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we need to  
evolve a mechanism  
for compiling all such  
news.*



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# Once last option after Class X, ITIs now draw 90 percenters

*Asheesh Sharma  
Joint Secretary*

Hemali Chhapia

**Mumbai:**

## Job Surety A Big Pull For Students

The irony was the ITIs were made up of the same three letters as the IITs. But their reputations could not have been more disparate: an ITI or Industrial Training Institute was always for someone who seemed to have run out of choices. But today, times have changed and now a seat at an ITI is much sought after.

Scores of candidates, including 90 percenters, are applying for ITIs out of choice. Interestingly, admission to ITIs is also open to students who fail in Class X. But that population is reducing by the year. Data shows that top scorers who would traditionally not even consider joining an ITI are now aspiring for a seat. Last year, about 2,000 who scored more than 80% in Class X joined ITIs.

Although a majority of those who sign up to join ITIs still hail from the 50%-60% bracket, every year is seeing new dynamics playing out. "Each factory or plant needs workmen in large numbers who are dedicated and bring value to their job. Placements for such students are assured. Hence, even students with outstanding marks are getting into ITIs," said Deepak Kapoor, principal secretary of the skills department. "The Apprentice Act ensures that initial jobs for ITI students are assured after passing out."

Contrast this against the joblessness among engineering graduates and the choice for many is clear. A Teamlease report titled 'Professional education versus vocational skilling: What pays better' stated that salary levels of electricians were on a par with accountants in 2013 and 2015. "(Also) across most sectors that hire engineers--automotive, construction, food processing, healthcare and retail, specific blue-collar job profiles are paid 10-27% higher than engineering jobs."

"The ITI needle has shifted over time. From being a last resort, it is today a career option," said a senior officer from the Directorate of Vocational Education and Training (DVET). The curriculum has altered, courses have been modernized and placements are in full swing, he said. "Today, industries look at ITIs as a source of ready-made employees, not cheap labour."

Over the last few years, some trades have recorded full capacity: electrician, architectural draughtsman, furniture and cabinet-maker, surveyor, and fitter. Across 417 government and 496 private institutes in Maharashtra, there is an overall increase in demand for ITI courses.



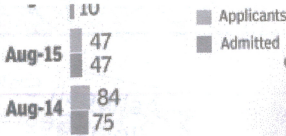
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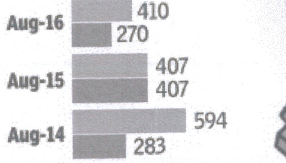
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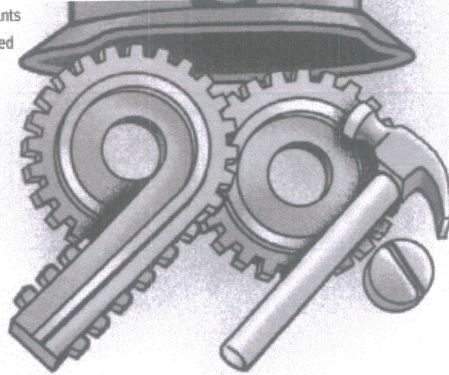
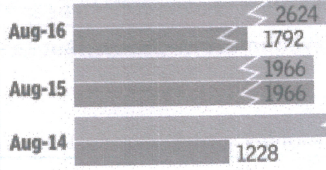
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85.00% to 89.99% scorers



80.00% to 84.99% scorers



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A DIRECTORATE OF VOCATIONAL EDU AND TRAINING OFFICER