Comprehensive Career Handbook

CAREER COMPASS

Stream Selection, Top Careers & Entrance Exams in Humanities, Science & Commerce After +2 & Study Abroad

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Career Guidance & Planning

How to Select a Stream after Class X

Once a student passes the 10th grade, he has the daunting task of choosing his career trajectory. It can be extremely challenging, especially when a student and his parents have access to very limited information.

As a student's career depends on this critical decision, it must be based on scientific and rational criteria. A few factors that can aid in the selection of a suitable career are as follows:

Psychometrics or Personality: The personality assessment is carried out to understand a student's personality characteristics. Certain job roles require specific personality traits to achieve optimal performance and job satisfaction. Thus, conducting an in-depth analysis of these characteristics is crucial while selecting a career path.

Aptitude or Skill: While personality traits are deeply ingrained and often manifest early in life, aptitude is cultivated progressively through experience and practice. Aptitude for a particular subject gives a natural flair to the student in that field. It is imperative to assess one's aptitude and make future career decisions accordingly.

Interest or Passion: We, as humans, are blessed with the ability to achieve what we pursue with our heart and mind. A lot of times, a strong desire and interest becomes the most important criteria for choosing a particular career path.

Common Pitfalls While Choosing a Career

Lack of Self-Exploration: Students need to spend more time understanding their interests, strengths, and weaknesses before making a decision. Without this self-awareness, they might choose a stream that is ill-suited to their talents and preferences.

Anchoring Career Decisions on Class X Performance: Many students make the mistake of basing their career decisions on their good performance in a particular subject in 10th grade. While academic results can provide some insights, they seldom reflect a student's true potential or interests in a particular subject. Focusing only on Class X grades can lead to choosing a stream that aligns differently with one's abilities or talent.

Peer Pressure: Many students select a stream based on what their friends choose rather than their interests or strengths. This can lead to dissatisfaction and underperformance in a field that aligns differently from their natural abilities or passions.

Chasing Trends or "Prestigious Careers": Some students select a stream because it is considered trendy or prestigious or because they believe it offers better job opportunities. This can be a risky move if one does not consider his/her interest or aptitude in that field.

Scientific Stream Selection

Students face three critical decision points in their academic journey: **after Class X, Class XII and after Graduation**. These stages are pivotal in shaping their future careers. However, it is important to note that career paths today are more flexible than in the past. Students have the freedom to change their career direction at any of these stages.

A 2023 study by University of Delhi "Choice Behaviour of Students in Choosing Streams and Disciplines in Higher Education" suggests that around 35% of students in India change their stream after Class XII.

Long-Term Considerations While Choosing Your Stream

Flexibility in Selecting Stream after Class XII

Changing your academic stream after Class XII is perfectly normal and often beneficial. Students who find Science challenging can shift to either Humanities or Commerce for their graduation. Commerce students can also transition to Humanities, although moving into Science might not be possible. If you struggle with Mathematics, it may be best to avoid it as it could become a burden in your academic pursuits. However, if you are comfortable with Mathematics it is advisable to continue studying it, as it can significantly broaden your career choices. Even if you haven't pursued the Non-Medical stream but have taken Mathematics in Class XII, it can open up a wide range of career options. These include careers in new-age fields such as Software Development, Coding, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity etc.

Considerations for Studying Abroad

It is advisable for students considering education abroad to pursue their undergraduate studies in India and opt for postgraduate programs abroad. Pursuing an undergraduate degree abroad can be substantially more expensive, and there is no guarantee of securing a desirable job afterwards. Additionally, adapting to new climates and social environments can be challenging for some students. On the other hand, postgraduate studies abroad offer specialized training with valuable global exposure and a potential for higher earnings upon completion, which makes it a better choice.

Future of Jobs

The Indian job market is rapidly evolving, with a clear shift towards skill-based employment over traditional degree-based hiring. A report by the World Economic Forum titled "Future of Jobs" highlights that analytical thinking, technological literacy and AI and Big Data will be top in-demand skills by 2027. The days when a degree alone guaranteed a job are largely over, except maybe in fields like Medicine and Engineering. Students should now prioritize acquiring future-relevant skills alongside their graduation. Today, there are numerous opportunities for students to enhance their skills through internships along with their studies.

Sensitization with Trends in Technology

In today's fast-paced world, it is important to have technological literacy. There is a myth that technology only means coding, which is not entirely true. Whether you are a Content Developer, an Engineer or even an Artist, being aware of global tech trends, regardless of your field is essential. Short courses on emerging technology offer a practical route to staying abreast with the latest technology. A 2023 study by LinkedIn revealed that 79% of recruiters prioritize candidates with demonstrably up-to-date tech skills.

Rise of Entrepreneurial/Startup Aspirations

There's a growing emphasis on fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among Indian students and educational institutions are offering programs and resources to nurture innovation and business acumen. Incubators, startup accelerators, and entrepreneurship courses are becoming increasingly common across Universities which encourage students to explore and pursue their own ventures.

Streams in Class XII and Related Careers

Medical

Core Medical Courses

- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)
- Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)
- Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS)
- Bachelor of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS)
- Bachelor in Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry (BVSc. AH)

Pharma

- Diploma in Pharmacy (D.Pharm)
- Bachelors in Pharmacy (B.Pharm)
- B.Sc Pharmaceutical

Paramedical Courses

- B.Sc Nursing
- Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPT)
- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (BOT)
- B.Sc Medical Lab Technology (MLT)
- B.Sc Microbiology
- B.Sc Forensic Science

Pure Science

- B.Sc Botany/B.Sc Zoology
- B.Sc Chemistry
- B.Sc Biotechnology
- B.Sc. Bioinformatics
- B.Sc Horticulture
- B.Sc. Physics

Non-Medical

Core Engineering*

Bachelors in Engineering (B.E)
- Mechanical
- Chemical
- Electronics & Communication
- Civil
- Electrical
- Computer Science

New Age Courses in IT

- Bachelors in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML)
- B.Sc Data Science/B.Sc Data Analytics
- B.Tech. in Cloud Technology
- B.Sc in Embedded Systems and Robotics
- B.Voc (Software Development)
- B.Tech. Information Technology and Mathematical Innovation (IT & MI)
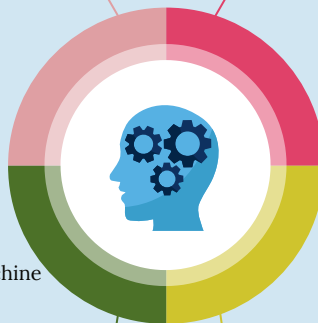
Specialized Courses

- Bachelors in Computer Applications (BCA)
- Bachelors in Information Management (BIM)
- Bachelors in Computer Science
- Bachelors in Physical Science (Combinations)
- B.Tech in Nanotechnology
- B.Tech in Mechatronics

Pure Science

- B.Sc. Mathematics
- B.Sc. Chemistry
- B.Sc. Physics
- B.Sc. Statistics

*Engineering offers over 50 specializations, with the following being the most popular

Commerce/Management

Bachelor Courses

- Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com)
- Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)
- Bachelor of Management Studies (BMS)

Professional Courses

- Chartered Accountancy (CA)
- Company Secretary (CS)
- Cost and Management Accountant (CMA)
- Association of Chartered Certified Accountant (ACCA)
- Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

New Age Courses

- B.Com Financial Markets
- BBA Artificial Intelligence
- BBA Business Analytics
- B.Com Information Systems Management

- BBA Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- BBA Event Management
- BBA Luxury Brand Management
- BBA Health Care Management

Humanities/ Arts

Bachelor Courses

- History
- Political Science
- Sociology
- English
- Psychology
- Economics
- Geography
- Hindi

Performing Arts

- BA in Performing Arts (covers disciplines like Music, Dance, and Theatre)

Miscellaneous

- BA in Journalism and Mass Communication
- BA in Environmental Studies
- BA in International Relations

Stream Agnostic Career Paths

Law
- Civil and Criminal Law
- Corporate Law
- Judiciary

Civil Services
- All India Service: IAS/IPS/IFS
- State Civil Services

Journalism
- Reporter/Editor
- Content Writer/Podcaster

Academics/Teaching
- School Teacher/ Professor
- Subject Specialist

Sports
- Professional Athlete
- Sports Coaching & Training
- Sports Management

New Age IT Jobs
- Digital Marketing/SEO
- UI/UX Design

TOP CAREERS TO FOLLOW

Engineering

Engineering is conventionally considered a safe career. The main entrance exam for engineering is JEE (Main), and those who qualify for JEE Mains can attempt JEE (Advanced) for admission into prestigious IITs. It normally takes 4 years to complete engineering in India.Traditional disciplines like Mechanical, Electrical, and Civil are losing ground to Computer Science and IT, driven by rapid technological advancements. Computer Science/IT is not limited to only coding jobs. It also offers a broad spectrum of opportunities which includes careers in AI, Data Science, Blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT) and Cybersecurity. Learning to code and acquiring specialized knowledge is not confined to engineering colleges anymore. A wealth of online learning opportunities now exists which allows anyone to develop coding skills from anywhere. Moreover, many companies are shifting towards off-campus recruitment with a focus on coding abilities rather than the prestige of an engineering college. This shift means that securing a job in tech is increasingly about skill proficiency and not just relying on pedigree of educational institutions.The average tuition cost in Engineering is government engineering college fees typically range from ₹6 lakhs to ₹10 lakhs (which includes accommodation) for the four-year program. For private engineering colleges the fees including accommodation ranges from ₹15 lakhs to ₹30 lakhs for four year program.

Medicine

Since the beginning of time, medical profession has been regarded as the noblest of all. Today, the adoption of technology in the healthcare sector has given rise to numerous specializations. From diagnosis and treatment to prevention, the field needs various kinds of experts at each step. Medicine is traditionally viewed as a secure and rewarding career, particularly for women. The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) is the main exam for entering into medical colleges in India. Completing an MBBS degree in India typically takes 5 years, including a one-year internship. For those pursuing postgraduate studies and further specialization, the journey can extend by an additional 4-6 years, making the total duration up to 11 years for comprehensive medical education. India has around 55,000 seats in Government Medical Colleges with affordable fees. However, tuition fees at Private Medical Colleges can reach up to Rs 1.5 to 2 crores which makes them significantly more expensive. Many students also opt to study medicine abroad. However, to practice in India, these students need to pass the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE), which has a low pass rate of just 23%!

Aviation & Merchant Navy

The Aviation and Merchant Navy sectors present rewarding career opportunities. Being a pilot is well-paid and sought after career, yet it requires intensive training and erratic working hours which adversely impacts the work-life balance. Obtaining a commercial pilot license typically costs between Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore. Merchant Navy is another career that offers opportunities for worldwide travel and high salaries but entails lengthy sea voyages which results in extended periods away from family. Although both careers offer exceptional prospects, they also pose considerable personal and professional challenges.

Mass Comm./English

The field of Mass Communication in India presents a vibrant and expansive array of career opportunities for those captivated by Media and Communication. This dynamic sector includes roles such as Anchor, Reporter, Journalist, Editor, Copywriter, Podcaster and PR Specialist, each playing a pivotal role in shaping public perception and crafting the narratives that define society.

Recently, the demand for professionals with a strong command of the English language has surged which has opened up new career avenues. Emerging roles in Search Engine Optimization, Content Creation for digital platforms like Blogs and Podcasts, Public Relations, Translation, Ghostwriting and Content Marketing are revitalizing a field once perceived as limited and less rewarding. The salaries in these domains are also competitive in nature. According to AmbitionBox, the average annual salary for a ghostwriter in India is ₹13.6 lakhs, with a range of ₹0.4 lakhs to ₹60.0 lakhs.

Gender Divide in JEE & NEET!

In the 2023 NEET exam, female registrants outnumbered males, comprising **55% of total registrations.** Conversely, in the JEE Mains, the registration demographics skewed heavily towards males, who constituted nearly **70% of registrants**. This stark difference underscores a pronounced gender-based divergence in stream selection, indicating prevailing preferences and disparities in the fields of medicine and engineering.

Career in Government/ Semi-Government Sector

Government jobs are renowned for their safety and security which provide robust job security, favorable work-life balance and comprehensive social security measures. Opportunities are available across various levels of seniority at the Central and State levels. These jobs can be broadly classified as:

Public Sector Banks (PSB): A career as a public sector bank officer presents a dynamic path in the financial sector. The selection for clerical and managerial roles in PSBs is conducted by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) and the State Bank of India (SBI). In addition to traditional banking roles, these banks also recruit for specialist positions such as Law Officer, Marketing Officer, and Agricultural Officer, among others. The job in PSB offers competitive salaries, incentives, and benefits like medical insurance and pension schemes with stable employment and work-life balance.

Staff Selection Commission (SSC): The Staff Selection Commission (SSC) conducts various recruitment exams to fill job vacancies in different government departments and ministries across India. SSC conducts exams for higher-level positions such as Sub-Inspector in Central Police Organizations, Junior Engineer, and Combined Graduate Level (CGL) examinations for recruitment to Group B and Group C posts. Any candidate irrespective of their graduation can take this exam.

Others: The Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) is a crucial examination for engineers aspiring to secure positions in top Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) in India. Other important examinations offering good career progression include Indian Engineering Services Examination (IES), Combined Medical Services Examination (CMS), Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) Examination, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Exams (Grade B Officer, Assistant) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Exams.

However, these advantages of government job are sometimes tempered by challenges such as bureaucratic red tape, lack of meritocracy, slow career progression and political interference, which can hinder efficiency and progress.

Chartered Accountant (CA)

Chartered Accountancy is a prestigious career in high demand across sectors like Auditing, Taxation, & Consultancy which promise a lucrative salary & substantial growth. The elaborate process involves clearing three levels of exams:

Foundation, Intermediate, & Final alongside undergoing articleship training. Candidates must fulfill practical training after passing both groups of the Intermediate Examination & completing four weeks Integrated Course on Information Technology & Soft Skills (ICITSS). It also includes completing the Advanced Integrated Course on Information Technology (AICITSS) after Practical Training but before appearing in the Final Exam. AICITSS is a combination of Management & Communication Skills (MCS) Course & Advanced Information Technology Training. Placement opportunities post-CA are vast and lucrative, with CAs being highly sought after. Notably, many Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) in India are Chartered Accountants which highlights their value and expertise in financial management. Their rigorous training and comprehensive understanding of accounting principles make them the preferred choice over MBA Finance graduates in many industries. However, achieving this status is challenging due to the notoriously tricky Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) exam structure which is known for its low pass rates (8-10%) and mostly requires multiple attempts. The path to becoming a CA is often prolonged (5-8 years) & usually extends beyond the standard course. It can be safely said that starting CA is easy however completing it is difficult.

