

# Newspaper Clips

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Deccan Herald ND 08.03.2012 P-6

## A step in the right direction

From 2013, admissions to the IITs, NITs and IIITs will be based on scores obtained in board exams

Sharad Awasthi

There has been a lot of noise for the past few months about the changes expected in the way our 17-18 year-olds compete with each other to get into IITs/ NITs/ IIITs.

Beginning 2013, student admissions to the IITs, NITs and IIITs will be based on board scores and ranks in the Indian Science-Engineering Eligibility Test (ISEET). As per reports in newspapers, ISEET will have two sections: One section is expected to be aptitude-based and the other section is expected to be based on questions from Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics of Class XI and XII level. For selection, there will be weightage given to a student's performance in the board examination, in addition to his ISEET scores.

### What prism do we look through to evaluate the new pattern?

Needless to say, the entire system exists to pick the best and most suitable young scholars who have the aptitude for engineering as a career. In addition, the student has to be at the centre of all the mechanisms of selection including factors such as stress, flexibility, various choices that can be provided to her/him, etc. So, the only prism that we must look through to evaluate the new pattern should be one of students' welfare and the ability of the pattern to select the best candidates.

Let us analyse the new pattern using the above prism.

### Lessening of stress

I believe that the new method will lead to lesser stress to the students as it proposes one examination in place of IIT-JEE, AIEEE and State level Engineering entrance examinations. As you might have noticed, students will be relieved of the torture of taking many entrance examinations during the April-May period, just after their XII board examination.

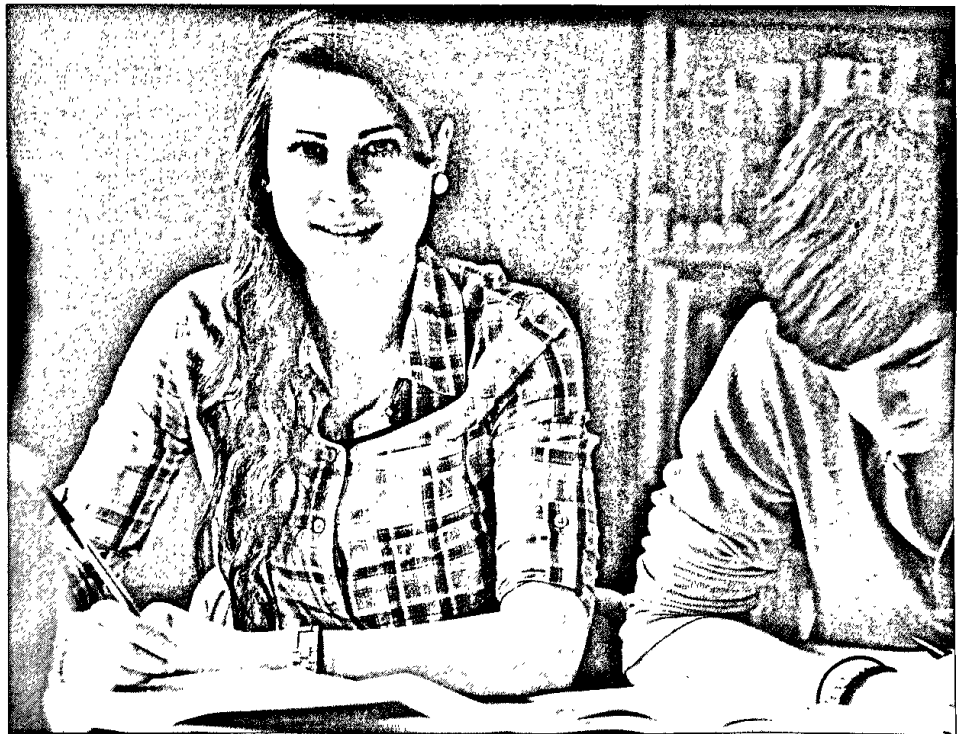
### Continues to deliver candidates with the best engineering aptitude

The apprehension that the quality of selection to the IITs might get reduced is entirely misplaced. Even if we compare the rank list of IITJEE and AIEEE for the last three years, we will find that a very large percentage of candidates are the same in both the rank lists.

