely worth appreciating," he said while explaining how the new pattern of the exam will discourage rote learning of technical concepts.

Meanwhile Vinayak Kunte, a class 12 science student from St Joseph Junior College, Mumbai and JEE aspirant feels that the ISEET will only take the heat off the technical exam.

"It doesn't make sense to test an engineering aspirant for English and language skills. We already have CAT, GMAT and a host of other exams to test candidates for their management and communication skills," says Kunte.

Reader invite: Dear Readers, do you agree with the HRD Ministry's decision to scrap the JEE and AIEEE?



State board students will be the most affected, Amit Kumar, a final year student of integrated chemistry, IIT-Roorkee who appeared for JEE in 2007, points out. He insists that if the government decides to include class 12 performance, it should scrap all the state boards and have a single board of examinations like the CBSE. "It is unfair to have multiple boards and normalise a student's performance based on their variable scores and performances. Even a single mark in your board exam could bring down or advance your rank by 100 or 200 and influence your opportunity to study at IIT." Amit felt that having one exam would not only add to the competition but also deprive state board aspirants who usually score 10 per cent lower than their CBSE counterparts.

State board students are always at loss with such tests, says Ashish Chawan, another JEE aspirant from Mumbai who has been preparing for the exam since two years now. "CBSE students always score higher than state board exams students and stand a better chance of making it to the IITs. Those who did not make it through the JEE, could at least hope to clear the state level entrances, which were comparatively less rigorous," expressed Chawan who is also happy that his batch will be among the last to appear for JEE.

When we contacted teachers at JEE coaching centres in the country, most of them remained clueless over the decision while others appreciated the move as they believe it will 'reduce preparation time.'

Mumbai-based Srinivas Krishnamoorthy, who has been training students for JEE and AIEEE for the last 10 years,

says he can only be 'hopeful' if such an announcement is made.

Professors feel that the JEE was a benchmark to qualify for the IITs and the new pattern doesn't quite justify the purpose.

"It is difficult to predict if the new exam will justify the purpose of JEE," says Mukund Iyer, head of Iyer's Tutorials, a private coaching centre in Chennai.

"It was hard for anyone to imagine that an exam like ISEET would threaten its future. But it seems like the new exam will test the overall personality of a student. I just hope that while doing so, they don't undervalue technical skills and aptitude of the student," maintained Krishnamoorthy.

Illustration: Uttam Ghosh

Reader invite: Dear Readers, do you agree with the HRD Ministry's decision to scrap the JEE and AIEEE? Do you think having a common entrance exam will really help reduce the stress among students? Let us know what you think by sharing your views on the message board below.

The modalities of the exam will be finalised on February 22

Last updated on: February 16, 2012 11:12 IST

Modelled on the American Scholastic Aptitude Test, the entrance exam for undergraduate programmes in the country, ISEET will comprise two parts, Main and Advance, of three-hour duration each.

While ISEET Main will be an objective type exam, and will test comprehension, critical thinking and logical reasoning, Advance will test problem-solving ability in basic science subjects.

The two tests will together indicate a candidate's scholastic level and aptitude for science and engineering.

Touted as the nation's first common entrance test, ISEET may only cover technical institutions funded by the Centre.

At present, there are around 15 lakh engineering colleges across the country and over 150 entrance tests are conducted for admission to these institutes.

The HRD ministry would like to relieve students from the pressure of appearing for multiple tests by introducing a common entrance test for all these technical institutions. But, this requires the states' consent to the proposal for its implementation all over the country.

A decision on the modalities of the new exam will be made after the state authorities meet on February 22, 2012.

Reader invite: Dear Readers, do you agree with the HRD Ministry's decision to scrap the JEE and AIEEE? Do you think having a common entrance exam will really help reduce the stress among students? Let us know what you think by sharing your views on the message board below.