

# Newspaper Clips

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Times of India Kolkata 23.06.2011 p-9

## Toppers pour in for IIT-Bombay seats

Old Favourite  
IIT-Kanpur  
No Longer  
Sought After

Hemali Chhapia | 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-Bombay.

Till about a decade ago, IIT-Kanpur was the preferred destination not only for the JEE top 100 but for 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 fluctu-

### 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



ated 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.

"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 mi-

nor course along with the core subject of specialization. This, Pani said, also had most streams getting students from higher ranks compared to previous years.

Of the JEE top 100, almost 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.

DNA Mumbai 22.06.2011 p-2

# IIT-B most-preferred among JEE toppers

**DNA Correspondent**

The Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) has emerged the clear favourite amongst highest scorers in the joint entrance exam (JEE) held recently for the eight premier tech institutes. The first allotment of seats indicates that IIT-B is the first preference of the top eight all-India rankers in JEE. Nearly 70 of the top 100 scorers have also sought and received admission to IIT-B.

The highest number of candidates from the common merit list — 710 students or 81% of the total — have also opted for IIT-B, while IIT-Delhi is a close second with 654 students from the open category opting for it. A similar trend was observed last year as well, when eight



OUT OF TOP 10 ALL-INDIA RANKERS	
Mumbai	8
Delhi	1
Madras	1
MOST PREFERRED COURSE (FIRST CHOICE)*	
Computer Science and Engineering	3,352
Electrical Engineering	1,393
Mechanical Engineering	784
Aerospace Engineering	415

\* at IITB

students from the top 10 had selected IIT-B. However, this year, the first five toppers have chosen the institute.

While IIT-B had slumped two notches in the recent QS

Asian university rankings, it remains the most preferred institute amongst several high-scoring candidates of JEE. "IIT-B offers a very cosmopolitan environment. It has some

of the best academic and extra-curricular activities, which is also a major lure for students," said Jaya Joshi, public relations officer, IIT-B.

Students say that more

than the environment, IIT-B is popular because of its placements. Located in the financial capital of the country, IIT-B offers the best placements in companies located in Mumbai. "I chose IIT-B because I have brand value. Companies pick you up just because of the -B tag. I was also lured by the campus, which is green and peaceful. Besides, since I live in here, it is close to home," said SS Kaushik, one of toppers.

The first allotment figures were revealed on Tuesday. A total of 13,197 candidates had qualified for IIT JEE-2011 counselling (seat allocation). Of them, 9,319 were allotted seats and 3,878 candidates did not get a seat due to various reasons.

## "Only 10% seat fetchers at IITs are girls IIT-Bombay first choice of toppers; its courses among the 5 most chosen

**ADITI TANDON**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

Boys dominated admissions at IIT, which came to a close yesterday, with 90 per cent male candidates walking away with seats in the premiere technical institutes. Girls made up just 10 per cent of the candidates who landed themselves a berth in the IITs.

In all, 13,197 candidates

had qualified for admission to the institutes on the basis of the cut offs limits announced by the IIT Joint Admission Board. However, of these, only 9,319 candidates finally got in. As many as 3,878 candidates who had qualified as per the cut offs failed to get the seats due to a variety of reasons, including seats being filled up by top rankers.

As always, IIT Bombay emerged as first choice of

the top rankers (it's the only Indian institute among the top 210 in the world QS rankings; its rank being 202). As many as 70 candidates in the top 100 All India Rank List opted for IIT Bombay, followed by 24 opting for IIT Delhi, 4 for IIT Kanpur and 2 for IIT Madras.

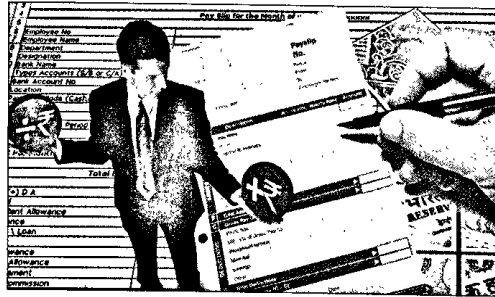
Even for girls, IIT Bombay is the top choice, with 27 girls who landed in the top 100 in the JEE common

merit list, going in for IIT Bombay, followed by 26 in IIT Delhi; 12 in IIT Kharagpur, 11 in IIT Kanpur, 18 in IIT Madras and 6 in IIT Roorkee.

