

STEM ENTRANCE EXAMS · INDIA

Exam Calendar

plan the year ahead.

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A complete timeline of every major STEM entrance exam in India — **JEST, GATE, JAM, IIT-JEE, NEET, IISER IAT, NEST, ISI, TIFR GS** and more. Registration windows, exam dates, eligibility, and direct links to official syllabi. One document. Print it, pin it, plan around it.

13

EXAMS COVERED

4CATEGORIES · UG / PG / PHD
/ SPECIAL**12**

MONTHS MAPPED · JAN - DEC

Start with the *year*, not the exam.

Most students in Palakkad first hear about an exam **after its registration has already closed**. That's the gap this document exists to close. Every major STEM entrance route in India — undergraduate, postgraduate, and research-level — is listed here with its registration window, exam date, eligibility, and a direct link to the official syllabus PDF or page.

Treat it as a wall planner. Print it. Mark the dates that apply to you. The legend below tells you which color matches which stage of your academic journey — UG, PG, PhD, or specialised research entry. **Dates shift every year by a few weeks**, so always confirm against the official site linked in each card before scheduling anything irreversible.

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 UG · AFTER CLASS 12

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 PG · AFTER B.SC. / B.TECH

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 PHD · INTEGRATED / DIRECT

●

 SPECIALISED · ISI / CUET / ICAR

CHAPTER 1 · UNDERGRADUATE ENTRY

The *UG* gateways.

For students finishing Class 12. These exams open the door to engineering, medicine, the IISER five-year BS-MS programme, NISER, ISI, central universities, and agriculture science institutes.

JEE Main

Joint Entrance Examination (Main) · National Testing Agency

UG · ENGINEERING

REGISTRATION

EXAM

Session 1: Nov · Session 2: Feb – Mar

Session 1: late Jan · Session 2: early Apr

ELIGIBILITY

SYLLABUS

Class 12 pass with PCM (75% for top institutes)

NCERT Class 11 & 12 — Physics, Chemistry, Maths

LEADS TO NITs, IIITs, CFTIs, B.Arch, also the qualifying test for JEE Advanced.

OFFICIAL jeemain.nta.nic.in

SYLLABUS jeemain.nta.nic.in/syllabus

JEE Advanced

Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced) · IIT-conducted

UG · IIT

REGISTRATION

Late Apr – early May (top 2.5 lakh JEE Main rankers)

EXAM

Late May (single attempt per year)

ELIGIBILITY

JEE Main top 2.5 lakh · max 2 attempts in 2 consecutive years

SYLLABUS

PCM — slightly trimmed vs JEE Main (see official doc)

LEADS TO B.Tech / B.S. at all 23 IITs, IISc Bangalore (UG), ISM Dhanbad, IISER (via JEE Advanced channel).

OFFICIAL jeeadv.ac.in

SYLLABUS jeeadv.ac.in/syllabus.html

NEET-UG

National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) · NTA

UG · MEDICAL

REGISTRATION

Feb – Mar

EXAM

First week of May

ELIGIBILITY

Class 12 pass with PCB (50% general, 40% reserved)

SYLLABUS

NCERT Class 11 & 12 — Physics, Chemistry, Biology

LEADS TO MBBS, BDS, AYUSH, BVSc & AH — and since 2024, also the qualifying test for IISER IAT (PCB students).

OFFICIAL neet.nta.nic.in

SYLLABUS neet.nta.nic.in/syllabus

IISER IAT

IISER Aptitude Test · for 5-year BS-MS in Science

UG · SCIENCE

REGISTRATION

Apr – May

EXAM

Mid-June (single shift, computer-based)

ELIGIBILITY

Class 12 Science (PCB / PCM / PCMB) · state board topper quota

SYLLABUS

NCERT Class 11 & 12 — Physics, Chemistry, Maths, Biology

LEADS TO 5-year Integrated BS-MS at all 7 IISERs (Pune, Mohali, Kolkata, Bhopal, Thiruvananthapuram, Tirupati, Berhampur) + IISc Bangalore + IIT Bhilai (BS programme).

OFFICIAL iiseradmission.in

SYLLABUS iiseradmission.in/Syllabus.html

NEST

National Entrance Screening Test · NISER & CEBS

UG · SCIENCE

REGISTRATION

Feb – May

EXAM

Late June

ELIGIBILITY

Class 12 Science with PCM / PCB · 60% (55% reserved)

SYLLABUS

NCERT Class 11 & 12 — Physics, Chemistry, Maths, Biology

LEADS TO 5-year Integrated M.Sc. at NISER Bhubaneswar and UM-DAE CEBS Mumbai — both Department of Atomic Energy funded, with INSPIRE fellowship for all selected students.

