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IIM-N 2.0: Higher intake, more girls, more toppers

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Nagpur: Indian Institute of Management Nagpur (IIM-N), the state's first premier B-School, is gradually catching the attention of nation's best brains.

The admission graph of the current batch for its flagship postgraduate programme in management (PGP) speaks about the newer IIM-N's growing popularity. More number of girls, higher proportion of non-engineers, freshers and students having offers from older IIMs are among those who opted for IIM-N this year.

The diversity in students' background compliments the institute's move to hike its intake to 120 from 60 for PGP.

The interest shown by country's best brains, who had to go through the grueling Common Admission Test (CAT) to qualify for one of the youngest IIMs, puts the focus on its infrastructural needs.

Currently, the premier institute is running from its temporary campus at Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT). As per IIM-N officials, the shift to its sprawling 132-acre campus at Mihan is not possible before 2020, though efforts are being put in to speed up the construction.

Talking to TOI, IIM-N director LS Murthy said over the last three years, the proportion of CAT applicants indicate their interest in Nagpur has gone up. "From 72% in 2015, we have 80% of CAT applicants this year indicating their interest in IIM-Nagpur. It is an encouraging trend," he said.

Interestingly, some students preferred Nagpur, a newer facility, over well-established ones. "Though we do not have data on this from all students, we understand that a few students had declined the offer from older IIMs," Murthy said.

Murthy said the current batch has a higher proportion of non-engineers. "Currently, we have 5% of the batch filled by non-engineers. We would like to increase this number in the coming years. In terms of work experience, the current batch has an average experience of 23 months. This is slightly lower than the previous batches. The current batch has more freshers but also has people with experience as high as seven years," he said.

The intake hike comes four years after IIM-N was established in 2015. Mentored by country's top B-school IIM-Ahmedabad, the move is part of the institute's larger plan to gradually reach the tally of 600 when its own facility is ready at Mihan by 2020.

Murthy said they also made final admission offers to differently abled persons and one of them has joined. The girls versus boys ratio has improved to 22%, the director said. The previous batches have registered not more than 5% girls as the intake was just 60.

"This year, we increased our intake from one section to two sections. We filled 113 seats for this year's PGP. This, we understand, is highest among the IIMs which began operations since 2015," he said.