According to PayScale, the average salary for CA graduates in India is around INR 8.08 LPA, with possibilities reaching up to INR 20 LPA based on experience and job role.

Management

A career in management offers exceptional versatility, which allows professionals to work across various industries and sectors. There are three pathways to study Management in India:

Graduation in Management: Undergraduate programs like Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) provide a strong foundation in business which equips students with essential skills for managerial roles in various industries. With a duration typically spanning three years, BBA courses cover subjects like Marketing, Finance, Human Resources, and Operations.

5 Year Integrated MBA from IIMs & Top Colleges: Beyond the traditional BBA, 5-year MBA or Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) from IIMs is a smart choice to pursue Management right after Class XII. The IPM program provides students with the option to either graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Management (usually BBA) after three years or complete the integrated program which lasts for five years and get an integrated degree in Management. Apart from 5 IIMs (Indore, Rohtak, Jammu, Ranchi, Bodhgaya), many prestigious institutes like the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), NALSAR Hyderabad and TAPMI Manipal also offer 5 year integrated MBA. Pursuing 5-year-IPM from top universities not only ensures 100% placement but also boasts salary packages comparable to those of MBA graduates.

After Graduation: MBA programs in India offer specialized knowledge and practical skills essential for leadership roles in various industries. With a duration typically ranging from one to two years, MBA courses cover subjects such as Finance, Marketing, Operations, and Strategic Management. One of the most compelling reasons to pursue an MBA in India is the lucrative salary packages offered to graduates. In premier Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) the average salary package often exceeds 30 Lakhs per annum. Even MBA from Tier-II B-Schools offers average salaries ranging from Rs 10 to 15 Lakhs per annum. Common Admission Test (CAT) is a single exam through which different IIMs select candidates for admissions. Apart from CAT, there are many exams like XAT, NMAT, SNAP, CMAT, MAT etc, which serve as a gateway to prominent B-Schools in India.

While management offers significant advantages, there are concerns about the rapid increase in management colleges across India, leading to inconsistent education quality.

CAT 2023 Registration witnessed the highest number of applicants (nearly 3 Lakh) since its inception.

Civil Services / Bureaucracy

A career in Indian Bureaucracy is highly esteemed with Civil Services offering a pathway to prestigious roles like IAS, IPS, or IFS officers. Each year, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) draws lakhs of aspirants vying for these positions. State governments hold similar exams for State-level government jobs. The process of the UPSC exam involves three stages, starting with the preliminary examination, followed by the main examination and culminating in the personality test (Interview). Each stage tests candidates on a wide range of subjects, including General Studies, Optional Subjects, and Essay Writing. Successful candidates are then allocated various services based on their ranks and preferences. Starting from the entry-level position, officers gradually climb the ranks through years of service and performance evaluations. The pinnacle of a bureaucrat's career is often reached upon attaining the position of Cabinet Secretary, the highest-ranking civil servant in the government. International exposure is another aspect of a career in Civil Services. IAS/IFS officers are deputed for bilateral or multilateral assignments in Foreign Countries or International Organizations like United Nations. These assignments typically involve representing India's interests, negotiating agreements, and collaborating on global issues.

However, the UPSC exam is infamously challenging with a success rate of only 0.1%. Aspirants typically invest 4-5 years in dedicated preparation, as clearing the exam in the first attempt is exceptionally rare.

Over 60% of candidates selected for the Civil Services Exam in recent years hail from Engineering background.

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Law

The realm of legal careers has significantly diversified over the years, offering opportunities beyond traditional roles. Just like IITs are known for engineering and AIIMS for medicine, National Law Universities (NLUs) are premium institutions imparting law education in India. Out of the 26 NLU's, 24 NLUs accept the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) as the basis for admissions. Some of the career pathways after Law are:

Law-related Domains: There are two ways to enter the field of Law in India. First is the 5-year law program which offers BA.LLB/B.Com.LLB/BBA.LLB to students. In most of the top law universities like NLUs, 5 year integrated law degree is offered. The placement opportunities following this course are excellent and offer attractive salary packages. Another way to pursue law in India is by pursuing LLB after graduation. Some of the top universities like Delhi University offer LLB courses after graduation. Career options after graduation are quite wide. Individuals can establish their own private practice by choosing to specialize in areas like Criminal Law or Taxation Law based on their interests. Apart from this, in India, the corporate sector is witnessing a remarkable surge in the demand for legal expertise. Law graduates are also highly sought after in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), where they hold esteemed roles as Law Officers.

This career path is renowned for its stability and lucrative rewards, making it a coveted choice among legal professionals aiming for both Financial Security and professional fulfillment.

Judiciary: The Indian Judiciary offers a distinguished career path for law graduates. Judges uphold the law, deliver justice, and safeguard fundamental rights. The judiciary commands immense respect and social prestige, arguably even surpassing the Civil Services. The Judicial Services Examination (Civil Judge/Magistrate) is the entry point for law graduates into the judicial services. The examination is conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the State govt. jointly. The eligibility criteria include holding an LLB degree and being enrolled or qualified to be enrolled as an advocate. Successful candidates start their judicial careers as Civil Judge (Junior Division) and Judicial Magistrates handling civil or criminal cases respectively. Civil Judges (Jr. Division) can be promoted to Civil Judge (Sr. Division) and then to the position of District Judge based on seniority and performance. For experienced advocates, entry into the Higher Judiciary as a District Judge is through direct recruitment via competitive examinations conducted by the respective High Courts. Candidates must have a certain number of years of practice as a lawyer (usually 7 years). District Judge handles significant civil and criminal cases in a district. They can also be appointed as Session Judges, where they preside over criminal cases requiring severe sentences.

In India, the District Judge holds the highest judicial position in a district. In addition to adjudicating civil cases, they serve as the Sessions Judge during criminal proceedings.

Judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court are not recruited through any competitive exam but are appointed by the President of India based on recommendations from the Collegium System, which consists of the Chief Justice and Senior Judges.

Defence

For many young Indians, a career in the defence forces represents the pinnacle of service and national pride. The Armed Forces offer a chance to be a part of something bigger and to contribute to the nation's security. For officer level roles, Defence stream offers an entry route in the Officer Cadre after Class XII as well as after Graduation:

After Class XII: National Defence Academy (NDA) examination is one of the most prestigious examinations for entering the defense services after Class XII which is conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) twice a year. This exam opens doors to the Army, Navy, and Air Force wings of the NDA. Candidates must have passed Class XII or equivalent examinations. For the Air Force and Naval Wings, students must have taken Physics and Mathematics. For those students who are interested in joining the technical branches of the Army, Technical Entry Scheme (TES) is the best choice. To gain entry through this scheme, it is mandatory to take the JEE Mains examination and the candidates must have passed Class XII with a minimum aggregate in Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics. Just like the Army, the Indian Navy also offers its own Technical Entry Scheme (TES).

After Graduation: The Combined Defence Service (CDS) exam is one of the most popular ways for graduates to enter the Indian Armed Forces. Conducted twice a year by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), it offers entry into the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Indian Naval Academy (INA), Air Force Academy (AFA), and Officers Training Academy (OTA). University Entry Scheme (UES) is another mode of getting into defence services and this entry is specifically for engineering students in their pre-final year. The selection is made through campus interviews followed by an SSB interview. Technical Graduate Course (TGC) Entry is specifically for

Engineering graduates from recognized universities. The Army, Navy, and Air Force conduct their separate TGC exams, with eligibility varying slightly based on the service. Finally for students interested in joining Air Force, Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT) is conducted for Flying Branch, Ground Duty (Technical), and Ground Duty (Non-Technical) branches.

Civilian Roles within Defence: Apart from core defence roles, there are many opportunities open for civilians. These include opportunities in the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) which allow civilians to contribute their expertise in technology, engineering, and management.

A career in defence not only offers prestige and opportunities for advancement but also provides substantial benefits, including housing, medical care, and educational support for families. However, it comes with its own set of challenges such as exposure to safety risks, the necessity for frequent relocation and the often challenging transition back to civilian life after service, requiring adjustment and adaptation.

Design

Design as a career caters to those with a creative and imaginative approach to various fashion and design aspects. Key entrance exams like the Undergraduate Common Entrance Exam for Design (UCEED) by IIT Mumbai, National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) and the NIFT Entrance Test (NIFT-ET) pave the way into this field. Career in design includes certain natural choices such as -

UI/UX Design: Requires a mix of visual design skills, an understanding of user psychology, and web principles, blending creativity with technical knowledge.

Fashion Design: A dynamic field where designers use patterns, colours, and fabrics to innovate and reflect society, focusing on clothing and accessories.

Pure Design: Focuses on the core aspects of design across disciplines like Graphic, Industrial, and Interior Design, prioritizing creativity and aesthetics without practical constraints.

Architecture: Merges art and science in designing functional, beautiful spaces, overseeing projects from concept to completion.
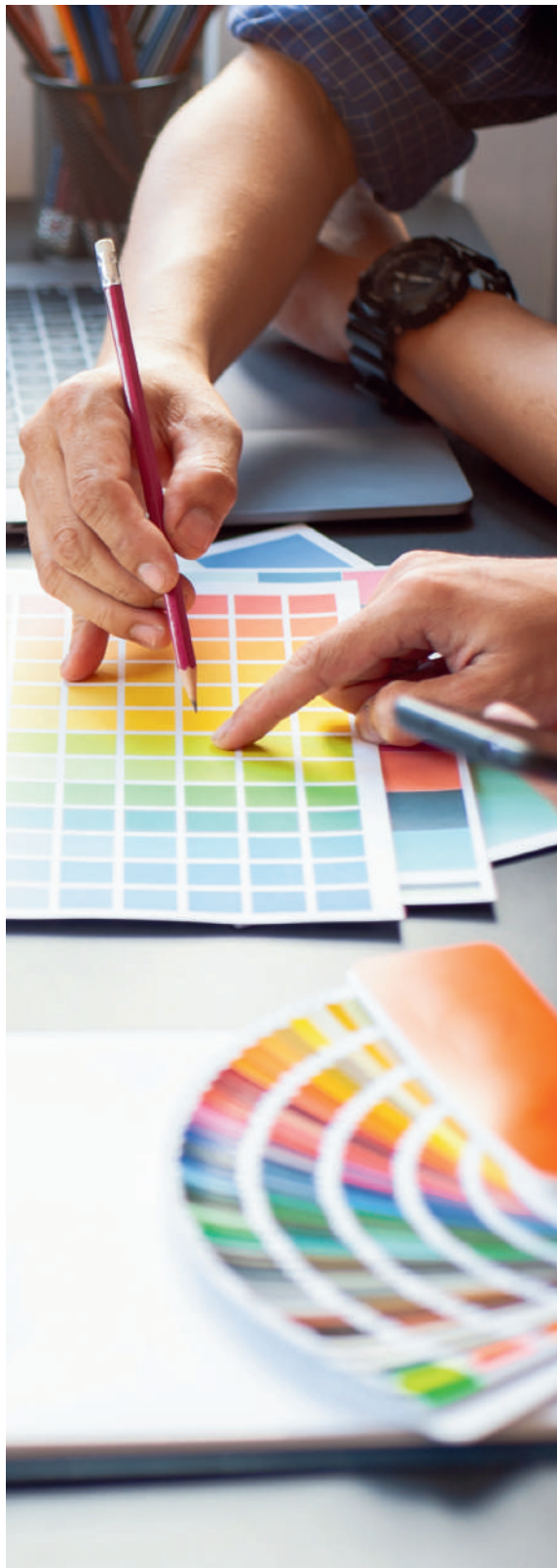
Beyond Coding: New Age IT Careers

According to a report by McKinsey, up to 15% of the global workforce, or nearly 400 million workers, may be displaced by AI by 2030.

New Age IT careers have become increasingly popular, providing a gateway for individuals from diverse educational backgrounds to enter the field. Remarkably, entry into these dynamic sectors does not necessarily require an IT-specific degree. Anyone with a bachelor's degree and basic analytical abilities regardless of their mathematical background can explore these emerging areas. Students skilled in Marketing, Writing and Design now have opportunities to pursue cutting-edge careers in Digital Marketing, SEO, and UI/UX Design. Additionally, many Universities now offer these specialized courses online, allowing students to enhance their skill set alongside their studies. For instance, IIT Madras offers free online AI courses to students currently pursuing their graduation or postgraduation

Programming: Programming involves two main areas: hardcore coding and front-end development.

Hardcore coding includes roles like Full Stack Developer which is usually done by engineers. However, graduates with a Bachelor in Computer Application (BCA) or non-engineers with a Math background can also learn programming. Front-end developers are responsible for designing and implementing the user interface and user experience of websites and web applications. They use technologies like HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to create visually appealing and interactive interfaces that engage users. Becoming a front-end developer doesn't require an engineering degree and any graduate can learn the necessary skills like web development in 6 months to 1-year period.

Content Marketing: Content marketing career in India is rewarding for those with excellent writing skills, creativity and strategy.

This role involves crafting compelling content to draw and keep customers and boost business. The rise in digital content has opened doors for content marketers in e-commerce, media, advertising, and corporate communications. While no specific educational background is necessary, essential skills include idea generation, creativity, and meticulousness.

Search Engine Optimization (SEO): In India, a career in Search Engine Optimization (SEO) involves specialized strategies to enhance website visibility and rank higher on search engine result pages.

SEO professionals are in high demand across various industries, tasked with Keyword Research, Optimizing Web Content, and improving user engagement to drive organic traffic. This role requires a deep understanding of search engine algorithms, analytics, and trends in digital marketing. This domain is open for anyone who is interested in the domain and students after Class XII can directly learn the skill from online platform like Google Courses, Upgrad etc. In addition to the courses, one needs to gain hands on practical experience in SEO domain.

Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning Jobs: AI/ML roles involve applying a combination of Mathematics, Statistics, and programming to develop algorithms and models that enable machines to learn from data and make predictions or decisions autonomously.

These professionals analyze data, build and train machine learning models, and deploy them in various applications across industries to solve complex problems and improve efficiency. These courses can be pursued either as part of a degree program or independently through platforms like Upgrad, Great Learning, and others, providing flexibility and accessibility to learners.

UI/UX Designing: A career in UI/UX design involves creating user-friendly interfaces and experiences for digital products such as websites and mobile apps.

Professionals in this field collaborate with stakeholders, conduct user research, and design interfaces that prioritize usability and aesthetics to enhance the overall user experience. To pursue a career in UI/UX in India one needs to gain skills through formal education or specialized online courses. One needs to build a strong portfolio with internships, freelance projects, and personal work.

