

ASET Colloquium

Joint Seat Allocations in IITs and Other CFTIs: Impact of an Algorithm
by Prof. Surender Baswana (IIT Kanpur)

Friday, 17 March 2017 from 16:00 to 17:00 at AG-66

Abstract:

Until 2014, the admissions to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) were conducted separately (based on JEE Advanced ranks) from the admissions to the non-IIT Centrally Funded Technical Institutes (CFTIs) (based on JEE mains ranks). The same set of candidates were eligible to apply for a seat in each of the two sets of institutes, and several hundred candidates would indeed receive two seats from the two different sets. Each such candidate could use at most one of the seats, leaving a vacancy in the other seat; this would be noticed much later, in many cases after classes began. Such seats would either remain vacant or would be reallocated at a later stage using spot rounds organized locally which used to be inherently unfair and inefficient.

In 2015 and 2016, a new combined seat allocation process was implemented to resolve some of these issues, especially the vacancies. The process brought all CFTIs under one umbrella for admissions. Each candidate submitted a single choice list over all available programs, and received no more than a single seat from the system, based on the choices and the ranks in the relevant merit lists. At the core of this seat allocation process lies an algorithm adapted elegantly to many business rules of admissions and engineered to handle many practical challenges. At least 90% of the talk will be accessible even to a non-expert.