

Chapter I: Introduction

1.1 About IITs

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are autonomous, apex institutions for engineering education and research in India. As of March 2020, there are 23 IITs across the country. Out of these 23 IITs, seven IITs were set up between 1951-2001, eight IITs during 2008 and 2009 while the other eight IITs were set up between 2012-2016.

IITs offer academic courses in various branches of engineering and technology at both Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate (PG) levels. Admission into the courses offered by all IITs is based on merit in entrance tests, viz., Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-Advanced) for B.Tech. courses, Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) for M.Tech. and Joint Admission Test for M.Sc. courses (JAM).

1.2 Powers and duties of IITs

All IITs are governed by the ‘Institutes of Technology Act, 1961’ (hereinafter referred as Act) a Central Statute, which declared the IITs to be institutions of national importance. The Act envisages that the IITs provide for instruction and research in such branches of engineering and technology, sciences and arts, as the IITs may think fit. It also lays down that the IITs take steps for the advancement of learning and dissemination of knowledge in such branches, to hold examinations, to confer honorary degrees, to frame statutes and ordinances etc.

In line with the provisions of the Act, IITs offer Undergraduate programmes¹ in various branches of engineering and technology, Postgraduate programmes² with specialization and Ph.D. programmes in engineering, science and interdisciplinary areas. The IITs also conduct basic, applied and sponsored research.

1.3 Organisation structure of IITs

The organisation structure of the IITs as mandated by the Act and Statutes is as depicted in *Chart 1.1*:

¹ Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech.), Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.), Bachelor of Design (B.Des.)

² M.Tech., M.A., M.Sc., M.Des., M.Phil., MBA

Chart 1.1: Showing organisation structure of IITs

The Visitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The President of India is the Visitor of all IITs. •The Visitor may appoint people to review the work/progress of any IIT and to hold inquiries into its affairs.
Council of IITs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A central body to coordinate the activities of all the IITs., headed ex-officio, by the Union Minister of Education. •Chairman & Directors of all IITs are members. •Advises on matters relating to admission standards, degrees, also lays down policy regarding cadres, methods of recruitment and conditions of service. •The Council appoints Director of each Institute with the prior approval of the Visitor.
Board of Governors (BoG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Each IIT is governed by its BoG responsible for the general superintendence, direction and control of the IIT. •The Chairman of the BoG is nominated by the Visitor and he/she presides over the Board meetings and ensures that the decisions taken by the BoG are implemented.
Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Senate of the IIT is responsible for maintenance of the standards of education and examination in the IIT.
Finance Committee (FC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Responsible for providing its views and make recommendations to the BoG on any financial matter relating to the Institute. It also provides advice and guidance relating to resource mobilization.
Building and Works Committee (BWC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Building and Works Committee of each IIT, under the direction of the BoG, is responsible for construction of all major capital works of the Institutes.
Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Principal academic and executive officer of the IIT •Responsible for the administration of the IIT and for imparting of instruction and maintenance of discipline. •A number of Deans and the HoDs advise and assist the Director on the matters of education and research.
Registrar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Custodian of records, the common seal, the funds of the IIT etc. •Acts as the Secretary of the Board, the Senate and such committees as may be prescribed by the Statute. •Responsible to the Director for the proper discharge of his functions

1.4 Sources of finance

To enable the IITs to discharge their functions efficiently under the Act, the Central Government, after appropriation made by Parliament by law, pays to each IIT in each financial year, such sums of money and in such manner as it may think fit. These consists of Grants (capital and recurring nature) and Loans (both from internal as well as external agencies) provided through Government of India. Besides, IITs are empowered to generate internal revenues in the form of fees and other charges, as envisaged by the Act.