### In alignment with real world demands

Another striking feature of the new method is the inclusion of aptitude in ISEET. In the real world, all top engineers, scientists and technocrats are expected to have sound skills in areas such as analytical thinking, logical reasoning and critical reasoning in addition to a sound understanding of science and mathematics. Hence, inclusion of the aptitude test will lead to wholesome testing of candidates for entrance to IITs/ NITs/IIITs and the step should be welcomed by one and all.

### Aptitude test – Common thread for many careers



We all are also aware that given the huge gap between the demand and supply of seats in top colleges, the percentage of success continues to be abysmally low much to the disadvantage of youngsters. In such a scenario, it is only fair that the students spread their choices a little broader than just one career, say, engineering.

With the inclusion of aptitude testing in ISEET, stu-

dents with more or less the same kind of preparation for aptitude testing can appear for multiple examinations including that of the National Law School, Bachelors in Management etc. This comes as an immense benefit that should cheer students and parents alike.

### Performance in the Boards

Last but not the least, the new system allocates weightage to marks in the XII Board. Allocating 40 per cent or more weightage to board marks will bring in greater emphasis on XI and XII studies and incidentally, reduce the tendency to rush to outstation coaching hubs that have perpetrated the practice of 'dummy schools'.

In a nutshell, the new

method of engineering entrance is, indeed, a welcome change. As an IITian and a teacher, I welcome this new method of admission even though some aspects may still be imperfect. Alas, we live in an imperfect world and I would only worry about the direction, which in this case is truly right!

(The writer is Head, Academics, CL Educate)

# Global varsities make inroads into India

The Foreign Education Providers (Regulation) Bill is gathering dust but the universities find ways to work with Indian firms

M SARASWATHY & KALPANA PATHAK  
Mumbai, 7 March

International universities are looking beyond just training employees of conventional industries in India. They are increasingly focusing on sunrise sectors such as healthcare, pharma and higher education.

In addition to cashing in on Indian companies' growing need for executive education, universities are now looking at research. Over a dozen international institutions have visited India to explore tie-ups in this area, with a few more slated to visit the country in the coming weeks.

These universities say they are looking for opportunities to work closely with Indian firms in addition to attracting Indian students to their shores.

"The Indian pharmaceutical sector is growing at a fast pace. For this, you also need the right talent to meet the demand. India has the capability to reduce reliance on imports in chemical industry. What is needed is the finance and time to build it," said Mike Green, Head of School (Chemistry) at Newcastle University.

Green is of the view that at their university, MSc in drug chemistry is one of the most popular courses among the students. His department is also looking at partnership with Indian organisations in the medicinal side of chemistry, especially cancer treatment and diagnosis.

Newcastle University in association with the Department of Civil Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, collaborated for work on water and environmental engineering groups. This is being extended to geotechnical and structural engineering with key industrial partners such as Coal India Limited.

At the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), the focus is not only on getting more Indian students on campus but also on working with India in the areas of higher education, food security and healthcare.

Ezekiel J Emanuel, Vice-Provost for Global Initiatives and University Professor at Penn, said, "We are working with the Apollo Hospitals in the area of liver transplant. We are talking to various Indian organisations and institutions. Apart from such mutually beneficial collaborations, we are looking to attract Indian students to



**INDIA-CENTRIC** At the University of Pennsylvania, the focus is not only on getting more Indian students on campus but also on working with India in areas of higher education, food security and healthcare. BS PHOTO

## THE PARTNERSHIP LEGACY

University	Partners
Duke University	Jubilant Organosys, Medcity
UPenn	Apollo Hospitals
University of Dundee	Glaxo SmithKline
Newcastle University	Coal India
Schulich School of Business	GMR

Source: Universities

our courses," he said.

