

Dear Student,

A big congratulation on clearing IIT JEE and securing an All India Rank!!! Make no mistake, this is a significant achievement and speaks volumes about your scientific aptitude. However, as is true in life, the moment you overcome one challenge, life presents you with another one and seemingly, each one more significant than the one before. As of today, you must be facing a big headache: *which branch in which IIT?* Remember, this is a reasonable headache to have—one which hundreds of thousands of your fellow aspirants will most probably never get a chance to have. Hence, it needs your serious attention and consideration.

While branch decision lies predominantly with you, let's try and understand why you should choose IIT Goa—the place which will shape a lot of your personality and aptitude in next four years and will go a long way in determining where you will be headed next.

*Why Goa:*

Because everyone wants to come to Goa. Because when you think of Goa you think of a place which is full of life, which is progressive and multicultural. Because when you think of Goa, you attach a certain sense of personal freedom which comes with being in Goa, which comes with standing on its sunny beaches and looking at the endless expanse of ocean. Because Goa is a melting pot of different types of people, ideas, industries, music, food and what not. Hence, Goa is certainly the place to be.

*Why IIT Goa:*

While Goa is the place to be, a more pertinent question for you is why IIT Goa. Let me try and help you make that decision. First, IIT Goa is operating right now from GEC campus which sits atop a small hill in an idyllic surrounding far removed from the cacophony of big cities. Since its inception little less than two years ago, IIT Goa has already become known in relevant spheres. Being a new and relatively small institute, it offers a bevy of advantages which you might not get in other IITs. With around 35 faculties in total for 270 students, IIT Goa offers a student to teacher ratio of 8:1 which cannot be met elsewhere. This will allow you sufficient facetime with concerned faculties to discuss even the finest concepts of your courses and beyond. Another extremely vital component of IIT Goa faculty strength is that most of them are young with impressive academic as well as research pedigree which will certainly provide you with an opportunity to get exposed to the state-of-the-art knowledge in your field of interest. Moreover, with its strong focus on 'Hands-On' learning and other aspects of modern technical education, a degree from IIT Goa will empower you with strong technical knowledge of your discipline and hold you in very good stead in your career.

We are in the process of establishing multiple MoUs with various national as well as international labs and institutes which you can be a part of. Being one among lesser number of students will also allow you to give shape to your ideas as well as interests while simultaneously increasing your chances of representing the institute in high level competition such as Tech, Cultural, and

Sport Fests among others. As a very good example of that, a team of six 2<sup>nd</sup> year IIT Goa students made it to the finals of Smart India Hackathon (SIH-2018) organized by MHRD, Govt. of India. Similarly, four other IIT Goa students have been selected to be a part of Indian Youth Delegations to various countries. Most importantly, being in a young institute, you will have a chance to be part of the institute growth, help set up various student clubs and ultimately an opportunity to be a part of IIT Goa folklore. Hence, if you are thinking about joining IIT Goa, you are thinking absolutely right. We would be more than happy to welcome you to our campus next month.

While it can be a little overwhelming during the first year, our faculty and I will personally help you in finding your own rhythm. And of course, our student body is incredibly caring. Together we will ensure that you have a fruitful stay and excellent learning experience. Come aboard....!!

Prof. B.K. Mishra