Digital Marketing: In India, a career in Digital Marketing offers a dynamic landscape for individuals keen on leveraging online platforms to drive brand awareness and sales. This field caters to the growing digital consumption and the essential need for a digital presence across sectors. Digital Marketing roles include digital campaign strategists who run digital marketing campaigns on social media platforms like Meta, Google, etc. It requires no background in engineering and any graduate can learn the skills on online platforms.

Uncharted Careers: Unique and Lesser Known Career Pathways

Actuaries: A career in actuary focuses on financial risk analysis through Mathematics and Statistics. Governed by the Institute of Actuaries of India (IAI), the profession offers substantial rewards including high demand, excellent earning potential, and job stability. Actuaries play a pivotal role in the insurance and pension sectors which influences financial strategies and risk management. This career is ideal for individuals skilled in quantitative analysis and problem-solving.

Event Management: A career in event management in India is a dynamic and thriving choice for those with a passion for creating memorable experiences. Event managers orchestrate various events from weddings and corporate conferences to concerts and festivals. With the country's growing demand for professionally managed events, this field is flourishing. It's a rewarding career choice for individuals who excel in organization, communication, and problem-solving.

Sports Management: In India, sports offer a multifaceted career landscape beyond just playing on the field. Professionals can explore diverse roles in Sports Management, Sports Journalism, Coaching, Sports Medicine, and Sports Marketing. The growing sports industry has created opportunities for individuals passionate about athletics, where they can contribute to sports development at various levels. These careers provide a chance to combine a love for sports with specialized expertise, making them an attractive choice for those seeking dynamic and fulfilling professions in India.

Hospitality and Tourism: A career in the Hospitality sector is a gateway to a dynamic and customer-centric industry. It offers a plethora of opportunities, including hotel management, culinary arts, event planning, and tourism management. Aspiring professionals can become hotel managers, chefs, restaurant owners, event coordinators, or travel agents. Additionally, careers in hospitality extend to roles in hospitality consulting, cruise management, and airline services. With the sector's continuous growth and global demand for hospitality services, individuals can embark on diverse and rewarding career paths in this vibrant industry.

Performing Arts: A career in Performing Arts in India offers a vibrant and culturally rich journey for talented individuals. It encompasses a wide range of options, including acting, dance, music, theatre production, and more. Aspiring artists can find opportunities in Bollywood, regional cinema, theatre, dance troupes, and music bands. Performing Arts professionals excel as choreographers, directors, music composers, and stage designers. India's diverse culture and entertainment industry provides a platform for passionate individuals to carve out successful and creatively fulfilling careers in the world of performing arts.

Entrepreneurship & Startups: Understanding What It Takes

Entrepreneurship in India is a beacon of innovation and resilience which reflects the spirit of a nation that is rapidly advancing on the global stage. Understanding what it takes to embark on this path is crucial for anyone looking to navigate the complex yet rewarding landscape of Indian Entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship in India celebrates the bold spirit of anyone willing to pursue an idea regardless of their background or field of study. This inclusivity has paved the way for diverse innovations, from technology to traditional crafts, proving that great ideas can come from anywhere. One need not be an engineer from IIT or an MBA from IIMs to be a successful Entrepreneur, all one needs is sheer determination to make a difference. Icons like Dhirubhai Ambani, who founded Reliance Industries without an advanced degree underscore the fact that practical experiences, resilience, and vision hold immense value.

Education and Talent Pool

India's education system has been churning out a skilled workforce that is entrepreneurial and ready to innovate

Government Support and Initiatives

Programs like "Startup India," "Make in India," and "Digital India" offer incentives to budding entrepreneurs

Innovative Solutions for Local Problems

Many Indian startups have successfully addressed local problems with innovative solutions

Key Drivers of India's Thriving Startup Ecosystem

Growing Economy and Market Size

India is fastest growing Economy along with a rapidly rising consumer class

Cultural Shift Towards Entrepreneurship

There has been a noticeable cultural shift in India with entrepreneurship becoming a respected and sought-after career choice

Digital Revolution and Widespread Internet Adoption

Rise of mobile technology has opened up new avenues for startups to reach consumers directly

Stages of a Startup's Growth Journey

Stage I: Opportunity Identification and Market Research
- The entrepreneurial journey begins with opportunity identification. This is where an entrepreneur identifies a problem or unmet need in the target market and brainstorm potential solutions.
- Conducting thorough market research is crucial at this stage. This involves analyzing existing businesses, understanding customer needs and pain points, and evaluating the competitive landscape.

Stage II: Incubation
- Incubation Centers are institutions designed to support early-stage startups by providing essential resources such as office space, mentorship, and access to technology. Incubators help entrepreneurs shape their ideas into viable business models and guide them through the initial phases of development.

- Notable examples in India include the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) incubation centres, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) incubation centres and private setups like T-Hub and NASSCOM Startup Warehouse

Stage III: Early-Stage Funding
- *Bootstrapping*: Founders use their savings or borrow from family and friends to fund their ventures.
- Angel Investors: High net-worth individuals who provide capital for startups, usually in exchange for convertible debt or ownership equity.
- *Venture Capital:* There are numerous venture capital firms in India that focus on early-stage investments, including Sequoia Capital, Accel, and Blume Ventures. These firms not only provide capital but also strategic guidance to help startups scale.
- *Government Grants and Schemes*: Various government-led schemes such as the Atal Innovation Mission, MUDRA loans (under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana), and Atal Incubation Centres (AIC) grants support early-stage startups financially and logistically.

Stage IV: Product Development and Market Launch
- Here the focus is on finalizing the product or service with an aim to meet market demands effectively. This often involves iterative development based on feedback received during the incubation phase and initial market testing.
- After this, the product/service is launched to the public. Marketing strategies developed during the incubation period to reach target customers and generate sales are deployed at this stage.

Stage V: Growth and Scaling
- *Series A/B/C Funding:* This is the next major funding round where startups typically raise larger sums from Venture Capital firms (VCs) or angel investor groups. The focus here is on scaling operations, expanding user base and achieving product-market fit.
- *Market Expansion and Partnerships*: With increased funding, startups can invest in marketing, sales, and potentially enter new markets. Strategic partnerships can also be explored to accelerate growth.

Stage VI: Acquisition or IPO:
- *Acquisition*: Some startups might be acquired by larger companies looking to expand their portfolio or enter new markets. This can be a lucrative exit strategy for founders and early investors.
- *IPO (Initial Public Offering)*: For high-growth startups, going public through an IPO allows them to raise significant capital from the stock market. This can fuel further expansion and brand recognition.

The journey of an entrepreneur in India is unique, influenced by its diverse culture, economic dynamics, and an ecosystem that is increasingly supportive of startups. Building a successful business is an endurance race and not a quick sprint. A budding entrepreneur should be prepared for setbacks, challenges, and unforeseen circumstances along the way. However, with a well-defined vision, a dedicated team, and a willingness to adapt and learn a budding entrepreneur can navigate these hurdles and emerge stronger. There has never been a better time to be an entrepreneur in India.

DECODED: STARTUP LINGOS

Unicorn: A privately held startup valued at over $1 billion.

Elevator Pitch: A brief, persuasive speech used to spark interest in what a startup is doing.

MVP (Minimum Viable Product): A basic, functional version used to validate market demand before full development.

CAC (Customer Acquisition Cost): The average cost of acquiring a new customer.

Burn Rate: The rate at which a startup spends its cash reserves.

Churn: The rate at which customers stop using a service or product.

Freemium: A business model where basic services are provided free of charge while more advanced features must be paid for.

Top Entrance Tests to Take after Class XII

Common University Entrance Test (CUET): A common test for Humanities, Commerce, Science and Engineering

The Common University Entrance Test (CUET) is an all-India examination that has been formulated under the National Education Policy (NEP) as a single examination for different programs of participating Universities. It covers all graduate programs in Humanities, Commerce, Science and even Engineering.

The exam is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), and the first edition of this exam was held in 2022. In 2023, more than 250 Universities participated in CUET, which included distinguished Universities like Delhi University (DU), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). This number of participating Universities is likely to go up to 500 in future.

The CUET seems like one test, but it includes three separate tests combined into one.

Almost all the CBSE school students will take the first test of the English Language, which is different from the English asked in the CBSE Board Exam. This test evaluates students on Reading Comprehension, Grammar and Vocabulary.

The second test is based on the Domain Subject (Class XII Subjects). A student can take either 4 or 5 domain subjects, which he may or may not have taken as class subjects in Class XII. CUET covers only the NCERT +2 syllabus.

The third test is the General Test, which has Basic Mathematics, Basic Reasoning and Mental Ability and Basic General Knowledge Questions.

The CUET result is generally declared within a few days after the conclusion of the last slot of the exam. A student gets a result in the form of a percentile for every subject he/she has taken. For example, if a student has taken five papers, including Language, General Test, Physics, Chemistry and Math, then the student will receive an individual Percentile score for each subject. Percentile is

one's rank depicted in percentage form, e.g. if a student scores 92%ile, it means that he is among the top 8% scorers in the subject and 92% of students have scored less than him.

In most schools skills required to ace General Test and CUET English are not taught as they are not part of the official syllabus. As a result, students must prepare for these areas outside of school.

Download CUET Previous Years Papers

Winds of Change: National Education Policy, 2020

Four-Year Undergraduate Program: NEP has recommended a four-year undergraduate degree instead of a three-year undergraduate degree. The four-year program allows students to choose between a 3-year UG degree or a 4-year "Honours" degree. The 4-year program includes a research project, research methodology, and research work.

Multidisciplinary Choice of Course: The NEP 2020 allows students to choose more than one course, introducing the option to pursue Humanities alongside Engineering, departing from traditional academic boundaries.

Academic Bank of Credit (ABC): The innovative ABC initiative facilitates academic flexibility by enabling the storage, accumulation, and transfer of credits earned from different Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). This will promote seamless mobility across institutions and will empower students to customize their education according to their interests and career aspirations.

Compulsory Indian Language in Class XII: NEP mandates the inclusion of an Indian language in Class XII, likely Hindi for most students, aiming to preserve and promote linguistic diversity while enhancing cultural integration.

Coaching Ban Below Age of 16: The prohibition on coaching below the age of 16 aims to reduce reliance on external coaching and encourage schools to provide comprehensive guidance, fostering a more holistic approach to education.

Engineering

JEE (Joint Entrance Exam)

Quick Facts about JEE

- The JEE Main exam is conducted online as a Computer-based Test.
- The exam is conducted in 2 phases.
- **JEE Main:** This is a screening exam for JEE Advanced for IITs. Most of the non-IITs use the score in JEE Mains. The JEE Main exam is held **twice** a year usually in months of Jan and May.
  JEE Advanced: This exam is essential to gain admission into IITs and IISc. Only students who qualify for the JEE Main exam are eligible to write this exam. JEE Advanced is held **once** a year.
- The duration of the exam is 3 hours.
- The syllabus for the JEE exam comprises Physics, Chemistry, and Math.
- The level of difficulty of the exam is moderate for JEE Main and high for JEE Advanced.
- NTA releases JEE results in the form of percentile scores. The JEE Main percentile scores are not the actual marks but the normalized marks of candidates.

For more details, visit

www.jeeadv.ac.in   www.jeemain.nta.ac.in

Birla Institute of Technology and Science Admission Test (BITSAT)

Quick Facts about BITSAT

- The BITSAT exam is conducted online as a Computer-Based Test.
- The BITSAT exam is held two times a year.
- The duration of the exam is 3 hours.
- The BITSAT syllabus includes five subjects: English Proficiency, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Logical Reasoning.
- The candidate should have obtained a minimum of 75% marks in Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics subjects in Class XII Boards.
- BITS Pilani offers direct admission to all the students who secure first ranks in their respective board examinations, irrespective of their BITSAT score.
- The level of difficulty is usually moderately difficult.
- The BITSAT results are released in the form of marks/ scores.

For more details, visit

www.bitsadmission.com

Other Important Exams for Engineering

Entrance Exam	College Name	Official website	
Common University Entrance Test (CUET)	Multiple Colleges across India	exams.nta.ac.in/CUET-UG	
VIT Engineering Entrance Exam Vellore Institute of Technology (VITEEE)	Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT)	viteee.vit.ac.in	
SRM Joint Engineering Entrance Exam (SRMJEEE)	SRM Institute of Science & Technology	www.srmist.edu.in/admission-india	
Manipal Entrance Test (MET)	Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT) Manipal	www.manipal.edu/mit/program-list/btech.html	

NOTE: In many Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), students have the opportunity to apply for a change of branch at the end of their first year, based on their academic performance. This option is highly competitive and usually depends on the availability of seats in the desired branch and the student's Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA).

Top Engineering Colleges

India's top engineering colleges, including the 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), are celebrated for their academic excellence. To get into elite IITs like Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Madras, and Kharagpur, especially for sought-after majors like Computer Science Engineering, you should ideally aim for a JEE rank under 5000. For other IITs and less competitive majors, a rank between 5000 and 15,000 may work, depending on your category and chosen program. For reputable colleges such as NITs and IIITs, the acceptable rank extends up to 60,000-1,00,000. Beyond 1,00,000 rank, the difference in educational quality among colleges becomes less noticeable, indicating that beyond this point, colleges offer more or less similar educational experiences.

List of Top Engineering Colleges in India – IITs

For more information, scan the QR Code: **jeeadv.ac.in**

Jammu
Mandi
Ropar
Roorkee
Delhi
Kanpur
Varanasi
Patna
Guwahati
Jodhpur
Gandhinagar
Dhanbad
Kharagpur
Indore
Bhilai
Bhubaneshwar
Bombay
Hyderabad
Dharwad
Goa
Tirupati
Madras
Palakkad

Most Preferred IITs

Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
(Cutoff Rank* in JEE Adv: 3500)

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
(Cutoff Rank* in JEE Adv: 5600)

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
(Cutoff Rank* in JEE Adv: 7300)

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
(Cutoff Rank* in JEE Adv: 8000)

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
(Cutoff Rank* in JEE Adv: 8300)

*General Category

List of Top Engineering Colleges in India – NITs

Most Preferred NITs

National Institute of Technology, Karnataka
(Cutoff Rank* in JEE Mains: 10200)

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
(Cutoff Rank* in JEE Adv: 5600)

National Institute of Technology,Rourkela
(Cutoff Rank* in JEE Mains 36554)

National Institute of Technology,Warangal
(Cutoff Rank* in JEE Mains 37000)

National Institute of Technology,Calicut
(Cutoff Rank* in JEE Mains 43000)

*General Category

For more information, scan the QR Code:
www.education.gov.in/technical-education-5

Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs)	
Atal Bihari Vajpayee Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management	Gwalior
Indian Institute of Information Technology	Agartala, Allahabad, Bhagalpur, Bhopal, Dharwad, Guwahati, Kalyani, Kota, Kottayam, Lucknow, Manipur, Nagpur, Pune, Raichur, Ranchi, Sonepat, Sri City, Surat, Tiruchirappalli, Una, Vadodara
Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing	Jabalpur, Kancheepuram, Kurnool

For more detail, scan the QR code:
www.education.gov.in/technical-education-8

Other Prominent Engineering Colleges

Besides the premier colleges mentioned above, there are other prominent Engineering colleges. Each state has prominent government colleges either having standalone campuses or as a department in university. Apart from these colleges, there are other large private Engineering colleges that have build a legacy and reputation over the years. Here is a region-wise list of prominent Engineering colleges in India.