Of UPenn's 2500 students, 15 per cent are Asian students of which Indians form the largest number. Though UPenn wants more students from India, it does not have a set target. The alumni network is helping the institute in this endeavour. Apart from collaborations on how to provide food security, Penn will also assist individuals who want to set up liberal arts colleges across India.

UPenn is also looking to contribute through its research in the area of food security. "India was a natural fit, giv-

en our long history of engagement.

The Centre for the Advanced Study of India at Penn has done a lot of work in the areas of Indian politics and the states. Our focus is to address the global problems and learn from them," Emanuel added.

Duke University's Duke Medicine, Duke Global Health Institute, Nicholas School of the Environment, and Sanford School of Public Policy are engaged in various research or teaching partnerships with Indian organisations as diverse as the state of Uttar Pradesh, National Institute of

Ocean Technology, Jubilant Organosys and Medcity.

On the management front, while Harvard Business School already has its India Research Centre, Wharton is exploring options in India. US-based Duke University's Fuqua School of Business is here with Duke Corporate Education (Duke CE) which delivers custom corporate education programs to Indian executives in association with the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

B-schools of three Canadian Universities — Richard Ivey School of Business at University of Western Ontario, Rotman School of Management at University of Toronto and Schulich School of Business at York University — have already identified India as one of their most important markets.

Ivey has 10 per cent Indian students in their MBA programme and it is planning to increase this number. Scholarships (50 per cent, for Indian students given by a Indian origin Canadian businessmen) and alumni

network are being used to attract students. The institute has already developed an executive programme for GAIL, and is now ready to partner with a leading telecom player for the same.

Schulich has tied-up with GMR to set up a joint campus in Hyderabad, while Rotman is currently spreading word about its institute in India through the alumni network. Sheldon Dookeran, Assistant Director, MBA Recruitment & Admissions, informs that India is their largest market with about 57 students in a batch of 256. It would be increasing the batch size to 330 for the class of 2014 and expects the number of Indian student to also go up. Rotman is also involved in setting up events for its Indian alumni in the country, where past students and prospective students interact to understand more about the school.

These universities are figuring their way out in the Indian market even as the much-awaited Foreign Education Providers (Regulation) Bill has been gathering dust for almost two years.

Indian Express ND 08/03/12  
p-10

# *Affirmative inaction*

Institutional responsibility towards reserved category students doesn't end with seats

**T**HE suicide of a first-year reserved category student at AIIMS serves as a tragic reminder that reservations do not equal affirmative action. The death of Anil Kumar Meena, who was bright enough to get into one of the most selective educational institutions in the country but was allegedly unable to cope with the transition from learning in Hindi to English, should be a wake-up call for AIIMS and other institutes.

It's commendable that the IITs and AIIMS conduct their examinations in both English and Hindi, offering students without the opportunity to access decent English-medium education a path into the nation's best institutions. But merely offering a path in is not enough — these institutes must also ensure that the students with weak English-language skills get the support they need to make the transition easy. The Sukhdeo Thorat Committee, which was constituted in 2006 to investigate allegations of differential treatment of

SC/ST students at the medical school, had noted then that there was no mechanism to offer remedial English classes for students having difficulty with the language, or a special cell to deal with the particular issues that SC/ST students might face — academic or otherwise. These are recommendations that AIIMS would do well to implement soon.

While the AIIMS sub dean has asserted that the institute does hold English lessons, these are optional, which is clearly not good enough. The IITs, for instance, mandate a language skills course in the first semester for all their students, with a mechanism to provide special instruction to students with poor English skills. Reservations may have been successful in creating equal opportunities for students coming from backward communities. But without true affirmative action that is cognisant of the myriad issues faced by these students after they have entered top institutions, the project remains incomplete.

