



Preparatory Course for C-DAC Common Admission Test  
Pre-CAT for Youth of India  
belonging to SC and ST communities

# RULEBOOK OF PRE-CAT

## *NSM Capacity Building Initiative*

Admission rulebook for the candidates who belong to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities of India to join C-DAC, ACTS Preparatory Course for C-DAC Common Admission Test (Pre-CAT).

Pre-CAT May 2024 batch

March 27, 2024

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## 1. Preamble

This RULE BOOK is a guide for the Preparatory course for C-DAC Common Admission Test (Pre-CAT) under NSM capacity building project of ACTS, Pune. It provides the details of the course, how to apply to the course, process of admissions to the course, selection criteria, entrance examination, syllabus of entrance examination, required documentations, fees, and scholarships details.

C-DAC is implementing the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM [nsmindia.in](http://nsmindia.in)), a capacity building initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.

The objective of the project is to develop technology professionals hailing from Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities, having graduation in Engineering or post graduation in Science disciplines, in High Performance Computing (HPC) domains to meet skill and capability building objectives of the NSM.

There are two domains identified to develop the expertise which are:

1. High Performance Computing System Administration
2. High Performance Computing Application Programming

The two Post Graduate Diploma courses in HPC domains offered are 900 hours duration (approx. six months) and will be conducted at Pune. It is mandatory for the candidates to appear in a National level C-DAC Common Admission Test (C-CAT) and qualify to join these two PG Diploma Courses. These courses will be offered free (usual course fee ranging from INR 90,000/- to 1,15,000/- plus taxes per student) along with a stipend to the eligible candidates. More details with terms and conditions will be published in due time.

To prepare the candidates aspiring to join these PG Diploma Courses and improve the chances of performing well and competing to excel in the C-CAT, a Preparatory course namely Pre-CAT is designed.

## 2. About Pre-CAT

Preparatory course for C-DAC Common Admission Test (Pre-CAT) is course of 200 hours duration which aims to prepare students for C-CAT. The syllabus is designed to cover subjects which are part of C-CAT syllabus. The Pre-CAT syllabus is provided in the Annexure A for reference.

The course requires the candidate's to dedicate 5-6 hours per day for six days in a week to cover the 200 hours in about 35 days in physical classroom, assignments and lab sessions. At end of the course students meeting 75% attendance and other criteria will be eligible to appear in the certification examination. Students successful in examination will receive a certificate of merit.

## 2.1. Benefits

The selected candidates will benefit with the following:

1. Prepare for the C-DAC Common Admission Test (C-CAT) and provide requisite knowledge to qualify in C-CAT for joining the Post Graduate Diploma courses in HPC System Administration and HPC Application Programming.
2. Help candidates from officially designated socially disadvantaged groups (SC & ST) in India.
3. The Pre-CAT course is free (usual fee is INR 15,000/- per student) for the selected candidates, however a caution deposit of INR 5000/- will be taken. Please see Refund of Caution Deposit section for details.
4. Candidate's active participation and successfully completion of the Pre-CAT course will provide them the gateway and an edge to perform better in the C-CAT for upcoming batch.

## 3. Course Eligibility

1. Candidate must belong to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes communities in India.
2. Candidate must be Graduate in Engineering (10+2+4 or 10+3+3 years) in IT / Computer Science / Electronics / Telecommunications / Electrical / Instrumentation, OR MSc / MS (10+2+3+2 years) in Computer Science, IT, Electronics OR Post Graduate Degree in Mathematics / Statistics, OR MCA OR Post Graduate Degree in Physics / Computational Sciences/ Mathematics or allied areas from a recognised University.
3. Candidate must have secured 55% or above in the qualifying degree.
4. Candidates pursuing the final year of Engineering or Post Graduation in above streams are also eligible to apply for the Pre-CAT course. Candidate must fulfil eligibility criteria of the PG-Diploma August 2024 courses while applying for C- CAT later.
5. A candidate can avail Pre-CAT course benefits only once.

## 4. Pre-CAT Training Centres and Seat Capacity

There are a total of 539 seats available across designated training centres in India where the candidates can take the admission.

The list of the training centres and seat capacities is provided in the Annexure-C with the address and contact details for reference.

