

IITJEE MYTHS and REALITY

The **Indian Institute of Technology Joint Entrance Examination** (popularly known as **IIT-JEE** or just **JEE**) is an annual college entrance examination in [India](#). A total of nine colleges use JEE as a sole criterion for admission to their undergraduate programs. The nine colleges include the seven [Indian Institutes of Technology](#), [IT-BHU Varanasi](#), and [ISM Dhanbad](#). It is conducted by the various IITs by a policy of rotation. It is the toughest engineering entrance exam in the world with a success rate of around 1 in 60. Candidates who successfully pass the IIT-JEE can apply for admission to the BTech (*Bachelor of Technology*), Dual Degree (*Integrated Bachelor of Technology and Masters of Technology*) and Integrated MSc (*Master of Sciences*) courses in the various institutes. Getting entrance into an IIT is often considered the pinnacle of achievement for a student of the science stream and the IITs along with the [IISc](#) attract most of the brightest students of the nation.

Examination Format:

JEE 2007 was last held on April 8, 2007 and is set to have two papers of three hours duration each. The two papers will each contain maths, physics and chemistry sections (in previous years, there were separate maths, physics and chemistry papers, each of two hours' duration). The syllabus of the examination is based on topics covered by the [CBSE](#) Board Examination (AISSCE) and the [ISC](#) Board Examination, though all topics of the AISSCE and the ISC are not included in the JEE syllabus. The pattern of questions in JEE is deliberately variable so as to minimize the chance of students getting selected by cramming up the probable questions. Currently, the examination has objective type question paper for all the subjects and uses machine readable [Optical mark recognition](#) answer sheets.

Given the importance attached to the JEE by students all over India, the IITs follow a rigorous procedure when conducting it every year. The exam is set by the JEE Committee (consisting of a group of faculty members drawn from the admitting colleges) under the tightest security. Multiple sets of question papers are framed and the set that is to actually be used on the day of the exam is known to only about five individuals. In the past, the JEE has been noted for originality in its questions.

Seats:

The number of students taking this examination has increased substantially each year with the JEE-2006 registering about 300,000 candidates (the number of exam-takers in each of the previous five years was under 200,000). The number of seats available in total is about 5500, indicating a selectivity of about 1 in 50. The break-up of seats for 2005 and 2006 is:

Institute	Intake (2005)	Intake (2006)
IIT Bombay	574	574
IIT Delhi	553	553
IIT Guwahati	302	365
IIT Kanpur	555	555
IIT Kharagpur	779	895
IIT Madras	550	520
IIT Roorkee	577	616
Total (IIT's)	3890	4078
IT-BHU	643	708
ISM Dhanbad	402	658
TOTAL	4935	5444

The age limit for appearing in IIT-JEE is 25 years. For candidates belonging to [SC](#), [ST](#) and PD categories, the relaxed age limit is 30 years. Also, starting 2007, a candidate can take the JEE two times at the most. This has been done mainly to reduce stress on students and discourage the concept of "cram schools" — where students are made to memorize all types of possible exam questions. Furthermore, from 2007 onwards, students who are selected for admission to an IIT cannot attempt the examination again in the future.

As above the national success rate is merely 2%, which is an obvious output for a competitive examination, like IITJEE?

Scenario in Patna and Bihar

Now let us take a look of the situation in Bihar, particularly Patna. Every year more than fifteen thousand students appear in IITJEE from here. The number of selected ones is a mere 60 or 70. **The success rate is 0.4 %**. It's really alarming. The performance from other towns of Bihar is even worse. Why is it like this when some places boast of sending more than 60% students to IITs? The situation is pathetic and it really needs a wise thought.

We are students of IIT Kanpur and recently we got an opportunity to see and talk to some of the aspirants in Patna. We were shocked to hear some absolute myths and much more, which follows:

During last few years a large number of coaching institutes have cropped up in Patna delivering the so-called guidance for securing a rank in IITJEE. Many people have made a great fortune out of all this. The good ones are very few. Most of them are established for the sole purpose of making money.

The ignorance worsens the situation even more. Generally students are unaware of the facts. Most of them believe over one million students appear every year and success rate less than 1 %. Recently one of the students asked us "Is the Chemistry paper going to be scrapped from IITJEE".

He said one of his teacher say so. We were astonished. No such news is there and it also doesn't seem to be rational. Such a change is obviously not going to take place. The JEE committee is always looking for some reforms but insensible rumors are irresponsible activities of some notorious coaching "quacks". ***All this is a consequence of the gap between the IITians and aspirants. We intend to bridge this gap.***

This clearly suggests that teachers in order to earn their fortune are playing with the life of students. Cheating people who trust them the most. They have forgotten the traditional role of Guru and the relation between a Guru and Sishya.

We intend to work upon the aspirant's basic idea and approach towards JEE. All this and many others have prompted us to come up with a workshop where heavy interaction between IITian and aspirants of IITJEE would be the major thrust. We have received a lot of encouragement and overwhelming response wherever we went, in particular student community in Patna has also welcomed us in a big way. During the workshop more than 40 IITians would be available to students for personal counseling. We would stress on what is really required to be IITian. We strongly believe that most of the students in Patna have the capability to clear IITJEE. What they lack is the right approach, proper planning, and methodology to crack JEE with ease.

Most students get confused due to flood of information and study material. Teachers confuse them even more by teaching a lot more than what is actually required. One needs to have a definite plan with well-defined planning structure and sources of information to produce best results. Students normally neglect Chemistry, which is most scoring, and do not pursue Physics in a proper way. Preparing Physics for the JEE needs more attention besides acquiring highly polished analytical skills. We aim to talk to each student in Patna in detail about all this. We have a lot more to tell but the space constraints us.

People can visit our website **www.i-desire.org** for further details and information.