North Region (Alphabetical Order)	Location
Aligarh Muslim University	Aligarh
Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences (BITS)	Pilani
Chitkara University	Rajpura
Delhi Technological University	New Delhi
Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology	New Delhi
Jamia Millia Islamia	New Delhi
Netaji Subhas University of Technology	New Delhi
Punjab Engineering College	Chandigarh
Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology	Patiala
University Institute of Engineering and Technology, Panjab University	Chandigarh

South Region (Alphabetical Order)	Location
BITS Pilani , Hyderabad Campus	Hyderabad
College of Engineering, Guindy (Anna University)	Chennai
College of Engineering Trivandrum	Trivandrum
Government Model Engineering College	Kochi
Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University	Hyderabad
Manipal Institute of Technology	Manipal
Osmania University College of Engineering	Hyderabad
University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering	Bangalore
Vellore Institute of Technology	Vellore

West Region (Alphabetical Order)	Location
BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus	Goa
College of Engineering Pune	Pune
Government College Of Engineering	Aurangabad
Government Engineering College	Rajkot
Institute of Chemical Technology	Mumbai
Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute	Mumbai

Eastern Region (Alphabetical Order)	Location
Birla Institute of Technology	Mesra, Ranchi
Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology	Shibpur
Jadavpur University	Kolkata
Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology	Bhubaneswar
School of Engineering, Tezpur University	Tezpur

Medical

National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)

The NEET exam is conducted annually offline in pen & paper mode

NEET has become the sole entrance exam for admission into MBBS, BDS, AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy), Veterinary, and other Medical/Paramedical courses across India

The NEET syllabus includes questions from Physics, Chemistry and Biology

Quick Facts about NEET
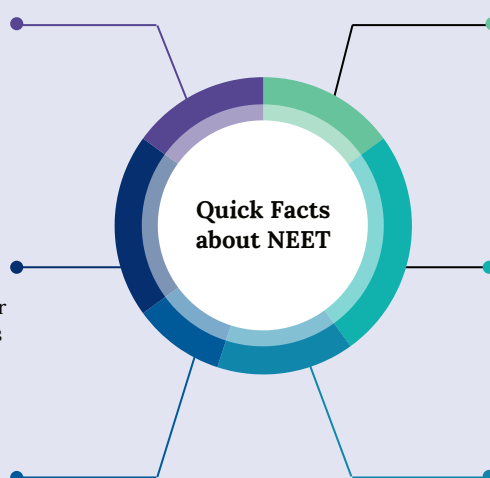
The level of difficulty of the exam is moderate to tough as compared to the Class XII Board exam

Many Foreign Medical Universities in Russia, Kazakhstan, Poland, Nepal, Bangladesh, and China accept NEET scores

Students are evaluated on a scale of 720 marks

For more details, visit: www.neet.nta.nic.in

World Economic Forum
Insights into the Future of Careers

Top 10 Skills on the Rise

- Creative Thinking
- Analytical Thinking
- Technological Literacy
- Curiosity & Lifelong Learning
- Resilience, Flexibility & Agility
- System Thinking
- AI & Big Data
- Motivation & Self-Awareness
- Talent Management
- Service Orientation & Customer Support

Note: The skills judged to be increasing in importance most rapidly between 2023 & 2027.

Fastest Growing vs. Fastest Declining Jobs

Top 10 Fastest Growing Jobs

- AI & Machine Learning Specialist
- Sustainability Specialists
- Business Intelligence Analysts
- Fintech Engineers
- Data Analysts & Scientists
- Robotics Engineers
- Big Data Specialists
- Agricultural Equipment Operators
- Digital Transformation Specialists

Top 10 Fastest Declining Jobs

- Bank Tellers & Related Clerks
- Postal Service Clerks
- Cashiers & Ticket Clerks
- Data Entry Clerks
- Administrative & Executive Secretaries
- Material-Recording & Stock-Keeping Clerks
- Accounting, Bookkeeping & Payroll Clerks
- Legislators & Officials
- Statistical, Finance & Insurance Clerks
- Door-To-Door Sales Workers, News & Street Vendors, & Related Workers

Note: The jobs which survey respondents expect to grow most quickly from 2023 to 2027 as a fraction of present employment figures.

Businesses' Top 10 Skill Priorities for 2027

- Analytical Thinking
- Creative Thinking
- AI & Big Data
- Leadership & Social Influence
- Resilience, Flexibility & Agility
- Curiosity & Lifelong Learning
- Technological Literacy
- Design & User Experience
- Motivation & Self-Awareness
- Empathy & Active Listening

Note: The skills which organizations will prioritize in workforce development initiatives from 2023 to 2027.

*Source: World Economic Forum, "Future of Work Report"

Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) Admissions

Admission to MBBS at AFMC is based on the NEET UG exam, followed by a screening process conducted by the college itself.

Candidates who qualify for NEET UG with the required score are shortlisted for the AFMC screening process.
This process consists of the following components:

Test of English Language, Comprehension, Logic and Reasoning (ToELR): This computer-based test assesses the candidate's proficiency in English, Reading Comprehension, Logical Thinking, and Reasoning Abilities. It comprises 40 MCQs (Multiple Choice Questions) to be completed within 30 minutes. 2 marks are awarded for each correct answer, and 0.5 marks are deducted for every wrong attempt.

Psychological Assessment Test (PAT): This is a qualifying test that evaluates the candidate's mental fitness and temperament for a career in the Armed Forces. There is no specific syllabus or preparation required for the PAT.

Interview: This is an opportunity for the college to assess the candidate's personality, motivation, and suitability for a career in the Military Medical field. The interview carries a weightage of 50 marks.

Medical Examination: This is a mandatory test to assess the candidate's physical fitness and medical well-being for military service.

After successful completion of the entire selection process, including NEET UG, ToELR, PAT, interview, and medical examination, candidates are selected for admission to AFMC based on a merit list.

Top Medical Colleges in India

Achieving admission into India's top medical colleges like AIIMS and CMC Vellore requires high NEET scores, often above 650. For second-tier colleges, a range of 550-600+ is suggested. Scores below 550 reduce chances significantly, often leading candidates towards Private colleges or studying abroad, where fees can be considerably higher.
Government Medical Colleges are more affordable due to subsidized fees, ranging from INR 6,000 to 55,000 annually. Conversely, Private colleges can cost from INR 12 lakh to 45 lakh annually, with some even reaching up to INR 1.5-2 crore.

Quick Facts

While there is generally no significant difference in teaching quality and infrastructure among second-tier medical colleges, the gap becomes pronounced when compared to top-tier medical colleges. Top medical colleges offer advantages in patient volume, learning quality, and clinical exposure, setting them apart in the medical education landscape.

List of Top Medical Colleges in India – AIIMS

Jammu

Bilaspur

Bathinda

Rishikesh

Delhi

Gorakhpur

Jodhpur

Raebareli

Patna

Guwahati

Deoghar

Rajkot

Bhopal

Kalyani

Raipur

Nagpur

Bhubaneshwar

Bibinagar

Mangalagiri

Most Preferred Medical Colleges in India

AIIMS, New Delhi
(Cutoff Rank* in NEET: 57)

Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC),
New Delhi (Cutoff Rank* in NEET:87)

JIPMER, Puducherry
(Cutoff Rank* in NEET : 277)

Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu
University (BHU) (Cutoff Rank* in NEET : 1050)

Christian Medical College, Vellore
(Cutoff Rank* in NEET: 3116)

*General Category

Top Government Medical Colleges in India (Alphabetical Order)	Location
Armed Forces Medical College	Pune
B J Medical College	Ahmedabad
Government Medical College and Hospital	Chandigarh
Government Medical College	Thiruvananthapuram
Grant Government Medical College	Mumbai
Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University	Varanasi
Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research	Kolkata
Indira Gandhi Medical College	Shimla
Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research	Pondicherry
Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University	Aligarh
King George`s Medical University	Lucknow
Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women	New Delhi
Maulana Azad Medical College	New Delhi
Madras Medical College	Chennai
Medical College Kolkata	Kolkata
Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences	Rohtak
Sawai Man Singh Medical College	Jaipur
University College Of Medical Sciences	New Delhi
Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital	New Delhi

Top Private Medical Colleges in India (Alphabetical Order)	Location
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	Coimbatore
Bharti Vidyapeeth Medical College	Pune
Christian Medical College	Ludhiana
Christian Medical College	Vellore
Dayanand Medical College and Hospital	Ludhiana
Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences	Wardha
Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth	Pune
Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research	New Delhi
JSS Medical College	Mysore
Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences	Bhubaneshwar
Kasturba Medical College	Manipal
K.J. Somaiya Medical College & Research Centre	Mumbai
Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute	Pondicherry
MS Ramaiah Medical College	Bangalore
Osmania Medical College	Hyderabad
PSG Institute of Medical Sciences and Research	Coimbatore
Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology	Thiruvananthapuram
St. John's Medical College	Bangalore
Siksha 'O' Anusandhan	Bhubaneswar, Orissa
Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences	Gangtok
Saveetha Institute of Medical And Technical Sciences	Chennai
SRM University	Chennai
Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences	Tirupati

Commerce/Mgmt/Finance

The Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate (CUET-UG) serves as the principal entry point for students aspiring to enroll in India's premier Universities and colleges across a variety of disciplines. In addition to the CUET, numerous prestigious institutions conduct their specialized entrance examinations to select candidates for programs in Commerce, Management, and related fields.

Entrance Exam	College/University Name	Official Website	
Common University Entrance Test (CUET)	More than 250+ participating Universities which includes Delhi University (DU), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) , Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) etc.	https://exams.nta.ac.in/CUET-UG/	
Symbiosis Entrance Test (SET)	Symbiosis International University (Campuses in Pune, Noida, Indore, Bangaloreand Nagpur)	www.set-test.org	
National Test for Programs After Twelfth (NPAT)	NMIMS (Campuses in Mumbai, Bangalore, Shirpur, Hyderabad, Indore, Navi Mumbai, Dhule, Mohali)	www.npat.nmims.edu	
Maharashtra Common Entrance Test (MAH-CET)	Different Colleges in Maharashtra which include colleges in Mumbai like Jai Hind College, NM College, Mithibai College etc.	cetcell.mahacet.org	
Christ University Entrance Test (CUET)	Christ University (Campuses in Bangalore(Kengeri and Bannerghatta Road), Lavasa, Delhi-NCR)	www.christuniversity.in/application-status11	
Shiv Nadar University Scholastic Aptitude Test (SNUSAT)	Azim Premji University (Campus in Bangalore, Hyderabad and Indore)	www.snuadmissions.com	

Other Colleges Offering BBA/B.Com (Alphabetical Order)	Location
Amity University (Multiple Campuses)	Noida
Alliance University	Bangalore
BML Munjal University	Gurugram
Chitkara University	Rajpura
Institute of Integrated Learning in Management University	New Delhi
Institute of Finance and International Management	Bangalore
Loyola Institute of Business Administration	Chennai
Madras Christian College	Chennai
Mahindra University	Hyderabad
Nirma University	Ahmedabad
OP Jindal Global University	Sonipat
St Xavier's College	Mumbai
T.A. Pai Management Institute	Manipal
University of Petroleum and Energy Studies	Dehradun

Download Previous Year SET Question Papers

Humanities / Arts

CUET-UG stands as the primary gateway for admission into India's top Universities and colleges. Alongside CUET, many esteemed Universities also host their own entrance exams for Commerce, Management, and allied programs.

Entrance Exam	College/University Name	Official Website	
Common University Entrance Test (CUET)	More than 250+ participating Universities which includes Delhi University (DU), Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) etc.	https://exams.nta.ac.in/CUET-UG/	
Ashoka Admission Test (AAT)	Ashoka University, (Sonepat)	www.ashoka.edu.in/academics	
Shiv Nadar University Scholastic Aptitude Test (SNUSAT)	Shiv Nadar University (Chennai and Delhi-NCR Campus)	www.snuadmissions.com	
Azim Premji University National Entrance Test (APUNET)	Azim Premji University (Bangaloreand Bhopal)	www.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in	
FLAME Entrance Aptitude Test (FEAT)	FLAME University, (Pune)	www.flame.edu.in/admissions	

Other Colleges Offering BA Courses (Alphabetical Order)	
Amity University	Multiple Campuses
Banasthali Vidyapith	Tonk, Jaipur
Bennett University	Noida
Christ University	Bangalore
Fergusson College	Pune
Indraprastha College of Women	New Delhi
Jai Hind College	Mumbai
Krea University	Sri City, AP
Nirma University	Ahmedabad
Presidency University	Kolkata
Stella Maris College for Women	Chennai
Symbiosis International University	Multiple Campuses
Tata Institute of Social Sciences	Mumbai, Tuljapur, Hyderabad, Guwahati

Law

Common Law Admission Test (CLAT)

The CLAT exam is conducted offline in Pen and Paper mode for admissions to the 24 NLUs

The CLAT exam is usually conducted in the first week of December

The exam consists of 120 questions, and it lasts 2 hours

Quick Facts about CLAT
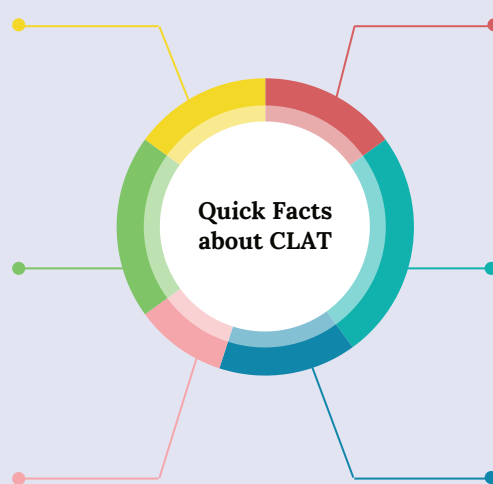
The syllabus includes English, Legal Reasoning, Logical Reasoning, Current Affairs including GK and Quantitative Techniques