## 5. Admission process to Pre-CAT

### 5.1. Application Process

The eligible candidates can apply to join Pre-CAT Course through the online registration and application form on the C-DAC ACTS website (acts.cdac.in) by providing the required details and upload their PHOTOGRAPH taken within last three months.

The candidate is required to select one choice of city for appearing for the Course Entrance Test (CET). **No request for change of centre will be entertained**, hence candidate must select city with due care and diligence.

There are no registration or application fees charged from the candidates to apply for the CET.

### 5.2. Course Entrance Test (CET)

The admission to the Pre-CAT course is through a Course Entrance Test (CET) conducted at the designated Training Centres. The candidate must appear for CET along with the issued admit card at the designated training centre as per the scheduled date and time provided in the admit card.

The CET will be computer-based examination in physical mode. The syllabus for the CET is given in Annexure-B.

The duration of the CET will be 60 minutes. For each correct answer +3 mark, -1 marks for incorrect, and 0 for un-attempted answer will be awarded for the examination.

### 5.3. Result of CET & Selection of Training Centre

The result of the CET will be published on the ACTS website indicating ranking for each candidate. Candidates with the lowest 10% performance will not be qualified for ranking. Ranked candidates will be required to provide one or up to three Training Centres as preference order for undergoing Pre-CAT course. The allocation of centre will be strictly by order of rank obtained, vacancy, and centre preference. Candidate must provide choice of centre to be eligible for allocation of centre. C-DAC may, at its own discretion, allocate any centre to eligible candidate based on the various factors.

The candidates allocated a centre will be required to attend interview and document verification process at the allocated centre within the timeframe indicated.

Based on vacancy after first-round, a second choice will be taken for centres where vacancy exists and allocation list will be published for interview and document verification. C-DAC at its own may publish waitlist or conduct open-day. In any case, the allocation will be done as per order of rank in CET.

### 5.4. Interview and Document Verification

The CET ranked candidates must undergo an interview and document verification process conducted by the allocated training centre. The candidate must upload clear scanned copies of their Government provided Identity proof, caste, and educational certifications during the online interview and document verification process.

### 5.5. Final Selection to Pre-CAT

A final selection list of the candidates who have successfully completed the interview and document verification process will be published on the ACTS Website as per the schedule.

The candidates need to confirm the admission to Pre-CAT by providing caution deposit of INR 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) through online payment gateway on C-DAC, ACTS website.

The confirmed candidates have to join the training centre physically where they are selected for the Pre-CAT course.

Note: **No request for change of centre will be entertained**, hence candidate must select centre with due care and diligence.

## 6. Pre-CAT Training

The students need to join the training centre where the student has been provided confirmed admission. Student need to attend classes and lab sessions regularly as per the weekly schedule and day wise schedule provided by the training centre. A minimum of 5-6 hours of engagement every day for six days a week is expected from the students to complete all the modules and topics.

Pre-CAT course may be completed early so as to align with the C-CAT schedule proposed to be published for the upcoming batch of Post Graduate Diploma Courses. So it may require additional hours of engagement by the candidate during the Pre-CAT course.

The students have to attend the Pre-CAT course physically at the training centre and must mark their attendance regularly with minimum 75% attendance so as to take the maximum benefit of the theory and practical sessions conducted by the training centre.

The student must inform the course coordinator for any absence without fail. Student must adhere to general decorum, rules, do's and don'ts, and any prescribed rules and regulation by C-DAC from time to time.

## 7. Pre-CAT Course End Examination

The Pre-CAT students on completion of the training and having a minimum of 75% attendance will be allowed to attend the Pre-CAT course end examination as per the schedule.

## 8. Refund of Caution Deposit

An amount of INR 5,000/- retained as interest-free caution deposit will be refunded to the student fulfilling both of following criteria:

- Attendance of minimum 75% of the in Pre-CAT course duration
- Appear in C-CAT for the upcoming batch.

Additionally, the caution deposit or a portion thereof may be forfeited on any of the following grounds:

- Penalty against any breakage, misplacement, etc. of property of training centre
- Penalty towards any disciplinary action

The refund of the caution deposit will be done 15 working days after the C-CAT conduction and submitting the clearance form from training centre.

## 9. Sponsorship of C-DAC Common Admission Test (C-CAT)

All eligible students from this course who will appear in the **immediate next C-CAT** after the Pre-CAT course are exempt from paying C-CAT examination fees. The candidate may be required to follow special instructions while filling the C-CAT application form to be eligible for this sponsorship.

