

Name: Debesh Kanungo

Branch: Metallurgical and Materials Engineering

Company: JCAPCPL

Q: Are you satisfied with the company you are placed in or you expected a better company?

A: Yes, I'm very satisfied with my placement. I had made up my mind to join a core company from the beginning of the placement season. Metallurgy placements, especially in core companies, have not been very satisfactory in the last couple of years. So, getting recruited by JCAPCPL, which is a joint venture of TATA Steel and Nippon Steel, is very relaxing.

Q: Were there any challenges that you faced in the beginning of the placement season?

A: I feel it is a challenge for a metallurgy student to get a job throughout the placement season, especially if someone wishes to join a core company. There were only a couple of core companies (L&T and Honda) for our recruitment in the 7th semester, one of which recruited none and the other just one. So I was forced to sit for all IT and Analytics companies that allowed us. I only managed an offer from TCS during that period, but I knew I wouldn't survive there long with my mediocre programming skills. There were not many options available and it was frustrating.

Q: Were you rejected by any other company? If yes, what could be the possible reasons?

A: I had not cleared the written rounds for the first few companies (Future First, EXL and Affine) that visited our campus. I had made it through to the 2nd round of Mu Sigma (Video Synthesis) and GD round of Honda Cars Ltd., but was not selected. The primary reason I couldn't clear the written rounds was my lack of practice of general aptitude questions. I was too slow and that does not help in a time bound test.

Q: How many levels were there in the selections procedure of this company?

A: JCAPCPL short-listed the top 10 students of the class for direct interviews. We had one round of interview which was a combination of both technical and HR.

Q: What preparations did you make to get through the written rounds?

A: Though we did not have a written round for JCAPCPL, while preparing for other written tests I practiced a lot of aptitude and verbal ability questions. I appeared an online aptitude test every day, to increase my calculation speed.

Technical questions in the written rounds are very fundamental. Make a note of all the important equations and definitions when you read a subject. Pay extra attention to the subjects that concern the recruiting company, for example study Steelmaking and Iron making thoroughly for a steel company like Tata Steel. Talk to your seniors, and friends in other institutes and search for previous year questions if you can.

Q: What preparations did you make to get through the GD rounds?

A: I have only been in one GD (for Honda Cars Ltd.) but did not get through. The experience, however, taught me a lot. It is very important that you speak English fluently. Stay updated on current affairs. Do not start a verbal argument in a GD. Being a good listener is as important as being a good speaker. Do not be diplomatic and try to back your stand with some stats if you can.

Q: What preparations did you make to get through the Interview rounds?

A: PI rounds can be very unpredictable and one can never be too prepared. The first question in every interview is "Tell me about yourself", so prepare a

strong but brief introduction. Be witty. Try to learn every tiny detail about the company before the interview. Revise your internship and final year project reports too. A lot of questions are asked about them. Interviewers are also very critical of your actions and reactions during an interview. Always sit straight and maintain eye-contact with the interviewers. Smile through the interview and do not let them know you are nervous. Never bluff! If you do not know an answer; you can politely say that you don't. For technical interviews, prepare at least 2 subjects thoroughly. Make sure that these subjects concern the company for which you are appearing. Finally, prepare a couple of relevant questions to ask the interviewer in the end, but never ask about the salary or working hours.

Q: Any tips or suggestions for the juniors?

A: Placement season can be tough, both mentally and emotionally. Do not be disheartened by rejections. Learn from your mistakes and work on them. Do not solely depend on campus placements and apply for off-campus recruitments too. You should always be prepared, campus dates are unpredictable. Practice a lot of questions and appear online mock tests regularly. Work on your body-language and speaking skills, you might not realize it now, but it is very important.

Q: Can you briefly explain your overall experience of the placement season?

A: Honestly, I have had a very challenging placement season. I had only one job offer, from TCS, in my 7th semester and it was not where I saw myself after graduation. It was frustrating. I was placed very early in the 8th semester and it was a big relief. The PCs have done a good job this season. Even though there was a lack of core companies for branches like Meta, Mining and Ceramic, there was an outpour of new IT, Analytics and start-ups that provided everyone with decent job opportunities, unlike previous years.