

Executive summary

- IIT Palakkad and IIT Tirupati started with a seat capacity of 120 candidates each. There were many takers for each and every one of these 240 seats. The “non-acceptance” rate is comparable to that of other IITs.
- Seat allocation was done jointly with NITs, IIITs (Triple-I-Ts) and Other-GFTIs. The deferred acceptance (DA) algorithm was used for seat allocation using multiple rank lists from three different examinations viz., JEE (Main) 2015 Paper-1, JEE (Main) 2015 Paper-2 and JEE (Advanced) 2015.
- Only 1.24 L out of the 1.52L eligible candidates registered to appear for JEE (Advanced) 2015 [this number was 1.26L in 2014]. Of these, nearly 25,000 candidates qualified for admission.
- In 2014, 52 seats were not allotted at the end of Round 3. In 2015, all the 10,006 seats were allotted in each and every round. The number of seats not accepted was 610, 130 and 50 at the end of Rounds 1, 2 and 3, respectively. If we had the latitude to go for another round of seat allotment, this number would have further decreased.
- Two changes were made in the model answer key based on feedback from the public.

In Paper-1, question no. 12 (physics), Option C alone (i.e., - - C -) or Option D alone (i.e., - - - D) were initially taken as correct answers. Based on public feedback, Options C and D (i.e., - - C D) was also considered as correct.

In Paper-2, question no. 48 (mathematics), no changes were mandated in the answer key. However, the paper setting team recommended awarding marks to all candidates considering the level of the question.

- AIR 1 scored 469 marks out of a total of 504; subject-wise marks are 165 in physics, 142 in chemistry and 162 in mathematics [out of 168 in each subject]. In 2014 also, AIR 1 had same percentage of marks.

- The All India topper among female candidates is ranked 47 overall. AIR 1 in OBC-NCL, SC and ST categories are placed 10, 39 and 633 overall, respectively. Among candidates with physical disability, toppers among the GEN, OBC-NCL, SC and ST categories are placed 4869, 5905 (1084 among OBC-NCL), 13737 (264 among SC and 14 among PwD) and 19,605 (95 among ST and 26 among PwD) overall.
- Architecture aptitude test: number of candidates registered 1631 (1420 in 2014), appeared 684 (376 in 2014) and qualified 514 (208 in 2014).

Question paper pattern

- To reduce, to the extent possible, candidates choosing answers by complete or partial guesswork, the pattern of question paper was changed: the number of “numerical answer type” (NAT) questions and penalty for incorrect answers were increased. Some of the multiple choice questions had only one correct answer and the rest had more than one correct answer. There was no explicit demarcation of these two types.
- Paper-1 had 8 NAT questions, 8 multiple choice type questions with one or more than one correct option and two matrix type questions (with one or more entries in Column II matching each entry in Column I). Paper-2 pattern was similar to that of Paper-1 except that paragraph type questions replaced matrix type questions.

Eligibility criteria

- Change in Class XII performance criterion for admission – a candidate has to be within the top 20 percentile of his/her Class XII board [as in the earlier years] OR must have 75% [GEN, OBC-NCL] or 70% [SC, ST, PwD] aggregate marks.
- The number of seats cancelled due to non-fulfilment of Class XII performance criteria decreased substantially (28 in all; nearly 150 in 2014).

- Class XII subjects to be considered for determining eligibility specified explicitly: physics, chemistry, mathematics, one language and any one subject other than the four considered already.

Joint seat allocation

- A comprehensive document on the business rules for seat allocation was prepared.
- Introduction of the concept of “computerised” validation of seat allocation. In the past, manual random checks were done to verify the correctness of seat allocation. This year, three independent teams of IIT faculty + staff validated seat allocation for compliance of each and every business rule.
- The testing and validation teams, along with the IITK implementing team camped at NIC for all four rounds of seat allocation and interacted very closely with NIC. Mock seat allotments were made on a daily basis, at least twice a day and validated to ensure that there are no mistakes in allotment.

Seat allocation related issues

- All qualified candidates were allowed to participate in joint seat allocation.
- Mock seat allotment on Day 4 of filling-in of choices helped candidates to get an idea of the programs they are likely to get. This allowed them to re-arrange / add choices.
- Allotment of seats for preparatory courses and de-reservation from Round 1 itself.
- There were three rounds of seat allotment for non-preparatory courses and four rounds for preparatory courses. Filling-in of choices was only once.
- Candidates were given the “slide” and “freeze” options while accepting seat in addition to the “float” option, the default option till last year.

- The tight schedule for seat allocation and the introduction of slide and freeze options meant that there was no scope for the withdrawal option.
- No “spot” round of admission at the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad.

Foreign nationals

- The number of foreign nationals who were successful in getting admission is 18 this year. Last year, it was only 2.
- An irresponsible Chennai-based reporter of Times of India published that foreign nationals are NOT allowed admission in IITs without verifying if this is true. This led to a panic among PIO and OCI card holders and there were a very large number of telephone calls, e-mails and RTIs.

Legal issues

- In compliance with the ruling of the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, “third” gender was added to the traditional “male” and “female”. Two third-gender candidates qualified for JEE (Advanced) 2015, one of them appeared for the exam but did not qualify.

Issues related to physically disabled candidates

- Candidates who used the services of an amanuensis [scribe] were made to sign a declaration along with the scribe and invigilator [photographs of the candidate as well as the scribe in the declaration were made mandatory].
- Every physically disabled candidate was allowed to meet a set of scribes one day before the examination and select a scribe of his/her choice.
- Compensatory time of 20 minutes per hour to be given to persons with disability extended to architecture aptitude test also.
- In consultation with the Maharashtra dyslexia association, a separate disability form was introduced for dyslexic candidates.