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Number of Guj students at IIT-Gn shoots up

[dna correspondent @dnaahmedabad](#)



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Compared to 17 students in 2013 (in a batch of 134), the number of students from the state has gone up to 21 —Piyush Patel/dna

Ahmedabad: Number of Gujarati students making it to the country's premier institutes has not been significant in recent years. But the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, (IIT-Gn), presented a different picture altogether this year at least.

Compared to 17 students in 2013 (in a batch of 134), the number of students from the state has gone up to 21 for Bachelor of Technology (BTech) course. The new batch commenced on Monday. But the trend of only one girl making it to IIT-Gn continued this year as well. Ashwini Nagara stood out as the only girl among the 21 students from Gujarat in the 2014 batch.

According to data available, the number was the same from 2009 to 2011 while no girl got admitted in 2012 and 2013. Authorities, however, said as the admission was based on JEE rank, the number of girls making the cut could be based on their overall performance in JEE.

"I always wanted to study engineering. So, I took admission in electrical engineering at IIT-Gn. I will like to take up a job after completing BTech. Later, I might pursue MBA for better job opportunity," said Nagara, who hails from Vadodara.

Number of students from Gujarat in 2009 was just 10 in a batch of 109. It shot up to 21 this year (in a batch of 142).

"As the batch size has gone up compared to previous years, the number of students from Gujarat, too, has increased. But we believe that the institute should not be regionalised. It should have a diverse culture instead," said Amit Prashant, dean of academics at the institute. "And so, many students from Gujarat may take admission in IITs outside Gujarat and students from outside come to IIT-GN," he added. Another student from Gujarat, Rathwa Sanjeev, 16, from Chhota Udepur district was besides himself with joy as he took part in the IIT-Gn orientation programme on the Chandkheda campus on Monday. "I am from a

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