OFFICIAL nestexam.in

SYLLABUS nestexam.in/syllabus

The *PG* doorways.

For students who have finished a B.Sc. or B.Tech and want to go deeper — into an IIT M.Sc., an M.Tech, or specialised master's at India's top science institutes.

JAM

Joint Admission Test for M.Sc. • Rotating IIT

PG • M.SC.

REGISTRATION

Sep – Oct (previous year)

EXAM

Second Sunday of February

ELIGIBILITY

Bachelor's with relevant subject • no age limit

SYLLABUS

7 subjects: Biotech, Chem, Economics, Geology, Maths, Math-Stats, Physics

LEADS TO M.Sc. at IITs, IISc, NITs (CCMN), IISERs (select programmes), DIAT-Pune, SLIET, JNCASR. The standard route into Indian science master's.

OFFICIAL jam.iitg.ac.in (rotates yearly)

SYLLABUS jam.iitg.ac.in/syllabus.html

GATE

Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering • IISc + 7 IITs

PG • M.TECH / PHD / PSU

REGISTRATION

Aug – Sep (previous year)

EXAM

First two weekends of February (two shifts each)

ELIGIBILITY

3rd-year B.Tech / B.Sc. research • no age limit

SYLLABUS

30 subjects incl. Physics, Chemistry, Maths, Life Sciences, Biotech, Geology

LEADS TO M.Tech at IITs / NITs / IISc, direct PhD offers, recruitment by PSUs (IOCL, NTPC, BHEL, etc.), and since 2024 also accepted by NTU Singapore and TU Munich for Master's admission.

OFFICIAL gate.iitk.ac.in (rotates yearly)

SYLLABUS gate.iitk.ac.in/syllabus.html

The *research* routes.

For students who already know science is the path. These are the exams that open the door to TIFR, IISc, IISERs, IMSc, HRI, ICTS, and other premier research institutions for PhD or Integrated PhD programmes.

JEST

Joint Entrance Screening Test · for PhD / Integrated PhD in Physics & related

PHD · PHYSICS

REGISTRATION

Dec – Jan

EXAM

Late Feb – mid-Mar

ELIGIBILITY

B.Sc. / M.Sc. / B.Tech (subject-specific — check institute page)

SYLLABUS

Physics (B.Sc. + M.Sc. level) — also Theoretical CS, Neuroscience, Comp Bio

LEADS TO PhD / Integrated PhD at TIFR, IISc, IISERs, IMSc Chennai, HRI Allahabad, ICTS Bengaluru, NISER, RRI, ARIBENS. The de facto gateway into Indian physics research.

OFFICIAL jest.org.in SYLLABUS jest.org.in/syllabus.html

TIFR GS

TIFR Graduate School Entrance · Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

PHD · TIFR

REGISTRATION

Sep – Nov (previous year)

EXAM

Second Sunday of December

ELIGIBILITY

B.Sc. / B.Tech / M.Sc. depending on subject · for PhD & Integrated PhD

SYLLABUS

Subject-specific — Biology, Chem, Physics, Maths, CS, Wildlife, Sci-Wok

LEADS TO PhD at TIFR Mumbai, TIFR-CAM Bengaluru, ICTS, NCBS, TIFR-Hyderabad, IISER-TVM Maths. The most rigorous single-exam route into Indian fundamental research.

OFFICIAL univ.tifr.res.in SYLLABUS univ.tifr.res.in/gs2025/syllabus

CSIR-UGC NET

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research · National Eligibility Test · NTA

PHD · JRF

REGISTRATION

Mar & Sep

EXAM

Jun & Dec (bi-annual)

ELIGIBILITY

M.Sc. or final-year M.Sc. · max age 28 for JRF (general)

SYLLABUS

5 subjects: Chemical, Earth, Life, Mathematical, Physical Sciences

LEADS TO Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) + eligibility for Assistant Professor in universities — and direct PhD admission at CSIR labs, IITs, central universities.

OFFICIAL csirnet.nta.nic.in SYLLABUS csirnet.nta.nic.in/syllabus

CHAPTER 4 · SPECIALISED ENTRY

The *alternative* routes.

Not every route runs through JEE or NEET. These exams open doors to statistics, central universities, and agricultural science — and they're under-known by most students in our district.

