

Newspaper Clips

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Change in pecking order: Toppers opt for IIT-Bombay

Old Favourite IIT-Kanpur No Longer Sought After By Students

Hemal Chhapla | TNN


Mumbai: When JEE-2011 topper Immadi Purudhavi Tej of Andhra Pradesh chose IIT-Bombay, it appeared to be just another bit of JEE season news. But it's not just Tej. Seventy of the top 100 in JEE have also chosen IIT-B.

Till about a decade ago, IIT-Kanpur was the preferred destination not only of the JEE top 100 but of most engineering aspirants in the country. But IIT-Bombay has risen in favour. Data released by IIT-B shows a clear trend from 2005, when 52 in the top 100 chose it. Except in 2006 and 2007, when this figure reduced by six and two, the number has only increased. In the same period, 2005-11, IIT-Kanpur's share of the JEE top 100 reduced from 17 to 4. The rest favoured IIT-Delhi, whose fortunes have fluctuated between 16 and 29, IIT-Madras (2-10), and IIT-Kharagpur (0-3).

A number of factors have worked in favour of Mumbai, which includes location, food, placement record and the influence of coaching classes.

CHOICES OF TOP 100 JEE RANKERS							
IIT	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Bombay	70	67	69	54	50	46	52
Delhi	24	24	16	27	29	28	21
Madras	2	2	9	10	5	6	7
Kanpur	4	4	6	9	15	20	17
Kharagpur	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Guwahati	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roorkee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: IIT-Bombay



"Students feel IIT-Bombay is academically good and they can grow as a person here," said IIT-Bombay JEE chairman Avijit Chatterjee. Eight of the top 10 rankers have opted for the institute.

Former JEE chairman Amiya Pani said IIT-B's decision to introduce minors in all programmes has made more students opt for it. In 2008, the institute ushered in academic reforms and let students pick a minor course along with the core subject of specialisation. This, Pani said, also had most streams getting students from higher ranks compared to previous years.

Of the JEE top 100, al-

most none chose IIT-Kharagpur since 2005 except in 3 in 2005 and one in 2007. Twenty years ago, IIT-Kharagpur, the oldest IIT was the mecca of engineering education in the country. "While Bombay and Delhi were still building themselves, Kharagpur's students occupied top positions in big companies. Students looked at Kharagpur's illustrious alumni and rushed there. Now this has changed," said a former JEE chairman.

There was also a time when up to 30 of the JEE top 100 chose IIT-Madras, but food became an issue for students. "(They) have often said that (the institute) does not have the kind of food that

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(the ones in Mumbai and Delhi have). But all our students are good, whether they are in the top 100 or in the ranks below," IIT-Madras director M S Ananth had once said.

If old favourites Kanpur, Kharagpur and Madras have slid on the preference list of the top 100, the newer IITs in Roorkee and Guwahati do not even figure there. Senior faculty members of IIT-Guwahati said this was because of a low representation of students from the Northeast. "Assam is far away from most big cities. The metro IITs have become more attractive despite IIT-Guwahati's very good placement record," said a faculty member.

Indian Express, ND 22/06/2011 P-7

299 seats in IITs could remain vacant this year

MIHIKA BASU

MUMBAI, JUNE 21

WHILE lakhs of students aspire to get into the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), 299 seats are vacant after the first round of allotment this year. Except for the handful of vacancies for Scheduled Tribes (STs) and candidates with physical disabilities, the rest of the seats will remain vacant.

After the first round, figures revealed that 9,319 candidates were allotted seats, while the total number of vacancies across various IITs is 9,618. This includes 4,848 seats for general category, 2,599 for Other Backward Classes, 1,441 for SCs and 730 for STs. Currently, three per cent seats in each category are reserved for candidates with physical disabilities (PDs).

While there are two

FIRST CHOICES ACROSS IITs

COURSE	CANDIDATES
Computer science and engineering (Bombay)	3,352
Electrical engineering (Bombay)	1,393
Computer science and engineering (Delhi)	964
Mechanical engineering (Bombay)	784
Aerospace engineering (Bombay)	415

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

4,68,240

Candidates appeared for JEE '11

13,197

Candidates who qualified

3,848

Candidates who did not get any seat due to various reasons

more rounds of admissions left, there will be no new seat allocation. "We are not filling new seats in the subsequent rounds.

Top rankers flock to IIT-B again

MUMBAI: For yet another year, IIT-Bombay continues to be the most preferred destination for top-ranking JEE candidates. After the first round of allotment, 70 of the top 100 rankers have opted for IIT-B, a marginal increase of three from last year. **ENS**

Hence, the seats unfilled in the first round could remain so," said S Choudhury, JEE 2011 chairman, IIT-Kanpur.

"Over 250 seats were not filled in the first round as no one opted for them. Usually, each year, vacancies remain as no one takes admission in certain courses. In the subsequent (two) rounds this year, these vacant seats may not be filled up. This is because admission will be given against these vacancies only if a student drops out and vacates the seat allotted in round one. But if these vacancies are from ST and PD categories, seats will be transferred to preparatory course. At IIT-Bombay, for instance, there are six vacancies in PD and one in ST," said Avinash Mahajan, vice-chairman, JEE 2011, IIT-Bombay.