The exam is usually rated moderate to difficult in terms of overall difficulty level

The CLAT results are declared in the form of scores. Individual NLUs release the cutoffs

Download Previous Year CLAT Papers

All India Law Entrance Test (AILET)

The AILET exam is conducted offline in Pen and paper mode exclusively for admissions to NLU Delhi

The AILET exam is conducted once a year, usually in the first week of December

The duration of the exam is 2 hours

Quick Facts about AILET
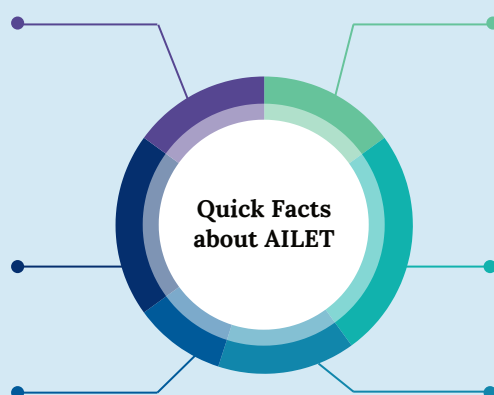
The AILET syllabus includes English Language, Current Affairs & General Knowledge, and Logical Reasoning

The exam is usually rated moderate to difficult in terms of overall difficulty level

The AILET results are declared in the form of scores

Download Previous Year AILET Papers

Other Important Exams for Law

Entrance Exam	College Name	Official website	
LSAT (Law School Admission Test)	BITS Law School, Jindal Global Law School (JGLS), University of Petroleum and Energy Studies and more	www.lsatindia.in/exam-basics	
NLAT (NMIMS Law Aptitude Test)	NMIMS	www.apply.nmims.edu	
SLAT (Symbiosis Law Aptitude Test)	Symbiosis Institute of Law	www.set-test.org/slat-overview.html	
MHCET-Law (Maharashtra Common Entrance Test)	Multiple Colleges	www.cetcell.mahacet.org	
UILS (University Institute of Legal Studies)	Panjab University	uils.puchd.ac.in	

Top Colleges for Law in India

National Law Universities (NLUs) in India are esteemed for their law education, similar to how IITs and AIIMS are benchmarks in engineering and medicine respectively. Of the 26 NLUs, 24 require the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) for admission. To enter the top 3 NLUs—NALSAR in Hyderabad, NLSIU in Bangalore, and WBNUJS in Kolkata—a rank within the top 200 of CLAT participants is usually necessary.

For other NLUs, a CLAT rank ranging from 1500 to 2000 is generally competitive for admission. Additionally, numerous Private law colleges also consider CLAT scores or conduct their entrance exams for admissions. It's noteworthy that outside the leading law colleges, the difference among the colleges in educational quality and placements is very less.

Law from IIM!
IIM Rohtak offers a unique 5-year Integrated Program in Law (IPL) which is designed to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of both business principles and the Indian legal system.
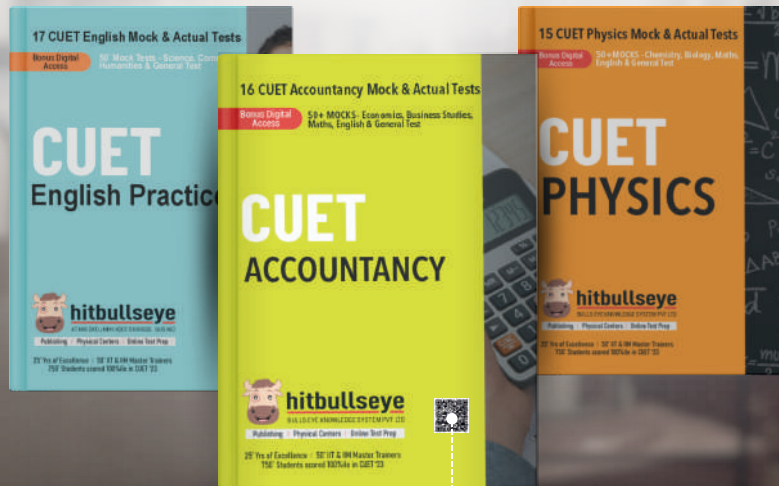
List of Top Law Colleges in India – NLUs

Jammu

Shimla

Patiala

Sonipat

Delhi

Jodhpur

Lucknow

Patna

Guwahati

Gandhinagar

Bhopal

Jabalpur

Ranchi

Kolkata

Naya Raipur

Nagpur

Cuttack

Silvassa

Aurangabad

Mumbai

Hyderabad

Visakhapatnam

Bangalore

Tiruchirapalli

Kochi
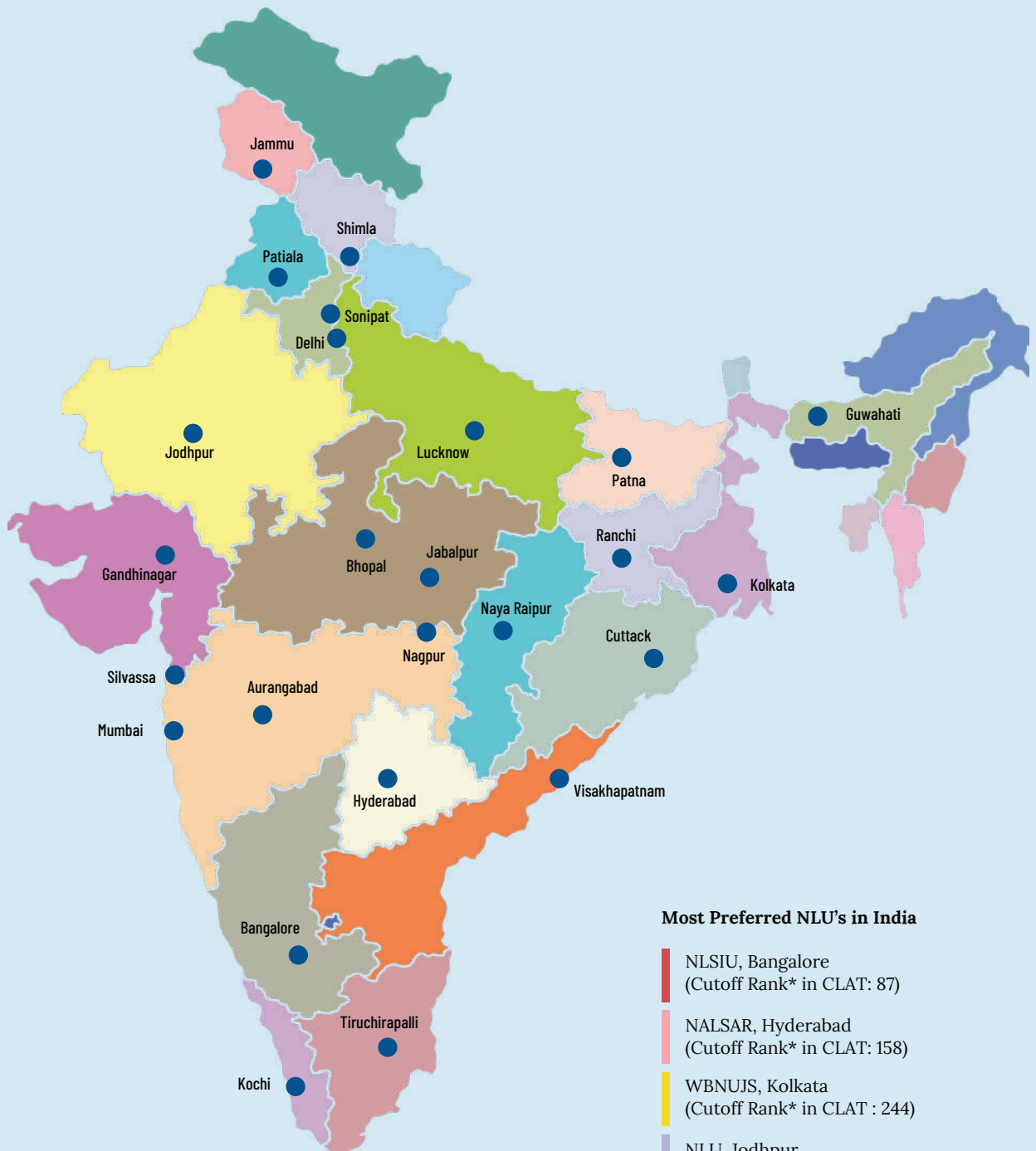
Most Preferred NLU's in India

NLSIU, Bangalore
(Cutoff Rank* in CLAT: 87)

NALSAR, Hyderabad
(Cutoff Rank* in CLAT: 158)

WBNUJS, Kolkata
(Cutoff Rank* in CLAT : 244)

NLU, Jodhpur
(Cutoff Rank* in CLAT: 365)

NLIU Bhopal
(Cutoff Rank* in CLAT: 452)

*General Category

National Law Universities (Alphabetical Order)	
Chanakya National Law University	Patna
Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University	Visakhapatnam
Dharmashastra National Law University	Jabalpur
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University	Sonipat
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University	Lucknow
Gujarat National Law University	Gandhinagar
Gujarat National Law University, Silvassa Campus	Silvassa
Hidayatullah National Law University	Naya Raipur
Himachal Pradesh National Law University	Shimla
Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai	Mumbai
Maharashtra National Law University Nagpur	Nagpur
Maharashtra National Law University	Aurangabad
National Law School of India University	Bangalore
National Law Institute University	Bhopal
National Academy of Legal Studies and Research	Hyderabad
National Law University Delhi	Delhi
National Law University Jodhpur	Jodhpur
National University of Advanced Legal Studies	Kochi
National Law University Odisha	Cuttack
National Law University and Judicial Academy	Guwahati
National University of Study and Research in Law	Ranchi
Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law	Patiala
Tamil Nadu National Law University	Tiruchirapalli
West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences	Kolkata

Other Colleges Offering Law Courses

College Name (Alphabetical Order)	
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University	Lucknow
BITS Law School	Mumbai
Christ University	Bangalore
Department of Law, Aligarh Muslim University	Aligarh
Faculty of Law, University of Delhi	Delhi
Faculty of Law Banaras Hindu University	Varanasi
Indian Law Institute	New Delhi
Jamia Millia Islamia	New Delhi
KIIT School of Law	Bhubaneswar
Institute of Law, Nirma University	Ahmedabad
OP Jindal Global University	Sonipat
Rajiv Gandhi School Of Intellectual Property Law	IIT Kharagpur
Symbiosis Law School	Pune
SOA National Institute of Law (SNIL)	Bhubaneswar

Management

Five Year Integrated Programme in Management (IPM)

5-year MBA or Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) from IIMs has been specifically designed for young management aspirants irrespective of their Class XII stream and serves as a direct gateway to the prestigious IIMs right after Class XII. With 24,000 applicants vying for 700+ seats, a student's chances of securing admission are relatively better when compared to the fiercely competitive exams like JEE and NEET. More IIMs are likely to join the IPM program in the coming future.
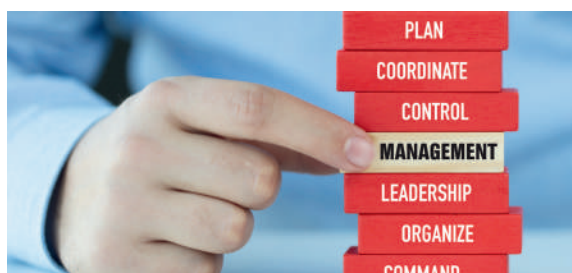
Download IPMAT Sample Papers

Entrance Exam	College Name	Official Website	
Integrated Programme in Management Aptitude Test (IPMAT) Indore	IIM Indore, IIM Ranchi,IIFT Kakinada, NALSAR-Hyderabad, Nirma University-Ahmedabad, TAPMI, Manipal	www.iimidr.ac.in/academic-programmes/five-year-integrated-programme-in-management-ipm/	
Integrated Programme in Management Aptitude Test (IPMAT) Rohtak	IIM-Rohtak, TAPMI-Manipal	https://www.iimrohtak.ac.in/ipm-admission.php	
Joint Integrated Programme in Management Admission Test (JIPMAT)	IIM Jammu, IIM Bodhgaya, TAPMI-Manipal	http://www.jipmat.ac.in/home.php	

Design

Design as a career caters to those with a creative and imaginative approach to various fashion and design aspects. Key entrance exams like the Undergraduate Common Entrance Exam for Design (UCEED) by IIT Mumbai and the NIFT Entrance Test (NIFT-ET) pave the way into this field.

> **Designing the Cosmos: Role of Designers in India's Space Missions**
>
> ISRO employs numerous designers who work on creating user-friendly interfaces for spacecraft controls and intuitive mission control centers through UI and UX design. They also enhance satellite product design, optimizing functionality and ergonomics for space's demanding conditions.

Top Design Colleges in India	
National Institute of Design	Ahmedabad, Vijayawada, Kurukshetra, Bhopal, Jorhat
Indian Institute of Technology	Bombay, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Roorkee
Centre for Product Design and Manufacturing , IISc	Bangalore
National Insitute of Fashion Technology	Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Chennai, Daman, Delhi, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Jodhpur, Kangra, Kannur, Kolkata, Mumbai, Panchkula, Patna, Raebareli, Shillong, Srinagar
Srishti Institute of Art, Design & Technology	Bangalore
Symbiosis Institute of Design	Pune
MIT Institute of Design	Pune
Pearl Academy	Delhi

Entrance Exam	College Name	Official website	
Undergraduate Common Entrance Examination for Design (UCEED)	IIT Bombay; IIT Delhi; IIT Guwahati; IIT Hyderabad; IIT Roorkee; BITS Pilani	www.uceed.iitb.ac.in/2024	
NIFT Entrance Test (NIFT-ET)	18 National Institute of Fashion Technology across India	www.nift.ac.in/admission	
National Institute of Design Aptitude Test (NIDAT)	National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad, Vijayawada, Kurukshetra, Bhopal, Jorhat; Pearl Academy, Delhi	www.admissions.nid.edu/NIDA2024/Default.aspx	

Defence

The defence stream offers entry into Officer Cadre after Class XII as well as after graduation. The table given below gives list of examinations which an aspirant can give after Class XII and Graduation.

National Defence Academy and Naval Academy Examination (NDA/NA)

Eligibility:
Nationality: Open to Indian citizens, subjects of Nepal and Bhutan, Tibetan refugees, and persons of Indian origin from specified countries intending to permanently settle in India.
Age Limit: Candidates must be aged between 16.5 and 19.5 years at the time of admission.
Educational Qualifications: Army Wing: 12th Class pass of the 10+2 pattern or equivalent/Air Force and Naval Wings: 12th Class pass with Physics and Mathematics.
Gender and Marital Status: Open to unmarried male and recently updated to include unmarried female candidates; must remain unmarried during training.

