Press Kit – mySATHI

India's First On-Demand Entrance Exam for UG Admissions to Universities

Global • Inclusive • Cutting-Edge

mySATHI Launched: India's First On-Demand UG Admissions Exam Positions the Nation as a Global Thought Leader in Education

New Delhi, 27th August 2025 — The mySATHI Foundation today announced the launch of mySATHI (Scholastic Aptitude Test for HigherEd Institutions), India's first on-demand entrance examination for undergraduate (UG) admissions to universities. The initiative is designed not only to transform the domestic admissions landscape but also to establish India as a global contributor to assessment science and higher education policy.

A Paradigm Shift in Admissions
Every year, 11.4 million students in India enter undergraduate programs, part of the country's 43 million-strong higher education ecosystem, the second largest in the world. Historically, admissions have relied on examinations that privilege rote learning and memorization. mySATHI marks a departure: it is computer-adaptive, multilingual, stream-neutral, and AI-proctored, providing a scientifically rigorous yet accessible benchmark for universities and students alike.

By emphasizing the 4Cs — critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication — alongside academic aptitude, mySATHI aligns with global benchmarks such as the SAT, ACT, and GRE, while being uniquely responsive to India's linguistic, socio-economic, and institutional diversity.

Leadership Speaks
R. Subrahmanyam, Chairperson of the mySATHI Foundation and Governing Board, and former IAS officer (1985 batch), positioned the launch as part of a broader national vision:

"India needed a test that looks beyond marks and memorization. With mySATHI, we are building a platform that identifies potential — not just performance — and supports students in making wiser choices for their undergraduate admissions. This is about fairness, inclusivity, and global relevance."

Prof. Partha Pratim Chakrabarti, Chairperson of the Assessment Design Committee, former Director of IIT Kharagpur, and a globally recognized scholar in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, emphasized the intellectual rigor of the initiative:

"The challenge before us was to design a test that is scientifically robust, culturally neutral, and future-ready. mySATHI has been crafted with advanced psychometrics and adaptive algorithms, ensuring that we measure real capacity, not simply coaching outcomes. We believe this will set new benchmarks in global admissions science."

Global Advisory Board of Experts (GABE)

The credibility of mySATHI rests not only on its leadership but also on the Global Advisory Board of Experts (GABE), which integrates India's policy and academic leaders with global pioneers in assessment science. Importantly, ETS-nominated advisors lead the board, reflecting a commitment to contemporary, evidence-based design.

- Matt Johnson – Senior Advisor, ETS (USA)
- Lydia Liu – Vice President, Research, ETS (USA)
- Kadriye Ercikan – Senior VP, ETS Global Research (USA)
- Dr. Sadhana Parashar – Ex-Senior Director, National Testing Agency (India)
- Prof. Janat Shah – Founding Director, IIM Udaipur (India)
- Sridhar Rajagopalan – Co-Founder, Educational Initiatives (India)
- Bimal Rath – MD, Think Talent Services (India)
- Ajay Shukla – COO, IIT Delhi–Abu Dhabi (UAE)
- Pramath Sinha – Founder, Ashoka University (India)
- Mahesh Peri – Founder, Careers360 (India)
- Prof. Peninah Aloo Obudho – Vice Chancellor, Maasai Mara University (Kenya)
- Yonatan Glaser – Founder & CEO, Israel Partnerships (Israel)
- Raanan Haas – Chief Organizational & Occupational Psychologist (Israel)
- Dhanjay Jhurry – Managing Director, Uniciti Education Hub (Mauritius)

Rollout and Administration
Applications for mySATHI open on October 15, 2025, with student test administrations commencing in December 2025. The exam will be delivered by DEXIT Global Ltd. (formerly NSEIT) across 235 centres in India, while also being offered in Nepal, GCC countries, and East Africa in its inaugural year.

At a student fee of INR 500 per attempt, mySATHI has been deliberately priced to ensure affordability and accessibility, in contrast with international assessments that often cost several thousand rupees.

Transforming UG Admissions — Nationally and Globally
For universities, mySATHI provides holistic admissions dashboards, allowing institutions to go beyond cut-offs and board exam marks. For students, it offers a transparent, fair, and flexible pathway to university education, reducing dependence on coaching and providing actionable feedback on strengths and areas for improvement.