Among the courses, IIT Bombay's computer science and engineering emerged the top course of choice of successful candidates: 3,352 candidates opted for this as against 1,393 who chose to do electrical engineering at the same institute.



# IIM-A to convince recruiters to reveal data about salary



## Is drafting all-India placements reporting standards for greater transparency and compatibility between B-schools

**PARAG DAVE**  
AHMEDABAD

The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) plans to take the lead in convincing recruiters to share data relating to the salaries they offer B-school graduates during recruitment. The details, relating mainly to the guaranteed cash component and variable pay, will be used in a pan-India placement reporting standards initiative that is being adopted by various B-schools. This will help in standardising salaries and making the process more transparent. It will also aim to bring compatibility between business schools.

B-school representatives, who met at a conference hosted by IIM-A last week, said it was not easy to get salary data from recruiters because of confidentiality reasons. To which IIM-A placements committee chairperson, Professor Saral Mukherjee, said his institute would try and convince companies, at various forums, to share the data.

IIM-A had prepared a draft for the placements reporting standards in February, and had sought online feedback from all the stakeholders, like students, recruiters, other B-schools and ranking agencies. IIM-A has already implemented the standards on its campus, informed Prof Mukherjee, adding that the institute was able to get the salary data of 210 out of 312 students. "We will talk to recruiters to get detailed data about the guaranteed cash and Maximum Earning Potential (variable portion) components," Mukherjee said. "If we prepare placements reporting standards only for IIM-A, they will provide transparency and authenticity, but not necessarily compatibility. For that, we need others to do this as well. We have spoken to other B-schools about this, and are open to suggestions from all the stakeholders for the standards."

Some stakeholders are responding positively. Deepika Pandita, assistant professor and place-

ment advisor for the Symbiosis Institute of Business Management in Pune, said: "I felt that IIM-A was quite flexible. This is the first time an IIM is going ahead with transparency in the decision-making process, with the support of the other, relatively smaller B-schools."

IIM-A has been trying to bring change at various levels. Last year it replaced the day-based placements process with a 'cohorts' system, which helps reduce pressure on both students and recruiters. In October, it organised a recruiters' conclave in Mumbai, where it invited the placements heads of leading B-schools to give their views on the cohort-based placements process. There weren't that many takers for this, however. "We shared our experience with B-schools during the Mumbai conclave, and we are ready to help any institute take this up," Mukherjee said. "But no institute has contacted us for introducing the cohort-based process yet." Nevertheless, IIM-A has found that a conference or a large gathering of stakeholders is the best way to gauge reactions to a new initiative. Which is why at last week's meeting, it proposed the pan-India placements reporting standards before the participants.

After taking suggestions from the others, IIM-A has made some changes to the reporting standards draft. For instance, a number of B-schools disagreed that since internships are an academic requirement, this should be guaranteed by the institute. The draft was then modified to say that internship data would, henceforth, be segregated, based on whether it was secured through the institute or otherwise.

The conference was attended by representatives from 33 B-schools including the IIMs Bangalore and Shillong, Xavier Institute of Social Services in Ranchi, Goa Institute of Management, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Taxila Business School, SP Jain from Mumbai and others.

"It is good to see that a premier B-school is inviting all the reputed as well as the not so well-known B-schools for discussion on an important issue," said Prakash Pathak, of the Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad. IIM-A will also organise a two-day event on redesigning the MBA programme in July, and has already invited a number of business schools to participate in this.

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# The 100 per cent alarm

**T**HERE is quite legitimate anguish about the astronomical cut-offs for admission to undergraduate courses announced by most colleges of the University of Delhi. Much pleasure has been derived from ridicule of the 100 per cent cut-off declared by Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) for admission to BCom (Honours), though it is applicable to only a very small section of students. (That cut-off, it seems, was derived mechanically from a formula followed in the past; a 99 per cent cut-off would have done the job just as well.)

Sky-high cut-offs are only the symptoms of a deeper malaise that afflicts higher education in India. Unless the real problems are tackled, it is but inevitable that cut-offs will touch 100 per cent in many more of the popular courses in most of the so-called "good" colleges. Even this year, it has become clear that SRCC's cut-offs were not that irrational after all: it has already admitted more students than the number of sanctioned seats without lowering the cut-offs!