Services Covered in NDA
Indian Army: Candidates who pass the NDA exam and choose the Army go through training at NDA, Khadakwasla, and are subsequently commissioned as officers in the Indian Army.
Indian Navy: Aspirants opting for the Navy undergo naval training at NDA and upon completion, they are commissioned into the Indian Navy as officers
Indian Air Force: Those who opt for the Air Force are trained at NDA and then commissioned as officers in the Indian Air Force upon completion of their training.
Indian Naval Academy (INA): This academy offers a four-year B.Tech course dedicated to the education and training of selected candidates for the Indian Navy. After successful completion, cadets are commissioned as officers in the Navy.

Combined Defence Services (CDS)

Eligibility:
- Nationality: Indian citizens, subjects of Nepal or Bhutan, Tibetan refugees, and certain people of Indian origin from specified countries.
- Age Limit: Varies between services; generally, candidates must be between 19 to 25 years.

Educational Qualification:
- Army (IMA/OTA): Graduation in any discipline from a recognized University.
- Navy (INA): Engineering degree or equivalent with Physics & Mathematics in 10+2.
- Air Force (AFA): Degree from a recognized University (with Physics and Mathematics at 10+2) or Bachelor of Engineering.
- Marital Status: Unmarried.

Services Covered:
- Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun: Successful candidates are trained at the IMA and commissioned as officers in the Indian Army.
- Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala: Candidates who clear the CDS exam and are selected for the Navy undergo training at the INA and are subsequently commissioned as officers in the Indian Navy.
- Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal, Hyderabad: Aspirants choosing the Air Force are trained at the AFA. Upon completion of their training, they are commissioned as officers in the Indian Air Force.
- Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai: The OTA offers training for candidates selected through the CDS exam for Short Service Commission

Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT)
Eligibility:
20 to 24 years as of 1st January of the year of examination. Upper age limit for candidates holding valid and current Commercial Pilot License issued by DGCA (India) is relaxed up to 26 years.

Educational Qualifications:
Graduates in any discipline from a recognized university with a minimum of 60% marks and have passed Maths and Physics at 10+2 level OR B.E/B.Tech degree from a recognized University with a minimum of 60% marks.
Marital Status: Unmarried

Services under AFCAT
Flying Branch:
- Fighter Pilots: Operate IAF's fighter aircraft, engaging in air-to-air combat and ground attack missions.
- Transport Pilots: Handle large transport aircraft for logistics and troop movement.
- Helicopter Pilots: Operate helicopters for a variety of missions including casualty evacuation, search and rescue, and close air support.
Technical Branch:
- Aeronautical Engineer (Electronics): Responsible for maintenance and servicing of avionics and electronic systems of IAF aircraft and support equipment.
- Aeronautical Engineer (Mechanical): Tasked with the maintenance and servicing of the mechanical systems of aircraft and related ground support equipment.

University Entry Scheme (UES)
Eligibility:
Candidates must be studying in a recognized University and be in the pre-final year of their engineering degree course.
- Age Limit: Typically, candidates must be between 18 to 24 years of age at the time of commencement of training.
- Gender: Both male and female candidates are eligible to apply, depending on the specific requirements of the branch and year of recruitment

Services Offered under UES
- Indian Army: Under the UES, selected candidates are commissioned as Permanent Commission officers in the technical branches of the Indian Army. They receive training at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) and are later assigned roles based on their engineering specialization and the needs of the Army.
- Indian Navy: The UES for the Indian Navy recruits candidates for technical branches and provides a career as Permanent Commission officers. Selected students undergo naval orientation and training at the Indian Naval Academy (INA) before being posted to naval ships and establishments as Engineering Officers.
- Indian Air Force: For the Indian Air Force, the UES targets engineering students for roles in the Ground Duty (Technical) branches. After selection, candidates are trained at the Air Force Academy and subsequently serve as Technical Officers in various capacities related to aircraft and system maintenance.

A Note on Admissions Timelines

University admission processes and the scheduling of entrance exams varies widely. Institutions like Ashoka and Shiv Nadar Universities have adopted a rolling admissions system, where the application period begins in November-December and ends in May-June. Entrance examinations also have distinct timelines. For example, the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) is held twice a year, in January and May. Other exams, such as the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT), Undergraduate Common Entrance Examination for Design (UCEED), National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) entrance exam, and the National Institute of Design Aptitude Test (NIDAT), are scheduled for December.

In contrast, a majority of exams, including the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), Common University Entrance Test (CUET), and the Integrated Program in Management Aptitude Test (IPMAT), typically occur in April-May, with some exams being conducted only once in May.

Prestigious Universities for Undergraduate Courses (Renowned for Their Legacy and Excellence)

North India
Delhi University (Delhi), Jawaharlal Nehru University (Delhi), Panjab University (Chandigarh), Thapar University (Patiala), Himachal Pradesh University (Shimla), Banaras Hindu University (Varanasi), Aligarh Muslim University (Aligarh), Central University of Rajasthan (Ajmer), Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (Lucknow)

South India
Andhra University (Visakhapatnam), Christ University (Bangalore), Manipal Academy of Higher Education (Manipal), University of Hyderabad, Osmania University (Hyderabad), University of Kerala (Thiruvananthapuram), Central University of Kerala (Kasaragod), Central University of Tamil Nadu(Thiruvarur), Central University of Andhra Pradesh (Anantapur), Central University of Karnataka (Gulbarga)

West India
Central University of Gujarat (Gandhinagar), The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (Baroda). Savitribai Phule Pune University (Pune), University of Mumbai (Mumbai), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai)

East India
University of Calcutta (Kolkata), Presidency University(Kolkata), Jadavpur University (Kolkata), Central University of Odisha (Koraput), Central University of Jharkhand (Ranchi), North-Eastern Hill University (Shillong), Assam University (Silchar)

Emerging Private Universities

Apart from the colleges mentioned above there are some upcoming Private Universities which have multiple courses and disciplines. The details of the universities have been mentioned below-

University	Official Website	
Chitkara University, Punjab	www.chitkara.edu.in	
Mahindra University, Hyderabad	www.mahindrauniversity.edu.in	
Jio Institute, Mumbai	www.jioinstitute.edu.in/admissions	
Plaksha University. Mohali	www.plaksha.edu.in	
OP Jindal University, Sonipat	www.jgu.edu.in/admissions	

University	Official website	
Amity University (Multiple Campuses in Noida, Kolkata, Ranchi, Patna, Mohali, Bangalore, Lucknow, Jaipur)	www.amity.edu	
BITS School of Management (BITSoM), Mumbai	www.bitsom.edu.in	
BM Munjal University, Gurugram	www.bmu.edu.in	
IFIM, Bangalore	www.ifim.edu.in	
Bennett University, Greater Noida	www.applications.bennett.edu.in	

Scope of the Exams

Examinations for higher education and competitive fields can broadly be categorized into three types based on their focus and the skills they assess:

Subject-Specific Exams: These exams evaluate candidates' knowledge in specific subjects, often reflecting the curriculum of Class XI and XII. Examinations like the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) fall into this category, testing students in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, or Biology from both grades. On the other hand, exams such as the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) specifically assess knowledge from Class XII Domain Subjects.

General Aptitude Exams: Some competitive exams are designed to assess a candidate's general aptitude. This comprises of
- Quantitative Ability which includes Algebra, Arithmetic, Percentages, Probability, Profit and Loss, Simple and Compound Interest, Time and Work, Ratios and Proportions, and Speed, Distance, and Time etc.
- Logical Reasoning which includes topics such as Puzzles, Syllogisms, Logical Sequences, Analogies, Data Sufficiency, Graph-based questions.
- Verbal Ability which includes Reading Comprehension, Sentence Rearrangement, Sentence Correction, Synonyms, Antonyms, Fill in the Blanks, Idioms and Phrases, Spotting Errors, and Sentence Improvement
- General Awareness which includes current affairs, Indian History, Geography, Economy, Polity, Environment, General Science, Sports, and important national and international events.

Mixed Exams: A third category includes exams that test both subject knowledge and general aptitude. The CUET exam, Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) and BITSAT are among those exams that require candidates to demonstrate proficiency in specific subjects as well as general aptitude skills.

Given below is the list of exams which cover

Entrance Test	Stream/Domain	Specific Subjects	Generic Subjects
CUET	Humanities, Commerce, Science and Engineering	Class XII Subjects	General Test
IPMAT-Indore (5 Yr MBA from IIMs)	Management	Higher Maths	Quantitative Aptitude, Verbal Ability
IPMAT-Rohtak (5 Yr MBA from IIMs)	5 yr Integrated course in Management	–	Quantitative Aptitude, Verbal Ability, Reasoning

| Entrance Test	Stream/Domain	Specific Subjects	Generic Subjects
JIPMAT (5 Year MBA from IIMs)	5 yr Integrated course in Management	-	Quantitative Aptitude, English, Reasoning
SET (for Symbiosis)	Management and Other Courses	-	General English, General Knowledge, Quantitative Aptitude, Analytical, Logical Reasoning
NPAT (for Narsee Monjee)	Management and Other Courses	-	Quantitative Ability, Verbal Reasoning, Logical Reasoning
JEE (for IITs & Other Engineering Colleges)	Engineering	Physics, Chemistry, Math (Class XI and XII Syllabus)	-
BITSAT (for BITS Pilani/Goa/Hyderabad)	Engineering	Physics, Chemistry, Math (Class XI and XII Syllabus)	English Proficiency, Logical Reasoning
NEET (for AIIMS and Other Medical Colleges)	Medical	Physics, Chemistry, Biology (Class XI and XII Syllabus)	-
CLAT (for NLUs and Other Law Colleges)	Law	Legal Reasoning.	English Language, Current Affairs & General Knowledge, Logical Reasoning, Quantitative Techniques
AILET (for NLU Delhi)	Law		English Language, Current Affairs & General Knowledge, Logical Reasoning
NLAT (for Law from Narsee Monjee)	Law	Legal Reasoning	Verbal Reasoning, Current Affairs, including General Knowledge, Logical Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning
SLAT (for Law from Symbiosis)	Law	Legal Reasoning	Reading Comprehension, Logical Reasoning, Analytical Reasoning, General Knowledge
MH-CET Law (for various Law Colleges)	Law	Legal Aptitude & Legal Reasoning	General Knowledge & Current Affairs, Logical & Analytical Reasoning, English
SNUSAT (for Shiv Nadar University)	Multiple Programs including Engineering, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Management	-	Quantitative Ability, Verbal Reasoning, Abstract Reasoning, Essay Writing
APUNET (for Azim Premji University)	Multiple Programs including Arts and Sciences, Development, Education and Management	-	Quantitative Aptitude, Verbal Reasoning, Logical Reasoning, General & Social Awareness
NDA (for Army, Navy and Air Force)	Defence	Mathematics	General Studies, English
UCEED (for IIT Bombay and Other Design Colleges)	Design	Drawing, Design Aptitude	-
NID-DAT (for NIDs and Other Design Colleges)	Design	Drawing Skills, Model Making	-
NATA (for Architecture)	Architecture/Design	Drawing and Composition Test	General Aptitude
NIFT Entrance Examination (for NIFT and other Fashion Design Colleges)	Design	Creative Ability Test (CAT)	Quantitative Ability, Communication Ability and English Comprehension, Analytical Ability and Logical Ability, General Knowledge and Current Affairs

Art/Tips of Cracking Competitive Exams

It's a common misconception that preparing for competitive exams is akin to preparing for CBSE Board exams. However, the reality is that competitive exams demand a fundamentally distinct approach compared to regular academic tests. These exams are not only significantly more challenging but also highly competitive, meaning a student's performance is measured relative to their peers. This intense competition emphasizes the need for strategic preparation and a deep understanding of the unique dynamics of competitive exams.

Now there are certain patterns/observations that will highlight this fundamental difference in preparation for Boards and Competitive exams. :

Performance Metrics: In board exams, scoring 50% typically labels a student as an underperformer and more often than not serious doubts are cast on his/her academic abilities. However, this metric transforms drastically in the context of competitive exams like JEE. Here, attempting just 50% of the questions can position a student among the top rankers. This illustrates the stark contrast in evaluation standards and the level of difficulty between board and competitive exams.

Question Complexity and Approach: Board exams test knowledge through direct questions that require straightforward answers. These questions are primarily based on NCERT study material. These exams reward ability to memorize information without exploring the application of the knowledge. Competitive exams, on the other hand, challenge students with complex problem-solving that necessitates a robust understanding of underlying principles. These exams include multiple-choice questions with penalties for incorrect answers, which discourages guessing and emphasizes accuracy and precision in responses. This format demands not only knowledge recall but also critical thinking which marks a significant shift in the cognitive skills tested.
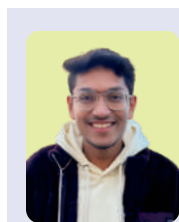
Manav Mahajan
IPMAT: AIR 6
CUET: 100%ile

"Practicing mock tests provided clear insights into my performance and highlighted the areas that required further improvement."

Last-Minute Strategies: For board exams, students can often bridge gaps in their preparation during the final months by resorting to rote memorization to cover significant portions of the syllabus. However, this strategy does not hold for competitive exams, where questions demand a deep understanding and application of concepts.

In such settings, last-minute cramming offers little benefit as true comprehension and the ability to apply knowledge cannot be hastily acquired

Note on Aptitude Tests

Most aptitude tests encompass areas such as Quantitative Analysis, Logical Reasoning, Verbal Ability, and General Knowledge, which are not included in the school curriculum. Students must place special emphasis on thoroughly covering these subjects through focused preparation.

Sanskruti Yukta Nayak
AILET AIR 41
NLU Delhi

"Consistent preparation and sticking to realistic timelines significantly enhanced my confidence to take the exams"

Important Tips for Effective Preparation

Preparing for competitive exams is a skill-based endeavour. Developing the requisite skills to excel in these exams requires clear strategy, targeted learning and consistent practice.

One of the most crucial aspects of excelling in competitive exams is to start early. Ideally, preparation should begin in Class XI, but if that's not possible, students must start at the beginning of Class XII. Starting early gives a significant advantage, as there's only a 15-45 day gap between Board Exams and competitive exams which makes it essential to be thoroughly prepared in advance.

The next step in effective preparation for competitive exams involves demarcating which areas of the syllabus command the most attention and which can be briefly reviewed, based on their historical weightage in past exams. This strategic focus helps in allocating study time more efficiently, ensuring that high-yield topics receive the bulk of one's efforts. Additionally, candidates must acclimate themselves to varying exam conditions which will help them to adapt their strategies in response to different types of questions and time constraints.