In the words of Mr. Subrahmanyam:
"Just as Aadhaar, UPI, and DigiLocker became India's global digital public goods, mySATHI has the potential to emerge as India's academic soft power in higher education. It will not only serve India's 11.4 million annual UG aspirants but also provide a benchmark for universities worldwide."

Universities, policymakers, and students can learn more about partnership opportunities and upcoming pilot programs at www.mysathi.org.

Newswire Release

mySATHI launches as India's first on-demand UG admissions exam with global ambitions

New Delhi, 27th August 2025 — The mySATHI Foundation today announced the launch of mySATHI (Scholastic Aptitude Test for HigherEd Institutions), India's first on-demand entrance exam for undergraduate (UG) admissions to universities.

Applications open on October 15, 2025, with the first test sessions beginning in December 2025. The exam will be administered by DEXIT Global Ltd. (formerly NSEIT) across 235 centres in India, and will also be conducted in Nepal, GCC nations, and East Africa in its inaugural year.

Unlike conventional admissions tests that prioritize rote learning, mySATHI evaluates the 4Cs — critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication — alongside academic aptitude. It is computer-adaptive, multilingual, stream-neutral, and AI-proctored, making it both rigorous and inclusive.

R. Subrahmanyam, Chairperson of the mySATHI Foundation and former IAS officer (1985 batch), said:
"India needed a test that looks beyond marks and memorization. With mySATHI, we are building a platform that identifies potential — not just performance — and supports students in making better choices for their UG admissions."

Prof. Partha Pratim Chakrabarti, Chairperson of the Assessment Design Committee and former Director of IIT Kharagpur, added:
"mySATHI has been built with advanced psychometrics and adaptive algorithms, ensuring we measure real capacity, not just coaching outcomes. It will set new benchmarks in assessment science globally."

The initiative is guided by a Global Advisory Board of Experts (GABE), led by ETS advisors — Matt Johnson, Lydia Liu, and Kadriye Ercikan (USA) — alongside distinguished Indian leaders and global academics from Africa, Israel, and Mauritius.

At INR 500 per attempt, mySATHI aims to be India's academic public good, offering affordability and access to millions of students while providing universities with transparent admissions dashboards.

With 11.4 million UG admissions annually, mySATHI aspires to do for higher education what Aadhaar and UPI have done for digital innovation — create a globally recognized, Indian-born benchmark.
For partnerships and participation details, visit www.mysathi.org.

Full Media FAQ (15 Q+A)

1. What is mySATHI?
mySATHI (Scholastic Aptitude Test for HigherEd Institutions) is India's first on-demand entrance exam for undergraduate (UG) admissions to universities. Unlike conventional entrance exams, mySATHI combines academic aptitude testing with measures of higher-order skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication — skills widely recognized as predictors of success in higher education and beyond.

The exam is computer-adaptive, multilingual, stream-neutral, and AI-proctored, making it not only scientifically rigorous but also inclusive and scalable. With its deliberate design, mySATHI aspires to serve both India's 11.4 million annual UG aspirants and the global community of universities seeking a credible, contemporary benchmark.

2. How is mySATHI different from CUET, JEE, or SAT?
While CUET and JEE are rooted in subject-specific testing, mySATHI takes a broader approach by assessing core cognitive and problem-solving skills. This makes it less dependent on coaching and rote learning.

Compared to global benchmarks such as the SAT or ACT, mySATHI is affordable, multilingual, and contextually tailored for India. Importantly, it is on-demand, allowing students to attempt the exam when they are best prepared, and to retake it if desired. This feature alone marks a significant shift from one-shot, high-pressure examinations.

3. When does mySATHI start?
Applications for mySATHI open on October 15, 2025, with the first student test administrations beginning in December 2025.

This timeline ensures that students applying for the 2026 admission cycle will have access to mySATHI as a credible, recognized pathway into UG programs. Universities will be able to align their admissions cycles accordingly, making the test immediately relevant.

4. Who conducts the exam?
The test will be administered by DEXIT Global Ltd. (formerly NSEIT), an established leader in secure digital assessments, with 235 physical test centres across India.

