All about astrophysics

I am doing my BE in mechanical engineering. I have always been interested in astrophysics/ astrometeorology/ astrogeology. Will my BE do or will it cause a hindrance to my career in astrophysics? I do have a good knowledge of physics, mathematics.

Astronomy, the science that deals with the material universe beyond the earth's atmosphere and sometimes considered a sub-field of physics is further divided into several branches such as astrophysics, astrometeorology, astrobiology, astrogeology, astrometry, cosmology etc. All these branches together help to unravel the mysteries

of the universe. Astrophysics is the branch of astronomy that deals with the physical properties of celestial bodies and with the interaction between matter and radiation in the interior

celestial bodies and in interstellar space

Astrogeology is the science dealing with the structure and composition of planets and other bodies in the solar

Astrometeorology is the study of the theoretical effects of astronomical bodies and forces on the earths atmosphere. A doctoral degree is the usual educational requirement to become an astronomer, since most of the work tends to be related to research and development.

For a PhD, which is mandatory to do research, one should appear for the Joint Entrance Screening Test (JEST)

A number of reputed institutes in the country have come together to conduct JEST for enrolment of students in PhD/ Integrated MSc - PhD programmes in physics (including various inter-disciplinary research areas in physics) and Theoretical Computer Science. JEST is conducted for selecting candidates to be interviewed for admission to PhD programmes in Physics/ Theoretical Computer Science in these institutions in the country. The participating institutes

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Eligibility for JEST:

For Physics: MSc in Physics or MSc / ME / MTech in

- Candidates with an MSc in Mathematics will also
- be considered at IIA. • Graduates with a BE or BTech will also be considered at IIA, IUCAA, NCRA, JNCASR,
 - RRI, SNBNCBS and IMSc. • At IPR candidates should have a Master's degree in Physics, Engineering Physics, Applied Physics, etc. with at least 55%

Special Programmes:

- At HRI, candidates with a Bachelor's degree will also be considered for the Integrated MSc-PhD programme in
- At IMSc, graduates with BSc/ BE/ BTech degree will also be considered for admission to the MSc (by Research) programme in Theoretical Computer Science / Physics, as
- part of an integrated PhD programme in these disciplines. • At SNBNCBS, talented graduates with BSc (Physics) BE/ BTech degree will be considered for the Integrated
- MSc-PhD programme. • Integrated MTech-PhD Programme at IIA
- At Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, graduates with an MSc (Physics / Applied Physics) / BE/ BTech degree will be considered for the integrated MTech-PhD programme in subject areas mentioned above. Details of the programme can be found on the IIA webpage.

Details about Integrated Ph.D. programmes in Physics can be obtained by visiting the websites:

http://www.mri.ernet.in http://www.imsc.res.in

http://www.bose.res.in

While you are in your 7th semester, you can take up JEST for admission to Integrated MTech-PhD programme. Watch out for the notification appearing in leading newspapers/ Employment News during November/ December every year

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Career in animation

Indian gaming industry is expected to reach \$ 300 million by 2009. Introduction of newer technologies and platforms has facilitated the growth of the worldwide gaming industry. The global gaming market (from the demand perspective) was estimated at \$ 19 billion in 2005, and is expected to increase to \$ 36 billion by 2009, representing a CAGR of 17 percent for the period 2005-

The market for gaming development in India was estimated at \$ 30 million in 2005. It is expected to witness a CAGR of 78 percent and reach USD 300 million by 2009. Mobile gaming will dominate the market with its share in the total Indian gaming market (from the developers' perspective) expected to increase from 53 percent in 2005 to 68 percent by 2009. Key services currently outsourced in gaming include production and testing

In animation and as well as in gaming, a number of Indian companies are changing their business model and are moving from an outsourcing to a co-production model. India already offers a ificant cost advantage in animation and game development, as compared to other outsourcing destinations such as Taiwan a South Korea. A key factor restricting the growth of animation and gaming in India is the scarcity of skilled professionals. Though things are changing now and India's animation sector is witnessing a major beam. a major boom. Other companies are outsourcing animation from India for commercials and computer games. So, all-in-all, the future looks bright for those opting for animation.

Have details, comment or feedback for this column that you'd like to share with us? We invite information-based write-ups from our readers. Write to us at newsyoucanuse@indiatimes.co

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attitudes

Says 25-year old Krutika Nair, "The contemporary Indian woman is extremely independent, and capable of making her own decisions. Today, apart from handling household chores, she is also capable of financially aiding her family." Currently based in Canada, Nair took loans

to pursue a postgraduate programme in hospitality and tourism management at Niagara College, Canada. She now works at Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise as a Guest Services Agent. While taking on sole responsibility to pay her loans, she also regularly sends home money. Nair's example only corroborates the findings of a recent survey by Reuters. According to this, women can manage money better, and are more likely to strive harder than men to become financially independent.

Jolene Simethy 26, moved to Dubai about a year ago, only to pursue a career in travel and tourism. She says, "I'd been aspiring to be independent for a long time. I moved to Dubai as I wanted to know myself better, as well as gain international exposure." Ask her to describe the modern day, Indian woman, and she enumerates, "Open-minded, foresighted, decisive, independent, emotionally strong and unafraid of challenging societal norms.

More significantly, while both Nair and Simethy have relatives in Canada and Dubai respectively, they have opted to be independent, living alone. Also, unlike popular belief, security and

stability are not major issues. Says Simethy, I'm just taking one step at a time. As of now, I'm enjoying my life in Dubai, and have no plans of settling here forever. Let's see what the future holds.

Though career ranks high on the list, it does not take precedence over their passion. Fatema Jaliwalla, 24, quit a well-paying job as a research analyst for an investment banking firm, to pursue her desire of becoming a fashion designer. She says, "After one unsuccessful attempt, I managed to get into The National Institute of Design. Pune." However, Jaliwalla does not fail to mention that she had to secretly appear for the test at NID, as her parents thought it foolish to quit a high-paying job

in a reputed firm, to pursue something entirely different.

This also highlights the fact that despite success, today's woman still looks for the approval and support of her parents. Says 23-

year old Tania Sachdev who holds the International Master and Woman Grandmaster titles in chess, "Family is an integral part of one's life."

THE GLOOMY SIDE

However, amidst all this positivity, it's no secret that women are constantly eve-teased or exposed to physical abuse, simply because they do not conform to the behavioural standards set by others. Only education can

change this regressive attitude. Concurs Jalithoughts, ideologies and mindsets. It provides her the knowledge, skill and courage to chal-

lenge existing notions and systems." Says Nisha Susan, who initiated the recent Pink *Chaddi* Campaign against right wing activists who beat up two college girls in Mangalore, "We still have to get our people to accept the plurality of Indian culture. The Mangalore incident just demonstrates that although certain trends may be popular among the youth, some people fail to accept it. Education should encourage people to accept

diversity. The system should also encourage youth, including women, to question societal norms and take part in local governance.'

Simethy, too, feels that though the modernday girl has achieved great success in various fields, she has still not been able to maximise her potential. She says, "Women need to make the most of their ability, and balance it with maturity and a sense of responsibility. Also, there is still a huge population that is not a part of 'Modern India', and the problems faced by such women must be addressed immediately. Only then can the woman of modern India be truly liberated.'

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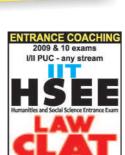
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