Note: Joining Pre-CAT and completing it successfully does not guarantee admission into the PG Diploma courses. Candidate must obtain requisite Rank in C-CAT to join PG Diploma courses.

### Annexure-A: Syllabus for Preparatory course for C-DAC Common Admission Test(Pre-CAT)

This course is designed to provide students with sound concepts and knowledge of computers, information technology, C and oops concepts, Digital Electronics and Soft skills. This course helps students to crack C-DAC Common Admission Test (C-CAT) Section A, and Section B for admission to Post Graduate Diploma Courses in HPC domains.

Sl. No.	Module Name	Hours
1.	Computer Fundamentals and Concepts of Programming	10
2.	English Language / Verbal Ability	20
3.	Quantitative Aptitude	25
4.	Logical Reasoning	20
5.	Programming in C	30
6.	Data Structures	20
7.	Object Oriented Programming Concepts Using C++	10
8.	Operating System Concepts	10
9.	Networking	15
10.	Basic Concepts of Big Data	20
11.	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	20
	<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>200</b>

### Annexure-B: Syllabus for CET

The syllabus for the CET for 150 marks will include the following:

1. English (10 questions)
2. Mathematics (10 questions)
3. Quantitative Analytics (10 questions)
4. Computer Fundamentals (20 questions)



Annexure-C: Authorized Training centres with seat capacity and contact detail

S.No	Name of Authorized Training Center	Address & Contact Details
1.	Academy of Information Technology (YCP) Mumbai	5th Floor, Y.B. Chavan Centre, General Jagannathrao Bhosale Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai -400021 Maharashtra Tel.: 022- 22028598, 9769256343
2.	Astric Centre of Excellence, Patna	Pratiksha Bhavan, Khajpura, Bailey Road, Patna-800014 Bihar Tel.: 0612 2597031, 8083997775
3.	Bytes Softech Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi	T-8, Okhla Ind Area Phase-II, New Delhi 110020 Tel : 011-46579380, 40503451, 9350552415
4.	Career Foresight, Patna	1st and 3rd Floor, Saraswati Basant Enclave, Near Vasundhara Mall (Pantaloon), Beside Alankar Motors, Rajapur, East Boring Canal Road, Patna-800014 Bihar Tel.: 0612-2573806 ,9031863496
5.	Institute of Emerging Technologies, Pune	Office No. 401, A-wing, 4th Floor, Manikchand Galleria, Swastik Society, CTS No. 996 Model Colony, Shivajinagar Pune Maharashtra 411016 Tel.: 020 48558588, 8263859466
6.	Institute for Advanced Computing and Software Development, Pune	Dr. D.Y. Patil Educational Complex, Sector 29, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Pradhikaran, Nigdi, Pune-411044 Maharashtra Tel.: 020 – 27659509, 27652794
7.	Knowledge-Divine Information Technology Pvt. Ltd., Pune	Office No: 2, 1st Floor, "Gokhale Sanchit" Survey No: 846, BMCC Road, Deccan Gymkhana, Pune-411004 Maharashtra Tel.: 020 25648081/82, 9021479888
8.	Lakshya, Bhubaneswar	Plot No.-3, Adarsh Vihar, KIIT Square, Behind Big Bazar, Patia, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751024 Tel.: 0674 - 2542520, 9040022750
9.	MET – IIT, Nashik	MET - IIT, Bhujbal Knowledge City, Adgaon, Nashik-422003 Maharashtra Tel.:0253-2555896, 8329487991
10.	Netcom, Jaipur	747, Janpath, Rani Sati Nagar, Nirman Nagar, Jaipur - 302019 Rajasthan Tel.: 9649272709
11.	Orlando Academy, Indore	20-21 Press Complex, First Floor, Above Mahanagar Press, Behind Danik Bhaskar, A.B. Road, Indore-452001 Madhya Pradesh Tel.: 0731-4285004, 9584894999
12.	Soft Polynomial, Nagpur	1st Floor, Shree Ganesh Vighnarta Apartments, South Ambazari Road, Mate Square, Shradhanandpeth, Nagpur -440012 Maharashtra Tel.: 0712-2556808/09, 9284082127
13.	Smart Age Computers, Ranchi	Estate Plaza, 6th floor , Room no- 610 Behind Mangal Tower Behind Kantatoli Chowk, Ranchi-834001 Jharkhand Tel.: 9546249991
14.	Sunbeam, Pune	Sunbeam IT Park, Phase-II (Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park) Hinjewadi, Pune, Maharashtra 411057 Tel.: 8447901102
15.	USMs Shriram Mantri Vidyanidhi Info Tech Academy, Mumbai	5th Floor, Vidyanidhi School, Vidyanidhi Road, JVPD Scheme, Juhu Mumbai Maharashtra 400049 Telephone: 022 – 26255629



