



Citing Better Infrastructure, High Scorers Prefer Self-Financing Institutions Over New Govt Colleges

Toppers look up to private colleges

D Suresh Kumar | TNN

Chennai: New engineering colleges established by the state government over the past couple of years as constituent units of the Anna Universities in Chennai, Tiruchi and Tirunelveli are not the hot favourites of toppers.

A perusal of the seat-allocation data during the ongoing single-window counselling for Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions (TNEA 2009) shows that over the past couple of days, high-scoring candidates have preferred to join leading self-financing engineering colleges although seats are available in the new Anna University colleges. While last year the government had set up six colleges, this year it started five.

An analysis of the admission data revealed that the Chennai Anna University's established departments such as the College of Engineering in Guindy, Madras Institute of Technology and A C College of Technology are the top favourites of aspirants followed by PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore Institute of Technology, Government College of Technology (Coimbatore) and the Thiagarajar College of Engineering.

With the seats in the Open Competition and Backward Community categories in these institutions being filled, aspirants are now moving to self-financing colleges like SSN College of Engineering, Velammal Engineering College, RMK Engineering College, St Joseph's College of Engineering, Meenakshi Sundararajan Engineering College, Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, the Panimalar Engineering College, and Sri Sairam College.

Consequently, seats in the 11 newly-established constituent colleges of the Anna



University in Villupuram, Tindivanam, Arni, Ariyalur, Ramanthapuram, Thirukkudal, Panruti, Pattukkottai, Dindigul, Nagercoil and Thoothukudi, both last year and this year, are up for grabs.

One of the reasons cited by students for this trend is that the new university colleges do not have adequate infrastructure and are functioning out of temporary premises. There-

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P Mannar Jawahar |
VICE-CHANCELLOR,
ANNA UNIV (CHENNAI)

fore, they are willing to pay Rs 40,000 as annual fees in private colleges although studying in the university college would cost them just Rs 15,000 pa.

Anna University (Chennai) vice-chancellor P Mannar Jawahar acknowledged that this was the trend during the counselling. “Traditionally, certain government colleges like the one in Bargur and Vellore are preferred by students hailing from economically weaker sections. The new university colleges are in rural areas, so students from Chennai may opt for self-financing colleges in and around the city,” he explained.

But Jawahar disagreed that the new university colleges lacked in quality. “The faculty members appointed in these colleges are of the same competence as of those working in the Guindy Engineering College or Madras Institute of Technology. By next year all the colleges will move into new premises from their temporary locations,” he said.

Colleges toe state govt line on marine engg course

D Suresh Kumar | TNN

Chennai: The row between the Anna Universities and the Indian Maritime University (IMU) over affiliation of colleges offering the BE marine engineering course has been temporarily resolved. Two self-financing engineering colleges, which had secured affiliation from the IMU for the Marine Engineering course, have returned to the fold of the Anna Universities in Chennai and Tirunelveli, fearing trouble from the higher education department, which was against “simultaneous piecemeal affiliation of courses in different universities.”

Following this, the marine engineering course of-

fered by the two colleges — Mohamed Sathak Engineering College in Kilakarai and the GKM College of Engineering and Technology near Chennai — have been included in the ongoing single-window counselling for the Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions.

Last week, a controversy had ensued with Tamil Nadu higher education department's principal secretary K Ganesan arguing that engineering colleges could not seek to affiliate select courses with the Anna Universities while entering into an academic relationship with the IMU for the marine engineering course alone.

After TOI published a report on the jurisdictional war

between the Central and state universities, the management of the two colleges requested the IMU to withdraw the affiliation granted to the Marine Engineering course and returned to the Anna University fold. However, by then, nearly a dozen students had already been allotted seats in the GKM College of Engineering and Technology through the national-level counselling conducted by the IMU.

“The GKM College authorities have agreed to admit these students against the management quota seats. Even otherwise, these students will have the option of re-allotment if they desire,” IMU vice-chancellor P Vijayan said.

THE STORY SO FAR

Vacancy position
(as on July 12, 2009)

Category	Seats
Anna University	4,201
Govt & Aided	2,277
Pvt colleges	88,161
Total	94,639

Hot favourites this season

- ↑ Electronics & Comm
- ↑ Mechanical
- ↑ Computer Science
- ↑ Electrical & Electronics
- ↑ Civil

Seats allotted

Category	Seats
Anna University	1,513
Govt & Aided	2,013
Pvt colleges	1,366
Total	4,892

The trends

- New colleges started by govt are yet to find favour from aspirants
- Barely 3% of 15,027 seats in IT branch has been filled so far this year due to recession

Source: Secretary, TNEA

Many takers for production, manufacturing

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Toppers don't just prefer the popular courses like electronics and communication Engineering (ECE), computer science engineering (CSE) and mechanical engineering. They also go for the not-so-widely offered ones like manufacturing engineering and production engineering. As the ongoing single-window counselling for Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions prove.