The high cut-offs are the inevitable consequence of three underlying causes. First, there is a widening demand-supply mismatch. India has a large and growing population of young people of college-going age. With growing incomes, the affordability of college education has risen; there has been an increase in the aspirational levels amongst young school-leavers and amongst their parents, who quite frequently try to realise the unfulfilled dreams of their youth through their children. There has also been a structural shift in the demand towards colleges located in metropolitan cities, especially in Delhi, since many formerly good institutions under the control of state governments have suffered serious erosion in quality standards.

Some cynics might wonder whether students have an irrational preference for a handful of colleges. What matters is the popular perception. As long as a suffi-



Look beyond the cut-offs at the acute crisis in our universities

**SANJEEV GREWAL**

ciently large number of good students and members of faculty continue to join a so-called "reputed" institution, the reputation will be self-perpetuating. The alumni will continue to do well and this, by itself, will continue to attract good students in future.

Unfortunately, state policy on expansion of higher education in India works in fits and starts, is characterised by apathy alternating with political expediency, and decades of stagnation are followed by overnight doubling or tripling of the number of IITs, IIMs and Central universities. It is not surprising that these new institutions are not able to attract competent faculty and bright students who are at par

some disciplines. The file still lies buried somewhere in the university hierarchy.

The allocation of a fixed or declining number of highly valued seats amongst an ever rising number of aspirants is bound to give rise to shortages and rationing. The primary rationing mechanism is Class 12 marks.

This brings us to the second reason for exploding cut-offs. If Class 12 marks are to be used, the least one would expect from such a unit of measurement is that it should be stable. What good is a yardstick that keeps on stretching in your hands? Further, a yardstick, to be useful, should give different measurements for objects

**Some cynics might wonder whether students have an irrational preference for a handful of colleges. But as long as a sufficiently large number of good students and members of faculty continue to join a so-called 'reputed' institution, the reputation will be self-perpetuating.**

with their established counterparts, because so many of them start competing for them simultaneously. Thus the number of institutions that provide quality education in India is at best stagnant.

In St Stephen's College, for instance, the total number of seats in economics honours has actually declined from 80 in the early 1980s to 50 now, and the extent of reservation has gone up from about 20 per cent to 60 per cent. As a result, the number of "general category" seats has actually shrunk from over 60 to exactly 20 now! Not surprisingly, the admission cut-offs have zoomed. As a matter of fact, concerned about the rising cut-offs, last year, St Stephen's requested the University of Delhi to increase the number of seats in

of different lengths; if there is not much dispersion amongst marks, board marks lose value as a sifting device. When I left school, only exceptional students got 80 per cent. This magic percentage increased to 85 per cent, then to 90 per cent, and a few years back it reached 95 per cent. This year, several thousand students have obtained over 95 per cent marks in Class 12. With grade inflation from the CBSE, ISC and other boards, ever rising cut-offs are only to be expected.

The increase in first-list cut-offs is somewhat exaggerated due to the recent, ill-conceived policy of the University of Delhi to do away with pre-admission application forms, asking the colleges instead to announce the cut-offs in the absence of any data — along with a

direction to admit all students with marks above the announced cut-off. If the colleges fix cut-offs too high, the consequences are not disastrous: they can always lower them in the next list. If, however, the cut-offs are fixed too low, the colleges would be stuck with students far in excess of their intake capacity. The colleges, quite rationally, erred on the side of caution.

The third and final reason is the use of Class 12 marks as the sole criterion for admissions. Everybody realises how imperfect the examination and marking systems are. The statistical correlation of board marks with ability of any kind, except perhaps the ability to pay for coaching classes, has declined over time. Everybody who has had anything to do with the field of education realises that there can't be a single measure of ability that will suffice for all disciplines. Yet, we continue to rely on board marks as the sole determinant of admissions to all courses, because the alternatives are far too complicated or might give rise to fears of manipulation and favouritism.

But the time has come to change that. The university should seriously consider a two-stage procedure. Use board marks as a crude screening device to limit the number of applicants it wants to consider: fix a reasonable percentage in board marks to make candidates eligible to appear in a subject-specific aptitude test, and then use a weighted average of board marks and score in the aptitude test to come up with a composite score that can be used by colleges to offer slots to students.