ISI Admission Test

Indian Statistical Institute · B.Stat / B.Math / Master's

SPECIAL · STATS

REGISTRATION

Mar – Apr

EXAM

Mid-May (two-part: MCQ + descriptive)

ELIGIBILITY

Class 12 pass with Maths · for B.Stat (Kolkata), B.Math (Bengaluru)

SYLLABUS

Algebra, Geometry, Calculus, Probability — ISI-published syllabus

LEADS TO B.Stat at ISI Kolkata, B.Math at ISI Bengaluru, M.Stat, M.Math, and Master's in CS / QM / Cryptography. Fully funded for selected students with monthly stipend.

OFFICIAL isical.ac.in/admission

SYLLABUS isical.ac.in/~admission/syllabus

CUET (UG)

Common University Entrance Test (UG) · NTA

SPECIAL · UNIV

REGISTRATION

Feb – Apr

EXAM

May – Jun (multiple shifts)

ELIGIBILITY

Class 12 pass · subject-specific tests based on target course

SYLLABUS

Class 12 NCERT subjects + General Test + Languages

LEADS TO Undergraduate admission at 250+ central, state, deemed, and private universities — including DU, JNU, BHU, BBAU, central university of Kerala.

OFFICIAL [samarth.ac.in / cuet.samarth.ac.in](https://samarth.ac.in/cuet)

SYLLABUS cuetsamarth.ac.in/syllabus

ICAR AIEEA

All India Entrance Examination for Admission · Indian Council of Agri. Research

SPECIAL · AGRI

REGISTRATION

Apr – May

EXAM

Jun

ELIGIBILITY

Class 12 with PCB / PCM / Agriculture · 50% (PCB/PCM/Agriculture)

SYLLABUS

NCERT Class 11 & 12 — Physics, Chemistry, Biology / Agri, Maths

LEADS TO B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, B.Tech Biotech, B.F.Sc — at 75+ ICAR-funded agricultural universities across India.

OFFICIAL [icar.org.in / icarexam.net](https://icar.org.in/icarexam.net)

SYLLABUS icarexam.net/Syllabus.aspx

CHAPTER 5 · YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE

The *annual* rhythm.

When does each exam typically happen? This grid is a rough guide — registration windows and exact dates shift a few weeks every year. Use it as a planning anchor, not a calendar.

Typical annual cycle (Jan – Dec)

JAN JEE Main S1 JEST reg.	FEB GATE JAM JEE Main S2 reg.	MAR CSIR NET reg. ISI reg. CUET reg.	APR JEE Main S2 IISER IAT reg. ICAR reg.	MAY NEET-UG JEE Adv reg. ISI exam	JUN IISER IAT NEST CUET exam ICAR exam CSIR NET exam
JUL Results season Counselling	AUG GATE reg. opens Admissions close	SEP TIFR GS reg. JAM reg. CSIR NET reg.	OCT JAM reg. closes GATE reg. closes	NOV JEE Main S1 reg. TIFR GS reg. closes	DEC TIFR GS exam CSIR NET exam JEST reg. opens

"A calendar doesn't open doors. But knowing a door exists — and when it opens — that's where every path starts."

— Arivu · Palakkad

CHAPTER 6 · PRACTICAL NOTES

Read *before* you plan.

Things every student should know

- **Dates shift every year.** The months listed here are typical patterns. Always verify against the official site linked in each card before booking travel or making irreversible decisions.
- **KVPY is discontinued.** Since 2022, the IISER BS-MS admission channel previously called KVPY has been merged into IISER IAT — a single aptitude test for all IISERs.
- **NEET now also qualifies for IISER IAT.** Since 2024, PCB students who clear NEET-UG can also apply to IISER through the SCB channel — JEE Main / NEET / IAT, all three are valid routes.
- **JAM and GATE are siblings.** JAM is for M.Sc. (science), GATE is for M.Tech (engineering) and is increasingly used for direct PhD admission at IISc and IITs.
- **JEST and TIFR GS are not interchangeable.** TIFR GS is for TIFR-specific PhD programmes; JEST is a single test accepted by 25+ research institutes. Many students write both.
- **CSIR NET has two cut-offs.** JRF (fellowship money + PhD eligibility) and LS (lectureship eligibility only). The JRF cut-off is higher.
- **Reservations apply everywhere.** SC / ST / OBC-NCL / EWS / PwD — read the official notification carefully. State-level quotas (Kerala) apply only at state universities, not at IITs or IISERs.
- **Print this and pin it on your wall.** The students who win these exams are usually the ones who planned around the dates a year in advance.



Knowledge, *shared.*

This calendar is part of Arivu — a bilingual science career literacy project built by students from Palakkad, for students from Palakkad.

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