Moreover, as many as 368 seats reserved for OBC candidates could not be filled despite giving relaxations and these seats got converted to general category seats.

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IIT alumnus named head of MIT's top lab

Anant Agarwal Will Assume His Role On July 1

Boston: The prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has named Indian academician Anant Agarwal as director of its Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL), the institute's largest interdisciplinary lab.

An IIT Chennai and Stanford University alumnus, Agarwal will assume his new role on July 1. A professor in the department of electrical engineering and computer science, Agarwal succeeds Victor Zue, who served four years as CSAIL's director. The key appointment comes days after MIT named another Indian-origin professor Anantha Chandrakasan to lead the department of electrical engi-

neering and computer science, the largest academic department in the institute.

Chandrakasan is Professor of electrical engineering at MIT and will also be assuming his new role on July 1.

School of Engineering Dean Ian Waitz said he looked forward to Agarwal's "vision and enthusiasm as he takes on this important leadership role."

Agarwal is currently the leader of the Carbon Research Group at CSAIL, which is dedicated to researching and developing operating systems and architectures for multi-core and cloud computing.

Currently he leads Project Angstrom, a multidisciplinary research endeavour uniting scientists from top universities

and industry collaborators in an effort to develop a new multicore system.

Agarwal is a founder and chief technology officer of Tile-terra Corporation, where the Tile multicore processor was created. CSAIL is MIT's largest interdepartmental laboratory with 900 members and more than 100 principal investigators coming from eight departments. It includes approximately 50 research groups organised into three focus areas of artificial intelligence, systems and theory. The research groups are supported by grants from US government agencies such as the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, NASA, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation among others. **PTI**



NEW ROLE

Business Line ND 22-Jun-11 P-11

RAIL TECH COURSE AT IIT MADRAS**Chennai Metro assures a job, but seeks commitment****T.E. Raja Simhan***Chennai, June 21*

Calling all engineers: Do you want to do a post-graduate diploma in 'metro rail technology'? No sweat. Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) will sponsor you for a course at IIT Madras. But, there is a catch.

After the course, one should work for the company for four years with a Rs 5-lakh bond to back one's promise.

Even if the student fails to complete the course, he will still have to pay Rs 5 lakh to CMRL. And, for those who successfully complete the

course but do not join Chennai Metro within ten days of completion of the course, shall also end up Rs 5 lakh poorer.

"The CMRL is assuring a job and in turn wants a commitment from the candidates else all the investment will go waste for them," said an official of a leading HR company.

CMRL, a joint venture company with equity participation from the Government of India and the Tamil Nadu Government, is implementing the Rs 14,000-crore Chennai Metro project. With shortage of people with

expertise in metro rail technology, it has approached the IIT Madras for a solution.

STIPEND

Each year, CMRL will sponsor 10 engineers (civil, mechanical, electrical, electrical and electronics and electronics and communication engineering) to the PG Diploma Course. It will pay a monthly stipend of Rs 20,000 and also sponsor tuition fees, said Mr R.G. Robinson, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras. The course

will commence on July 27.

The one-year course comprises two semesters with participating departments being Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Management Studies and Mechanical Engineering. The first semester will cover areas such as Lean Construction Concepts, Tools and Practices and Metro systems and Engineering, while the second will include construction quality and safety management.

THE PROJECT

The Chennai Metro rail envisages a 45

km public transport system with elevated and underground sections covering the city through two corridors — one a 23-km stretch linking Washermanpet in North Chennai to the airport to the South through the centre of the city and another 17-km stretch connecting the Central Railway Station to St. Thomas Mount through Anna Nagar and Koyambedu in the western parts of the city.

Business Line ND 22-Jun-11 P-4

B-schools bid to make placements transparent**Our Bureau***New Delhi, June 21*

To make placements more transparent, B-schools may replace the concept of cost-to-company (CTC) with maximum earning potential (MEP).

The MEP, unlike the CTC, would mention the cash, non-cash and other variable components.

"Reporting the total guaranteed cash components and MEP separately will provide sufficient meaningful information," said Professor Saral Mukherjee, Chairman, Placements Committee.

Led by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

(IIM-A), 33 B-schools, four recruiters and seven media and ranking agencies have prepared a draft of the placement reporting standards. This draft will be sent to stakeholders, who would be requested to send in their replies accepting or rejecting the draft.

Among other things, the participants of the conference decided that internship data would be segregated based on whether internships were secured through the institute or otherwise; sectoral information would be expanded to include travel and tourism; and the process would be verified by an external auditor.

IIM-A believes that such standards would help in providing authentic and verifiable placement information to MBA aspirants, companies and society at large.

IIM-A said in a release the information disseminated by the media is not consistent and hence not comparable across campuses. To ensure fair and transparent placement reporting, the institute proposed these standards in October 2010, prepared a draft in February this year and sent it to stakeholders for feedback. IIM-A plans to release its first placement report according to the proposed standards this year.