Subject-specific aptitude tests constitute only a short-term solution, though, to the problem of dealing with shortages of opportunities for quality higher education. The long-term solution can only be to have colleges like SRCC, LSR and St Stephen's in every state, if not district, of the Indian Union.

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Asian Age ND 24/06/2011 P-8

# Nasscom test for IT sector hopefuls

**K. SREEDEVI and  
N. ARUN KUMAR**

CHENNAI

**June 23:** Students from engineering and arts and science colleges in the country who want to join any top IT company will have to up a common online entrance test (CET) to be conducted by industry body Nasscom.

While students of arts and science colleges will have to take a Nasscom assessment competency test, those in engineering colleges will go through Nasscom assessment competency technology test.

"The common test will be held from this academic year and colleges that want to tap leading IT firms must ensure that their students take up this test before campus recruitment begins," said Dr Sandhya Chintala, senior director, Nasscom Education Initiative.

There are over 30,000 engineering, arts and science colleges in the country with nearly one crore students. Generally, campus selections begin around

January-February in arts colleges and during the eighth semester (November-December) in engineering colleges.

The exam curriculum, being devised by Nasscom, will test the student's ability in mathematics, etiquette, analytical thinking and logical reasoning. "This is a completely industry-driven decision who are looking for talent ready for deployment," says Dr K. Purushothaman, regional director, Nasscom, TN & Kerala. Lauding the initiative, Lt. Col. Jayakumar, registrar of IIT (Design & Manufacturing), Kancheepuram and former deputy registrar of training and placement in IIT-Madras, said, "This will benefit recruiters in a big way as it will result in saving of money and time, besides standardising training material."

However, a few other engineering colleges are not quite enthusiastic about the initiative. "Why should we spoil the chances of students even at the campus level?" they ask.

Hindustan ND 24/06/2011

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# आईआईएम-आईआईटी की पढ़ाई खेती में लगाई

पटना | प्रियदर्शन

नए रास्ते

बदलाव की नज़ीर देखिए। दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी, जेएनयू और विदेश के प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों में पढ़ाई करने के बाद अनेक युवकों ने खेती को अपना पेशा बनाया है। आईआईएम से पढ़ाई करने के बाद कौशलेन्द्र ने सब्जी की ऑर्गेनिक खेती और मार्केटिंग को एक नया आयाम दिया है। पटना में एसी ठेले पर सब्जी की बिक्री उसी की दिमागी उपज है। बिहार में हाल के वर्षों में अच्छी नौकरियां छोड़ खेती में जुटे लोगों की तादात बढ़ी है।

राज्य के खेतों में चुपके से आई इस क्रांति की राह उतनी आसान नहीं रही। युवकों को खेतों में देखकर उनपर ताने कसने वाले भी कम नहीं थे, लेकिन घर वालों ने साथ नहीं छोड़ा। अब ये किसानों के मार्गदर्शक हैं तो सरकार भी उसके प्रयासों को सम्मान दे रही है। आईआईटीयन शशांक और मनीष ने बताया कि कामयाबी मिलने तक गांव के लोगों के ताने सुनने पड़े।

- नौकरियों को टुकरा खेतों से निकाली करियर की राह
- एसी ठेले पर सब्जी बेचने का इंतजाम किया, धान की विलुप्त हो रही प्रजातियों को बचाने में जुटे

आईआईटी खड़गपुर से एमटेक, वैशाली के मनीष हों या आईआईटी दिल्ली से बीटेक के साथ एमबीए करने वाले उसी जिले के शशांक। दोनों ने वैशाली के किसानों को गेहूं की जगह राजमा की खेती के लिए प्रेरित करने का अभियान शुरू किया। दोनों युवकों ने मई में आईआईएम बेंगलुरु में आठ देशों के प्रतिनिधियों के बीच भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व किया।

जेएनयू से पोस्ट ग्रेजुएशन कर चुके पश्चिमी चम्पारन के सुशील कुमार छपोलिया सुगंधित धान की लुप्त हो रही प्रजातियों को बचाने में जुटे हैं। दून बासमती को लेकर उनका अभियान सफल रहा है।