To underscore its global ambitions, mySATHI will also be offered in Nepal, GCC countries, and East Africa in its very first year. This positions it not just as an Indian innovation but as a globally available public good for admissions testing.

5. Who can take mySATHI?
Any student seeking admission into an undergraduate program at an Indian or international university is eligible to take mySATHI.

The design of the test — stream-neutral and multilingual — ensures that students from diverse educational backgrounds, whether from science, commerce, humanities, or vocational streams, can participate fairly.

6. How can universities use mySATHI?
Universities may adopt mySATHI in multiple ways:
- As a primary admissions route, replacing or complementing existing entry exams.
- As an alternative pathway for students who may not have appeared in CUET, JEE, or other exams.
- As a tool for scholarship awards, lateral entry, and special admissions categories.

The university dashboard provides detailed insights into student performance, enabling better student–program matching and more informed admissions decisions.

7. What benefits does mySATHI offer students?
For students, mySATHI is designed to reduce stress, increase fairness, and expand opportunity. Being on-demand, it removes the "one-day high stakes" pressure that dominates India's current entrance exam culture. Students may attempt it multiple times, with only their best score submitted to universities.

Additionally, the affordable fee (INR 500 per attempt) democratizes access. The psychometric reporting also helps students understand their cognitive strengths and areas for improvement, enabling better career choices.

8. What benefits does mySATHI offer universities?
mySATHI provides universities with a scientifically robust, globally benchmarked admissions tool that can significantly improve the quality of student intake. Instead of relying solely on board marks or rote-heavy exams, institutions gain insights into students' broader capacities to succeed in higher education.

It also reduces admissions complexity by creating a centralized, standardized pool of applicants. For private universities, this translates into cost savings on admissions processes. For public institutions, it ensures transparency and fairness.

9. How secure is the exam?
mySATHI is built on a multi-layered security architecture. AI-powered remote proctoring, anti-cheating algorithms, randomized question pools, and robust identity verification mechanisms ensure integrity across all test attempts.

DEXIT Global Ltd.'s experience in conducting large-scale, high-stakes digital assessments adds an additional layer of credibility and operational assurance.

10. Who governs mySATHI?
The initiative is anchored by the mySATHI Foundation, a not-for-profit entity committed to fairness, inclusivity, and excellence in admissions testing.

It is led by R. Subrahmanyam (Chairperson, mySATHI Foundation & Governing Board, former IAS officer) and Prof. Partha Pratim Chakrabarti (Chairperson, Assessment Design Committee, former Director, IIT Kharagpur).

11. How much does it cost?

The fee for students is INR 500 per attempt — deliberately kept low to maximize accessibility. This contrasts sharply with international benchmarks like SAT or ACT, which cost several thousand rupees.

Universities pay an annual empanelment fee that covers access to the applicant pool, analytics dashboards, and psychometric reporting. A portion of revenues is earmarked for need- and merit-based scholarships.

12. Will mySATHI be accepted globally?

Yes. mySATHI is designed explicitly to be a globally recognized benchmark, aligned with the SAT, ACT, and GRE in psychometric rigor but distinct in its inclusivity.

Discussions are underway with universities in the U.S., UK, Canada, Australia, Africa, and ASEAN, who are increasingly open to admitting Indian students through a more holistic admissions lens.

13. How does mySATHI help parents?

Parents benefit from a process that is fairer, less costly, and less dependent on coaching industries. With mySATHI, families spend less on preparation and gain access to a transparent evaluation of their child's aptitude.

The affordability of INR 500 per attempt also ensures that testing does not become an undue financial burden.

14. What role does ETS play?

The Educational Testing Service (ETS), USA, the world's leading assessment organization, plays a key advisory role through nominated experts: Matt Johnson, Lydia Liu, and Kadriye Ercikan.

Their presence on the Global Advisory Board of Experts (GABE) ensures that mySATHI adheres to the most contemporary standards in assessment design, validity, and fairness.

15. How many students are expected to take mySATHI?

In its inaugural year, mySATHI is targeting at least 100,000 test-takers. Within five years, it is projected to reach over 5 million annual candidates, making it one of the largest global entrance assessments.

This trajectory reflects both the size of India's UG admissions market and the test's international ambitions.