Times of India ND 08/03/12 p-17

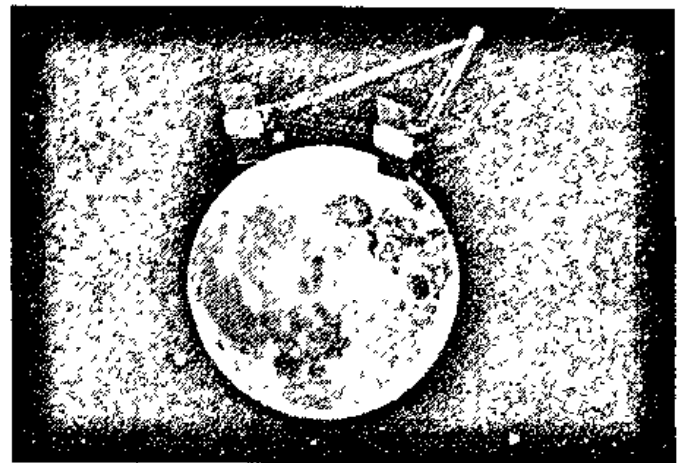
# Nasa's \$2.5bn Mars gambit hangs by 3 nylon ropes

Steve Connor

On August 6, at precisely 13 seconds after 6.30 in the morning London time, Nasa scientists should receive a message from Mars telling them whether their \$2.5 billion gamble on three nylon lines has paid off. This will be the moment when, for the first time, tethers will be used to gently lower a six-wheeled robotic rover the size of a Mini Cooper down to the surface of another planet from a spacecraft hovering precariously overhead.

Once Nasa's Curiosity rover touches the surface of the Red Planet six months from today, its 25 foot-long umbilical cord will be cut from its carrier ship, which will then use its bank of retro-rockets to crash-land well away from the site where the rover will begin its mission to search for the chemical signatures of Martian life.

"We will be very nervous. Landing on another planet is not a walk in the park. It's very challenging and there have been mixed successes and failures in the past," said Charles Elachi, director of Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, where the probe was designed and built. Several previous space missions to Mars have ended in failure during the approach and landing phase. Britain's Beagle 2 probe disappeared during



**MAPPING THE MOON:** Twin Nasa probes in orbit around the moon have begun mapping the lunar gravity field in hopes of figuring out why Earth's only natural satellite is shaped the way it is. Experts still don't know why the far side of the moon is more mountainous than the side that always faces Earth

its airbag-cushioned landing in 2003.

"The reason we are nervous is that it's about 3 tonnes of mass coming in at a speed of almost 12,000mph and we have to land softly in less than six minutes," Elachi said. "We usually call it the six minutes of terror. When you are coming in at 12,000mph with that kind of mass it is equivalent in terms of energy to 25 high-speed trains going at full speed," he said. THE INDEPENDENT

Times of India ND 08/03/2012 p-17

# End game: 'God particle' sighting just got closer

## New Data Suggest Where Higgs Boson Could Be Hiding

Dennis Overbye

NYT

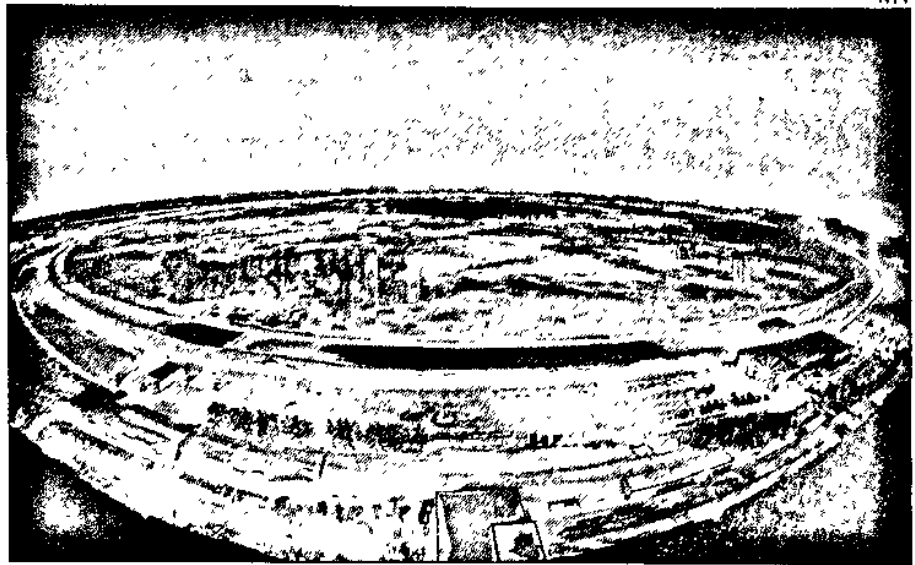
After 40 years, more evidence is being reported on Wednesday that the end of the biggest manhunt in the history of physics might finally be in sight.