Annexure-D: Schedule of Pre-CAT Course

S.No.	Activities	Dates
A.	Start of the Registration and Application Form for admission to Pre-CAT on ACTS website	March 28, 2024
B.	Last date of Application for CET on ACTS website	April 18, 2024, (till 12 noon)
C.	Download of Admit Card for CET	April 19, 2024, (after 2 Pm)
D.	Course Entrance Test (CET)	April 20, 2024 & April 21, 2024
E.	Result of CET publish on ACTS website	April 23, 2024
F.	Choice filling of three training centre's offering Pre-CAT & Uploading of documents	April 24 - 25, 2024
G.	Allocation of Centre to Candidates	April 26, 2024
H.	Interview and Document Verification	April 27 - 28, 2024
I.	Final Result published on ACTS Website	April 30, 2024
J.	Confirmation of seat by candidates and pay caution deposit	April 30 – May 03, 2024, 5 pm
K.	Start of Pre-CAT Course	May 06, 2024
L.	Course Completion	June 25, 2024

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## Annexure–E: Additional Terms & Conditions

- (a) Candidate/student agrees that the information provided by them during application/ admission/ course through forms, emails, or other means are correct. Candidate/ student allows C-DAC to use the information provided by them for its own purposes, to the extent allowed by applicable laws, and contact them for communication through notification on its websites, emails, or SMS.
- (b) The cities, dates, etc. for CET are indicative/tentative and may change as per evolving pandemic related orders of the government and local authorities. Candidate agrees that while their city preferences for CET will be taken into consideration for allotting test centres, C-DAC may allot any city or centre for operational and practical reasons at its own discretion.
- (c) Candidate/student agrees to provide reasonable additional information including, but not limited to, identification, fingerprint, audio / video surveillance, etc. for conduction or proctoring of physical or online examination for admission or course progression.
- (d) C-DAC reserves the right to modify or cancel any parts of the Admission Rule-book, processes and results including, but not limited to, exams, mode of exams, question papers, announced dates, courses, syllabus, cities, centres, intake capacities, ranks, seat allocation, candidatures, admissions, etc. as it deems fit, partly or wholly, at any stage without assigning any reasons thereof.
- (e) Application to the courses by candidates and/or admission in any of the courses by students shall indicate their acceptance of all Terms & Conditions, Conduct Rules, Dos & Don'ts, etc. as may be prescribed by C-DAC from time to time. C-DAC shall have the right to impose appropriate disciplinary and other penalties for violation of prescribed terms and rules, including cancellation of candidature, admission, placements, and/or award of certificate.
- (f) In case a candidate is found to be non-eligible during any stage of the admission process or course delivery, his/her admission will stand cancelled with immediate effect and he/she will be subjected to the forfeiture of the caution deposit.
- (g) Use of any unfair means, coercion, inducement, violent, indecent, disorderly, threatening, or offensive behaviour or language by way of gesture, voice, writing, symbols, etc. shall constitute ground for suspension/expulsion from CET and/or course, or debarment from joining/attending C-DAC examination(s) and/or course(s) in future. Decision of C-DAC in this regard shall be final and binding. Such students may be subjected to the forfeiture of the caution deposit.
- (h) All communication from candidates must be made only to the email addresses and phone numbers given in relevant sections of this Admission Rule-book. **Sending emails or phone calling or messaging directly to officials of C-DAC or ATCs is prohibited.**
- (i) **Depending upon the prevailing city/state-wise pandemic and any other guidelines, the training centres may plan the course delivery-mode and communicate the same to the students upon confirmation of admission and thereafter.** Decision and directions of C-DAC in this regard shall be final and binding on all students.
- (j) All decisions of C-DAC with regards to the admission provisions, processes and results shall be final and binding on all candidates/students.

Annexure–F: Flow chart for Pre-CAT admission Process