An essential component of competitive exam preparation is engaging in regular practice through mock tests, which allows students to benchmark their performance against national standards. These tests, particularly those in structured test series that offer detailed performance analysis and national percentile rankings are invaluable. They not only enable students to gauge their standing relative to their peers but also help identify specific areas needing targeted improvement.

Three Crucial Factors Required for Cracking Competitive Exams

Consistency: The cornerstone of excelling in competitive exams is consistent effort. A steady, well-paced preparation regime is far more effective than sporadic bursts of intensive study followed by periods of inactivity. Maintaining consistency ensures that the momentum of preparation is sustained which helps in building a solid foundation of knowledge and skills over time. This approach prevents burnout and ensures that all topics are covered thoroughly.

Utilizing Previous Year Questions (PYQs) and Mock Tests: Engaging with PYQs is critical for understanding the core requirements of the exam.
These questions provide invaluable insights into the examiner's expectations and the format of the exam. This offers insight into what to anticipate in the exam. Regular practice with mock tests is equally important, as it allows students to develop effective test-taking strategies and refine their time management skills. Moreover, mock tests help students to identify their strengths and weaknesses which helps them in reorienting their strategy accordingly.

Self-Study: While coaching centers offer structured learning and expert guidance, the role of self-study cannot be underestimated.
It is during self-study that students truly internalizes concepts and explores topics in depth. This independent study time is crucial for reinforcing what has been taught in coaching sessions and for developing a personal understanding of the material.

Simultaneously, students can reinforce their strengths, through test series. The insights gained from them are especially beneficial for students as they provide clear perspective on a student's strengths and weaknesses and the level of competition. In essence, preparing for competitive exams is an art that is a blend of dedication, strategic thinking and the ability to adapt to the unique demands of each exam. By mastering this art a student can transform himself from a passive test-taker into a confident competitor.

It is important to note that subjects like Physics, Chemistry and Biology demand targeted preparation and specialized resources. It's essential to use subject-specific materials and seek out expert coaching tailored to these disciplines. On the other hand, preparation for general topics featured in exams like CUET, CLAT, IPMAT, etc., covers areas such as Numerical Ability, Mental Ability, Verbal Ability, and General Knowledge. These subjects require a foundational understanding which can be developed through structured study and practice.

Below, we provide sample questions from these general areas. These examples illustrate the type of questions typically asked in these exams, offering insight into their nature and the level of difficulty expected.

Sample Questions for Numerical Ability/Quantitative Ability

1. If the sum of five consecutive integers is 100, what is the third number in this sequence?
A. 18   B. 19
C. 20   D. 21

2. A train travels 360 km at a uniform speed. If the speed had been 5 km/hr more, it would have taken 1 hour less for the same journey. What was the original speed of the train?
A. 40 km/hr   B. 45 km/hr
C. 50 km/hr   D. 55 km/hr

3. What is 25% of 50% of 160?
A. 10   B. 20
C. 30   D. 40

4. The average of seven consecutive numbers is 26. What is the largest number?
A. 29   B. 30
C. 31   D. 32

5. If the price of a book is first decreased by 25% and then increased by 20%, what is the net change in the price?
A. 10% decrease   B. 5% decrease
C. No change   D. 5% increase

6. A cube has an edge length of 4 cm. What is the total surface area of the cube?
A. 48 cm²   B. 64 cm²
C. 96 cm²   D. 128 cm²

7. Two numbers are in the ratio 3:4. If their sum is 56, what is the smaller number?
A. 21   B. 24
C. 27   D. 30

8. An article was sold for ₹1,620, making a profit of 8%. What was the cost price of the article?
A. ₹1,500   B. ₹1,400
C. ₹1,300   D. ₹1,200

9. Two ships leave a port at the same instant. One sails at 30 km/hr in the direction N 32°E while the other sails at 20 km/hr in the direction S 58° E. After two hours the ships are distant from each other by:
A. $15\sqrt{6}$ km   B. 36.5 km
C. $20\sqrt{13}$ km   D. 100 km

10. The measure of angle of elevation of the top of a tower $65\sqrt{3}$m high from a point at a distance of 65 m from the foot of the tower in a horizontal plane is
A. 15 degree   B. 45 degree
C. 60° degree   D. 30° degree

11. A tank can be filled by a pipe in 4 hours but takes 5 hours to drain if the drain is open. If both are opened, how long will it take to fill the tank?
A. 20 hours   B. 18 hours
C. 16 hours   D. 12 hours

12. In a right triangle, if one angle is double the other acute angle, what is the value of the smaller angle?
A. 20°   B. 30°
C. 40°   D. 50°

13. The ages of A and B are in the ratio 3:5. If the sum of their ages is 40 years, find A's age.
A. 15 years   B. 18 years
C. 20 years   D. 25 years

14. Find the missing number in the sequence: 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, __?
A. 48   B. 56
C. 64   D. 72

15. A tin contains 24 litres of milk. Due to leakage, 720 ml is lost. What percent of milk is still present in the tin?
a. 90%   b. 95%
c. 97%   d. 99%

16. Which of the following is correct?
a. sin 1° > sin 1   b. sin 1 deg < sin 1
c. sin 1 deg = sin 1   d. sin 1 deg = (pi / 180) * sin 1

17. The length of a plot is decreased by 33.33%. By how much % the breadth of the plot will be increased so that the area remains constant?
a. 50%   b. 25%
c. 20%   d. None of these

18. Height of Amit is 50% greater than the height of Sumit. Height is how much percent less than that of Amit?
a. 50%   b. 33.33%
c. 25%   d. 75%

19. If the length and breadth of a rectangle are changed by +20% and –10%. What is the percentage change in the area of a rectangle?
a. 8%   b. 10.8%
c. 20%   d. Data insufficient

20. The moon's distance from the Earth is 3.50.000 kilometres and its diameter subtends an angle of 31' at the eye of the observer. The diameter of the moon is:
A. 3157 (11/27) km   B. 315 (11/27) km
c. 3050 (11/27) km   d. None of these

21. The difference between the areas of two squares is 225 sq. metres and each side of the bigger square is 25 metres. The side of the smaller square is

A. 18 m   B. 21 m
C. 20 m   D. 22 m

22. A reservoir is 3 m long, 2 m wide and 1 m deep. Its capacity in litres is
A. 8000 Litres   B. 10000 Litres
C. 6500 Litres   D. 6000 Litres

23. 12 boys can do a piece of work in 16 days. In how many days can 6 boys do the same work?
A. 16 days   B. 32 days
C. 23 days   D. 24 days

24. Working 7 hours daily 24 men can complete a piece of work in 27 days. In how many days would 14 men complete the same piece of work working 9 hours daily?
A. 32 days   B. 31 days
C. 36 days   D. 39 days

25. Find the number which when multiplied by 16 is increased by 225.
A 13   B. 14
C. 15   D. 16

Sample Questions for Mental Ability

1. A series follows the pattern: 2, 5, 8, 11, ... What is the next number in the sequence?
a. 13   b. 14
c. 15   d.16

2. 5 : 24 : : 8 : ?
a. 65   b. 63
c. 62   d. 64

3. EIGHTY : GIEYTH : : OUTPUT : ?
a. UTOPTU   b. UOTUPT
c. TUOUTP   d. TUOTUP

4. INSTITUTION : EDUCATION
a. WAR : PEACE
b. HEALTH : OBESITY
c. MEDICATION : RECUPERATION
d. BUILDING : URBANISM

5. ENTRANCE : EXIT : : LOYALTY : ?
a. Treachery   b. Patriotism
c. Fidelity   d. Reward

6. 6 : 9: : 7:?
a. 4   b. 14
c. 10   d. 28

7. RUX : TRP: : BEH:?
a. SQN   b. QON
c. QOM   d. QNL

8. Mayank said, "My mother is the sister of Rajat's brother." What is Rajat's relation with Mayank?
a. Cousin   b. Maternal uncle
c. Uncle   d.Brother-in-law

9. A and B are two brothers. C is sister of B. D is sister of E. E is son of A. Who is D's uncle?
a. D   b. E
c. B   d. C

10. Pointing to a woman in the photograph a man said, "She is the daughter of my grandmother's only son. How is the woman related to the man?
a. Mother   b. Daughter
c. Sister-in-law   d. Sister

11. Statements: All soaps are clean. All clean are wet.
Conclusions :
I.Some clean are soaps.
II.No clean is soap.
III.Some wet are soaps.
IV.All wet are soaps.

a. Only I follow   b. Only I and II follow
c. Only either III and IV follow   d. Only I and III follow

12. Statements: Some rats are cats. Some cats are dogs. No dog is cow.
Conclusions:
I. No cow is cat.
II.No dog is rat.
III.Some cats are rats.
IV.Some dogs are cats.

a. Only I and IV   b. Only I and II
c. Only I and III   d.Only III and IV

13. If CAT is coded as TAC, how will DOG be coded?
a. GOD   b. GDO
c. ODG   d. OGD

14. Complete the series: 5, 10, 20, 40, __?
a. 50   b. 60
c. 80   d. 100

15. Which number replaces the question mark? 3, 6, 9, 15, 24,?
a. 39   b. 40
c. 45   d. 50

16. If in a certain code language, MIRROR is coded as 139181815. How will APPLE be coded in the same language ?
a. 3984145   b. 11616125
c. 1162254   d. 11213147

17. If '+' means X , '-' means ′ : ′ 'X' means - , and ′ : ′ means +, then 16 : 64 – 8 × 4 + 2 = ?
a. 12   b. 16
c. 18   d. 24

18. What comes next in the sequence: A, C, F, J, O,?
a. T   b. U
c. V   d. W

19. If a clock shows 3:15, what is the angle between the hour and the minute hand?
a. 0 degrees   b. 7.5 degrees
c. 22.5 degrees   d. 37.5 degrees

20. What is the next number in the sequence: 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, ?
a. 30   b. 36
c. 40   d. 49

21. Identify the mirror image of the number 1629.
a. 9261   b. 1629
c. 1296   d. 9216

22. If Monday is to January, then Wednesday is to?
a. February   b. March
c. April   d. May

23. Mohan is taller than Rohan but shorter than Farhan. Kannan is shorter than Mohan but taller than Rohan. Shankar is taller than Rohan and Farhan. Who is the tallest?
a. Mohan   b. Farhan
c. Shankar   d. Kannan

24. Which word will come in the first if all of them are arranged alphabetically as in a dictionary?
Wasp, Waste, War, Wrinkle, Wrist
a. Wasp   b. Waste
c. War   d. Wrinkle

25. Deepa moved a distance of 75 meters towards the North. She then turned to the left and walked for about 25 meters turned left again and walked 80 meters Finally she turned to the right at an angle of 45 ∘ . In which direction was she moving finally?
a. North-east   b. North-west
c. South   d. South-west

Verbal Ability
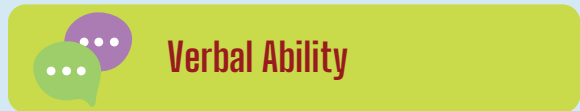
"This is the most powerful, meaningful work we have seen", the famous artist exclaimed to the crowd. "This is a picture of what could have been a dystopian future. One which offers no hope. However, students, do you see how it has been torn up and repositioned? This signifies that our visionary here, Kabir, has refused to accept any ugly forecast. His picture tells us that we can tear it up and start afresh. Think afresh. Find new solutions. Think of extraordinary ways to make it a more beautiful world. Thank you, Kabir"

Principal De murmured too, "Thank you, Kabir" She was, however, on the microphone, and therefore the whole crowd of students followed her lead. Hundreds of young voices rang out as one "Thank you, Kabir." Kabir stood

there and grinned. He waved his trophy. He bowed. He did a namaste. When the applause did not die down, he even did a couple of cartwheels.

1. What inspired the speaker to find new solutions and extraordinary ways of thinking?
A. Kabir's Photo
B.The picture made by Kabir
C.Kabir's trophy
D.The ugly forecast

2. What had the young visionary refused to accept?
A. thinking afresh
B anew start
C. any ugly forecast
D. new solutions

3. Kabir did a couple of cartwheels because he was:-
A. Overwhelmed
B. Nervous
C. Confused
D. Ashamed

4. What positive message can one gather from the given passage?
A. Our future is dystopian'
B. Future offers no hope.
C. We should refuse to accept anything which is ugly.
D. There is always a possibility to think of extraordinary ways to find new solutions.