Physicists from the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois, say they have found a bump in their data that might be the long-sought Higgs boson, a hypothesized particle that is responsible for endowing other elementary particles with mass.

The signal, in data collected over the last several years at Fermilab's Tevatron accelerator, agrees roughly with results announced last December from two independent experimental groups working at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, outside Geneva.

"Based on the current Tevatron data and results compiled through December 2011 by other experiments, this is the strongest hint of the existence of a Higgs boson," said the report, which will be presented on Wednesday by Wade Fisher of Michigan State University to a physics conference in La Thuile, Italy.

None of these results, either singly or collectively, are strong enough for scientists to claim victory. But the recent run of reports has encouraged them to think that the elusive particle, which is the key to mass and diversity in the universe,



**EUREKA MOMENT?** An image of the main ring of the Tevatron accelerator at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. Physicists say they have found a bump in their data that might be the Higgs boson, a hypothesized particle that is responsible for endowing other elementary particles with mass

is within sight, perhaps as soon as this summer.

Beate Heinemann, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, who has been deeply involved in analyzing data from the Large Hadron Collider, said recently of the CERN results, "This very much smells like the Higgs boson." But, she noted, the signal could also go away when more data is obtained.

The Higgs boson is the key piece of the Standard Model, an ambitious suite of equations that has ruled the universe of high-energy physics for the last few decades, explaining how three of the four fundamental forces of nature work.

Last December, two groups, which run giant particle detectors named Atlas and CMS from the CERN collider, reported that they had found promising bumps in their data at masses of 124 billion electron volts and 126 billion electron volts. Rumors of sightings of the Higgs boson have come and gone at both CERN and Fermilab in the last few years, but invariably where one group saw a bump, another saw a dip in the data, and with more data the bumps went away.

This is the first time in the long search that different groups, indeed different colliders, are in vague agreement. NYT NEWS SERVICE

# Simplistic ideas hobble our education system

The UPA is busy creating new outfits to control education. But it hasn't addressed the issues of dated study material and ill-equipped teachers



MEETA W SENGUPTA

Once we had a travel agent who, when asked to change a ticket to a more convenient date, cancelled first and then could not find any to book, leaving us ticketless. A similar state prevails in the processes and the institutions of education.

Undeniably our education system has seen more failures than successes in the past few decades. Redesigning and nurturing this sector is an imperative for a young population in a growing economy. There is much to do, but it is not very clever to start by demolishing institutions that are working fine. Take, for instance, the examination system in the country that is being systematically being decimated before options have been tested, let alone proven.

Despite its many flaws, the Class X examination was a robust, reliable system that worked as a great baseline test, in addition to providing essential certification that could, if designed, form the basis of an inclusive higher education system. Undermining it before we have an acceptable alternative is clearly not helpful to anybody. If at all, it hampers the marginal students who need the certification. The much respected Joint Entrance Examination for competitive entry into engineering colleges and the Common Entrance Test for management institutes are subject to the same fate. Unilateral decisions have been handed down to replace them with tests that have barely any credibility with the institutions which will need to use those results.

It is not as if the examinations were the worst part of the system and needed urgent attention — in fact these were the parts that were running quite well. Given the demand pressures, they could be accused of pursuing efficiency at the cost of kindness, yet they had established certain standards that were clearly understood by all. There seemed to be no attempt to address the issues — just a simplistic 'scrap and replace all' algorithm seems to have been used here.