A glance at the data at the end of the third day of counselling on Sunday showed that 31 of the 38 seats in manufacturing engineering at Anna University's constituent unit College of Engineering have been filled — an allotment rate of 81.58%.

Similarly, the seats in production engineering course offered at the Madras Institute of Technology, Government College of Technology and the PSG College of Technology in Coimbatore, both as sandwich self-supporting programmes as well as general course, have also sold like hot cakes. In the last three days, 141 (47.16%) of the 299 seats offered in the course have been allotted to students.

Meanwhile, the ECE continued to top the preference chart with as many as 1,404 students opting to join the course. The ECE, incidentally, is a course with the largest sanctioned intake of 21,185 students as on date, and is the only course in which over a 1,000 seats have been filled in the first three days of the ongoing counselling.

DVAC unearths swimming pool ticket scam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Sleuths of the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) on Sunday raided the Chennai Corporation-owned Marina swimming pool and seized Rs 7,829 unaccounted money from the ticket counter.

DVAC sources said that the staff had been collecting money but were not issuing tickets to all the visitors. “The money seized was collected from visitors who used the pool on Sunday evening. The practice may have been going on for some time. If that is the case the loss

MONEY SEIZED

incurred to the Corporation will be to the tune of several crores,” said an official.

An entry ticket is priced at Rs 15. The DVAC team carried out a surprise raid at the swimming pool following a tip off that tickets were not issued to visitors even though they paid for it. The team also found out that the employees of the pool also used to collect the few tickets issued to visitors but kept them without tearing them. “They seem to have used these tickets to prevent the scam from surfacing,” the official added.

METRO DIGEST

Free gas stove distribution

Food minister A V Velu will distribute free gas stoves, Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy medical aid and Ramamirtham Ammayar marriage assistance money to beneficiaries at Tondiarpet on Monday.

Endowment lecture at Anna University: Dr V C Kulandaiswamy Endowment lecture will be held at Anna University on Tuesday. The lecture also coincides with the 80th birthday celebration of the scholar, said a press release.

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LIT-UP CENTURION

A Prathap



COURTING THE SKIES: The Madras high court building lit up on Sunday on the occasion of its 117th birthday

Colleges not happy with more seats

M Ramya | TNN

Chennai: Many leading arts and science colleges in the city are not enthusiastic about the 10% additional seats sanctioned by the University of Madras earlier this week, not least because they have to pay for the seats.

Said Stella Maris College principal Sr Jacintha Quadras: “Last year when the additional seats were announced we applied for it, but this year we have decided not to because of the extra expense. We have to pay Rs 20,000 to avail of the five or seven extra seats for each course. We have full strength in all but a few courses so we don't see the need for extra seats.”

Last year the vice-chancellor made the announcement during the middle of the admission process so colleges could make full use of the opportunity.

The authorities of Loyola College said they would try



Many city colleges said they are not enthusiastic about the additional seats sanctioned by the Madras University because they have to pay for them and also they don't see the need for more seats

their best to avoid applying for the seats because it first year classes had already begun a month ago. “The announcement comes a little late. It has been more than a month since classes began for the freshers, who will be taking their first internal tests within a month. My department heads tell me that they don't want any more admissions because the students and the faculty will find it difficult to catch up. So, unless we are forced to take in candidates because of external

pressure such as recommendations from ministers or the vice-chancellor we have decided against it. Last time, the seats were given free, but this year we have to pay for them,” said principal Fr Albert Muthumalai.

Even Madras Christian College, one of those that requested the sanctioning of the additional seats for some courses earlier, said it would be careful in availing of the seats. “There is a huge demand for seats in many of the

courses and they still have a waiting list, but we will only use it for a few select courses as we wouldn't want quality to suffer. Say, in a course like B Com there are already 70 seats in each section, adding another seven would prove a burden for the lecturers. We are also looking at whether we have the requisite infrastructure to accommodate these extra students. We will try to use the seats in the self-financing section so the college can will not lose by paying Rs 20,000 for each course,” said professor R Sridhar, in charge of admissions.

This year, reputed arts and science colleges were swamped by applications for admission to various courses, because many felt they had a better chance of getting jobs through such courses rather than medicine or engineering. Some colleges sent proposals to the university to sanction additional seats for some courses.