5. Which word in the given passage is similar in meaning to the word —" EXCEPTIONAL"?
A. Afresh
B. Exclaimed
C.Murmured
D.Extraordinary

6. Fill in the blank with a suitable adverb :
"_____, he thinks too high of himself."
A.Slyly
B.Unfortunately
C.Recently
D.Credibly

7. Choose the correct option to fill in the blank.
I_____ to Paris last year
A.did not go
B.did not went
C.never went go
D. never

8. Complete the sentence using the correct options:-
When I reached the station, the train _____
A. been leaving
B. had already been leaving
C. had already left
D. has left

9. Complete the sentence using the correct option:
While Sarakshi _____in the park, her mother _____her.
A. is playing, called
B. was playing, called
C. has to play, call
D. play, call

10. Replace the underlined words with an Idiom from the following options:
"I suspect that the thief has sent the policemen on a foolish and fruitless search"
A. a wild-goose chase.
B. a wild-horse chase.
C. a wild - duck chase.
D. a wild - dog chase

11. Choose the correct Antonym from the options given below for the given word:
Contraction
A. Reduction
B. Shrink
C. Expansion
D. Emaciation

12. Select the option that is opposite in meaning to the word Quell:
A. Foment
B. Allay
C. Subdue
D. Crush

13. Choose the word which you think is the antonym of Spineless:
A. Cowardly
B. Dull
C. Strong
D. Fatigued

14. From the given pair of words, choose a tired pair which do not carry the same relationship as Severe - Strong
A. Endemic – Pandemic
B. Parson – Priest
C. Prison – Confinement
D. Monstrous – tiny

15. From the given pair of words, choose the pair which carries the same relationship as
Motivation: Inspiration
A. aspire: endeavor
B. forgo: accept
C. valuable: inexpensive
D. simple: complex

16. Rearrange the given words to form meaningful sentences
A B C D the thief/ the dog/ barked/ at
A. ACDB
B. CABD
C. BCDA
D. ABCD

17. Rearrange the given words to form a meaningful sentence
A B C D is greener /the grass /other side /on the
A. DBAC
B. CDAB
C. BADC
D. ABCD

18. Rearrange the given parts to form a meaningful sentence
A B C D the quick brown /jumped /fox /over the cat
A. A BCD
B. ACBD
C. DABC
D. BADC

19. Which figure of speech (poetic device) has been used in the expression the room was filled with a screaming silence.
A. Oxymoron
B. Alliteration
C. Personification
D. Simile

20. Select the option which has onomatopoeia in it:
A. Strength, wealth and wisdom
B. Bread butter and Jam
C. Howling yelling and clapping
D. Silence, quiet, whisper

Sample Questions for GK and Current Affairs

1. Name of the first Woman to climb Mount Everest is:
a. Bachendri Pal   b. Arunima Sinha
c. Santosh Yadav   d. Junko Tabei

2. How many years since the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre were commemorated in 2024?
a. 100 years   b. 105 years
c. 110 years   d. 120 years

3. Which two countries were identified as the top hubs of cybercrime in the newly unveiled World Cybercrime Index?
a. China and India   b. United States and Russia
c. Russia and Ukraine   d. Germany and Brazil

4. The first Indian to get a Nobel Prize in any field is:
a. C.V. Raman   b. Hargobind Khurana
c. Rabindra Nath Tagore   d. Jagdish Chandra Bose

5. Who is the first Indian pilot to venture into space as a tourist with Blue Origin?
a. Rakesh Sharma   b. Sunita Williams
c. Gopi Thotakura   d. Kalpana Chawla

6. The world's largest national flag, made up of Khadi cloth, has been installed in _____on the occasion of the 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 02, 2021:
a. Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh   b. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
c. Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh   d. Leh, Ladakh

7. The first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal was:
a. Saina Nehwal   b. Sakshi Malik
c. PV Sindhu   d. Karnam Malleswari

8. In which city Major Dhyan Chand Sports University is established?
a. New Delhi   b. Amritsar
c. Meerut   d. Ahmedabad

9. Which of the following is not a 'state'?
a. Nagaland   b. Manipur
c. Ladakh   d. Meghalaya

10. By which Constitutional Amendment, Article 51A (K) has been inserted as a fundamental duty?
a. 71th Constitutional Amendment
b. 76th Constitutional Amendment
c. 86th Constitutional Amendment
d. 94th Constitutional Amendment

11. The National Rail University has been established in India at?
a. Gorakhpur b. Varanasi
c. Malda d. Vadodara

12. First Field Marshal of India was:
a. General KM Cariappa   b. General SHFJ Manekshaw
c. General V P Malik   d. General Bipin Rawat

13. The first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal was:
a. Saina Nehwa   b. Sakshi Malik
c. PV Sindhu   d. Karnam Malleswari

14. The first Indian to get Nobel Prize in any field is:
a. C.V. Raman   b. Hargobind Khurana
c. Rabindra Nath Tagore   d. Jagdish Chandra Bose

15. Who was the first Indian to get Bharat Ratna (Posthumously)?
a. Dr. Rajendra Prasad   b. Lal Bahadur Shastri
c. C Rajagopalachari   d. Dr CV Raman

16. Which country is known as the "land of the White Elephant"?
a. Thailand   b. Japan
c. India   d. Bangladesh

17. Which country is known as the "land of the Rising Sun"?
a. Korea   b. Japan
c. Finland   d. China

18. Which one of the following bills must be passed by each house of the India parliament separately by special majority?
a. Money Bill   b. Finance Bill
c. Ordinary Bill   d. Constitutional Amendment Bill

Answer Key

Numerical/Quant Ability

1. c	2. a	3. b
4. a	5. a	6. c
7. b	8. a	9. c
10. c	11. a	12. b
13. a	14. c	15. c
16. b	17. a	18. b
19. a	20. a	21. c
22. d	23. b	24. c
25. c		

Mental Ability

1. b	2. b	3. d
4. c	5. a	6. c
7. c	8. b	9. c
10. d	11. d	12. d
13. a	14. c	15. a
16. b	17. b	18. b
19. b	20. b	21. a
22. b	23. c	24. c
25. d		

Verbal Ability

1. b	2. c	3. a
4. d	5. d	6. b
7. a	8. c	9. b
10. a	11. c	12. a
13. c	14. d	15. a
16. c	17. c	18. b
19. a	20. c	

GK and Current Affairs

1. d	2. b	3. c
4. c	5. c	6. d
7. d	8. c	9. c
10. c	11. d	12. b
13. d	14. c	15. c
16. a	17. b	18. d

STUDY ABROAD

Studying abroad has been a fascinating proposition for students who want to get international exposure and enhance their horizon of thinking. Students approach studying abroad based on different parameters and different expectations. Here is a list of few parameters which a student needs to keep in mind while considering studying abroad.

Categories of Students Who Choose to Study Abroad

(I) *Quality Education Seekers with No Settlement Plans* : Many students embark on their educational journey abroad with a clear and focused intent to access quality education, acquire international exposure and then bring their newfound knowledge and skills back to India. This trend is particularly pronounced among children from business families. For these individuals, studying abroad is not merely an academic endeavour but a strategic move. These students have a clear objective which is to gain exposure, understand global business practices and use this international experience to augment and innovate within their family businesses back home. There is another category of students, who work for a couple of years abroad, after completing their education. They do this to gain real-life work experience, learn about different cultures, and make connections worldwide. This work abroad is not about settling there but is a short-term plan to gather knowledge and skills that they can use back in India.

(II) *Students Aiming for Overseas Immigration:* Here the student sees studying abroad as a first step towards settling abroad. In this case, quality of education is not the primary criterion and it is just seen as a means to an end. As a result, most students apply to mid-tier and average colleges. The focus of the student is to get a job after college and work in the country for a considerable period so that he/she can gain permanent residency in the country of his/her choice. However, there are major risks involved which a student should be aware of:

Country Risk: Studying abroad with the intention of immigration presents a unique set of challenges and considerations ranging from fluctuating immigration policies to personal safety. Countries like Canada have historically been favourites among Indian students for their student-friendly and immigration-friendly policies. However, issues such as rising living costs, job market saturation and less availability of well-paying jobs have led to a shift in preferences. Countries like Germany have recently become more attractive due to more lenient work permit and visa policies. There is a major challenge of forecasting which country will offer a welcoming environment in the future. To navigate this uncertainty, students must consider not only the immediate benefits of

Did You Know?

Exploring the skills shortage lists of various countries can reveal the high demand for specific skills within those nations. Critical sectors like nursing, construction, and ICT frequently require the expertise of foreign workers. Countries such as the UK and Australia actively seek to fill these gaps by offering special visas for skilled professionals.

their education abroad but also the long-term and short-term policies of their host countries towards immigrants. This includes understanding the political climate, recognizing potential racial biases or issues around equal opportunity and most critically evaluating the return on investment of their education abroad.

College Risk: Considering the significant investment of time, money and effort that studying abroad entails, it is crucial to make informed choices regarding the institutions one aims for. Opting for a drop year rather than settling for a below-average college abroad can be a smart move, particularly in uncertain economic times. The risk with lesser-known colleges is not just regarding the quality of education but also about the potential for future employment. In a challenging economic climate, job placements can become scarce, especially for graduates from these institutions. This leaves students without the job opportunities which they had anticipated. The value of a degree can significantly depend on the reputation and ranking of the college or university. Higher-ranked institutions often have better connections with industries, offer superior career services and boast higher employment rates among graduates.

Countries

USA: Studying in the USA after Class XII can open many doors for Indian students, offering them a chance to learn at top universities, engage in cutting-edge research, and experience a diverse culture. Although going for a Master's degree might seem more suitable due to its focus on specialization and relevance to job markets worldwide, pursuing a Bachelor's degree in the USA is also valuable. It helps develop critical thinking and adaptability skills. However, it's important to note that if a student does not get admission into one of the top 20 colleges in the USA then getting a good job or a Green Card can be very challenging. Choosing the right course and university is key to making the most of studying abroad in the USA.

For detailed ranking, please visit
www.usnews.com/best-colleges

Canada: Studying in Canada offers Indian students a high-quality education and a multicultural environment, alongside promising immigration opportunities and a high standard of living. However, the experience comes with challenges such as the high cost of living and tuition, adapting to the cold climate, competitive university admissions and significant distance from home. While Canada is welcoming to international students and offers pathways to permanent residency, the present scenario in Canadian job market looks grim as there is a demand-supply mismatch. Prospective students should consider these factors carefully to ensure Canada aligns with their educational and personal goals.

For detailed rankings, please visit www.usnews.com/education/best-global-universities/canada

UK: For Indian students, the UK offers world-class education with the benefit of shorter course durations which leads to quicker workforce entry. The country's multicultural environment and the convenience of studying in English make it an attractive destination. However, challenges such as high living and tuition costs, strict visa regulations, damp climate and cultural adjustments are significant. Additionally, the post-Brexit landscape may influence tuition fees and work opportunities for international students. Prospective students should weigh these pros and cons carefully, considering both the academic excellence and practical hurdles of studying in the UK.

For detailed ranking, please visit www.usnews.com/education/best-global-universities/united-kingdom

Singapore: Singapore is becoming a top choice for Indian students abroad, thanks to its strategic role as an Asia-Pacific hub for multinational corporations which provides significant career opportunities and ease of staying connected with India. The country's education system is renowned for its quality and English-medium instruction in a multicultural environment. However, the benefits come with high living and tuition costs, and the competitive nature of admissions. Singapore's proximity to India and potential for career advancement make it appealing, but students must also navigate its strict regulations and a potentially limited campus life. These factors should be considered for taking a decision to study in Singapore.

For detailed ranking, please visit https://www.usnews.com/education/best-global-universities/search?country=singapore

European Countries (Ireland/Germany/Spain/France): Europe's allure for Indian students is growing, driven by the continent's lower education costs and increasingly welcoming policies. Countries like Ireland, Germany, Spain, and France each offer unique advantages, from Ireland's English-speaking environment and Germany's free public university education to Spain's affordable living costs and France's renowned programs in Fashion and Business. However, students must navigate challenges such as high living expenses in certain cities, language barriers outside English-speaking regions and the competitive job market for non-EU citizens. Despite these hurdles, the opportunity to immerse in diverse cultures alongside the academic and professional benefits makes Europe a compelling choice for Indian students seeking international education.

For detailed ranking, kindly visit www.topuniversities.com/europe-university-rankings?page=1

Process

For Ivy League Colleges

- Gaining admission to prestigious Universities, including Ivy League schools, involves showcasing not only stellar SAT scores but also a rich array of extracurricular accomplishments. Admission Committees values the holistic achievements of an applicant, including interests and accolades in sports, arts and social service which are often nurtured from as early as Class IX. These activities, along with compelling essays, provide a deeper insight into an applicant's character, ambitions, and contributions beyond academics.
- Getting a scholarship involves more than just good grades. It requires a standout profile with exceptional SAT scores and achievements in activities like hackathons or participation in national-level contests. Obtaining a scholarship in Ivy League colleges is highly competitive and not as easy as it is usually made out to be.
- Consulting an immigration consultant is not necessary here, but guidance from educational consultants proves invaluable. They assist in crafting compelling essays and statements of purpose, enriching profiles with key details to enhance selection prospects.

For Long Term Immigration/Residency in Mind

- While aiming for higher education abroad focusing on the top 20 Universities in that country is the key. Choosing lower-ranked colleges could compromise your future opportunities.
- Immigration Consultants are incentivised to send you to substandard colleges as they earn commissions from them. They cannot by design recommend you to a good university as good Universities will never offer money as commissions to these agents.
- Immigration Consultants are helpful for immigration-focused goals. But if they suggest specific univs, it is highly likely that those institutions are substandard

and there is a vested interest of the immigration consultant involved. For academic and study visa application guidance, it is best to engage an Education Consultant who has a proven track record in assisting with profile building, essay and SOP writing and providing sound advice regarding study visa and colleges which one should apply.

Cost of Studying Abroad

USA: For Indian students, attending Ivy League Universities in the USA involves costs which ranges between Rs 1 crore and Rs 3.5 crore. It covers tuition, housing, and daily living expenses These costs are significantly influenced by the college's location; institutions near major U.S. cities have higher expenses due to the elevated cost of living. In contrast, colleges situated in less urban areas typically have lower costs. It's noteworthy that tuition and fees are consistent for both U.S. citizens and international students across the United States.

For more information on Studying in USA,
visit: www.usa.gov/study-in-us

Canada: Studying in Canada presents varying costs for Indian students. Top colleges may demand tuition fees ranges from ₹20,00,000 to ₹40,00,000 along with living expenses.
Meanwhile, average colleges offer relatively lower costs, ranging from ₹15,00,000 to ₹25,50,000 annually, covering tuition, accommodation, and other expenses.

For more information on Studying in Canada,
visit: www.studyincanada.com

UK: Studying in the UK for Indian students varies in cost depending on the college's ranking. It may cost from ₹15,00,000 to ₹35,00,000 for studying in UK.
The advantage that the UK has is that the course duration is usually shorter and there is quicker workforce entry.

For more information on Studying in UK ,
visit: study-uk.britishcouncil.org

Australia/New Zealand: Studying in Australia or New Zealand entails varying costs for Indian students. The overall cost of education ranges from ₹15,00,000 to ₹30,00,000, alongside living expenses.

For more information on Studying in Australia
visit: www.studyaustralia.gov.au

European Countries: The cost of studying in most of the European Countries (except UK) for Indian students varies depending on the course, institution, and location.
On average, tuition fees for undergraduate programs range from ₹13,00,000 to ₹21,50,000. The cost of education is relatively low as compared to other countries. In Germany education is free, which is an attractive option for students who seek affordability.

For more information on Studying in Germany
visit: www.studying-in-germany.org

Test Name	Purpose	Score Range	Accepting Countries
SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)	Admission to undergraduate programs	Score Range: 400-1600 Below 1300= Average; 1300-1450= Good; >1450= Excellent	USA, Canada, Australia, UK, Europe
ACT (American College Testing)	Alternative to SAT for undergrad admission	Score Range: 1-36 Below 16=Below Average; 17-24= Good; >25= Excellent	USA, Canada
IELTS (International English Language Testing System)	English Language Proficiency	Bands: 0-9 < Band 5= Modest;Band 6=Competent; Band 7=Good; Band 8=Very Good; Band 9=Expert User	UK, Australia, Canada, USA, Europe
TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)	English Language Proficiency	Score Range: 0-120 <80= Below Average;80-99=Good; >100=Excellent	USA, Canada, Australia, UK, Europe
PTE (Pearson Test of English)	English Language Proficiency	Score Range: 10-90 10-30=Below Average; 30-50=Average; 50-60=Good; >60=Excellent	UK, Australia, Canada, USA, Europe

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