Government-sponsored education is full of institutions that have gently crumbled away, destroyed by politics or by inattention or neglect by those who were handed the duty of care. For example, State higher education institutions, with a few honourable exceptions are in a shambles. Many of them are seen as breeding grounds for political parties, often a euphemism for gang warfare. The infrastructure, the pedagogies and the curricula are outdated —

of little value to current thought and of little relevance to current employers. Again the reaction to this has been rather simplistic. Under the garb of national standards, the National Commission for Higher Education and Research seeks to create a centralised behemoth that increases the degree of control over universities with little impact on outcomes. With no evidence of having managed older institutions well, with no apparent concerted effort to solving the problems that exist, the sweeping solution strikes again — an umbrella organisation that shall be the panacea.

Simplistic solutions, or a one-size-fits-all solutions, are never going to work in a country as massive and diverse as India. Our solutions have to be intelligently designed and honestly executed to meet our ambitions and hopes. A recent disappointment has been the much-talked about Aakash tablet computer that was to bring affordable access to those who had been excluded from the grand connected future. The target price, an ambitious \$35 (then ₹2,500), to be subsidised by the Government is to be designed and built indigenously.

A grand plan that was scoffed at by industry insiders, while those of us who have seen lean model miracles of *jugaad* happen, reserved our opinion. But, as with the examinations, and the institutions, the idea stood on faulty foundations. Dreams and aspirations are not plans, as it is being proved again with the shameful tablet story.

The story behind the grand simplistic solution is depressing. The tablet is far behind current technology with a touchscreen that is difficult to use. The speed of the machine is such that even simple sites take minutes to load. This substandard design now has to be fully manufactured in India. With this arbitrary constraint of *swadeshi* being placed on manufacture, the motivate of the project comes into question. Do they really mean it for children to use it as a learning device? If they do, then where is the broadband connectivity that should be in place before such devices are commissioned? The mind boggles at the myriad unanswered questions: How did such a project get approval? Do the decision-makers know what they are doing?

For a nation that must worry about training its demographic bulge generation, it is almost incredible that our headline projects are so ill-thought. While many good ideas may be simple, all simple ideas are not good. Simplistic ideas are worse; they either signal incompetence or disrespect for the people.

*(The writer is an education strategy consultant who has lived, worked and taught in London for a over decade. She is now based in New Delhi.)*



Daink Bhaskar Ranchi 07.03.2012, p-9

# आईआईएम राज्य सरकार के लिए खोजेगा इंजीनियर

- कांट्रैक्ट पर बहाल होंगे 500 जेई और एई
- आईआईएम ने ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग को भेजा सहमति पत्र

विशेष संवाददाता | रांची

राज्य सरकार ने कांट्रैक्ट पर रखे जाने वाले इंजीनियरों के चयन का जिम्मा भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान (आईआईएम, रांची) को देने का फैसला किया है। आईआईएम द्वारा सलेक्ट उम्मीदवारों को ही राज्य सरकार बहाल करेगी। प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना (पीएमजीएसवाई) के लिए अभियंताओं की भारी कमी के कारण राज्य ने फिलहाल कांट्रैक्ट पर नियुक्ति करने का निर्णय लिया है। प्रथम चरण

## क्या करेगा आईआईएम

इस नियुक्ति के लिए विज्ञापन निकालने से लेकर नियुक्ति पत्र भेजने तक का काम आईआईएम करेगा। प्रथम चरण की नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया के लिए राज्य सरकार आईआईएम को 5.5 लाख रुपए का भुगतान करेगी। क्या मिलेगा वेतन: कांट्रैक्ट पर रखे जाने वाले सहायक अभियंता को एकमुश्त 33 हजार और कनीय अभियंता को 19.5 हजार मिलेगा।

में 150 कनीय अभियंता (जेई) और 50 सहायक अभियंता (एई) दो वर्ष के लिए रखे जाएंगे। बाद में एक साल बढ़ाया जाएगा। इसके बाद करीब 300 और अभियंता नियुक्त किए जाएंगे। ये सभी ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग के अधीन काम करेंगे।