DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS

MBA ADMISSION REPORT

Academic Year 2026-2028 Batch

Department of Management Studies, IIT Madras

Chennai, 600 036, Tamil Nadu, India

Acknowledgements

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Prof. Prathamesh V Kittur & Prof. G Arun Kumar

Coordinators, Admissions Committee 2026-2028

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1. Executive Summary

The Department of Management Studies (DoMS), Indian Institute of Technology Madras, conducted the admission process for the MBA 2026-2028 batch in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Senate of IIT Madras and the reservation policy of the Government of India. This report provides a comprehensive account of the entire selection process, from the computation of the Composite Score through the Personal Interview (PI) and Reflective Written Assessment Test (WAT) stage to the final offer and vacancy position.

The sanctioned intake for the 2026 batch stands at 106 seats (including 10 sponsored seats reserved for uniformed defence services personnel), distributed across General, EWS (Economically Weaker Section), OBC-NCL (Other Backward Caste Non-Creamy Layer), SC (Scheduled Caste), ST (Scheduled Tribe) and PwD (Persons with Disabilities) categories in accordance with the reservation norms applicable to Central Educational Institutions under the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 and subsequent amendments.

The admission cycle encompasses of four distinct entry tracks:

1. CAT 2025 track (Regular): Candidates shortlisted on the basis of their Composite Score, for which CAT 2025 score is a major component.

2. IIT graduate direct entry track: Graduates of any IIT who have obtained a CGPA of 8.0 or above (on a 10-point scale) in their undergraduate degree are exempted from the CAT requirement and are directly shortlisted for the PI and WAT.

3. NRI track (GMAT-based): Non-Resident Indian candidates are shortlisted on the basis of their GMAT score, subject to a minimum cut-off of 640.

4. Sponsored (Defence) track: Uniformed defence services personnel nominated by their respective services / Ministry of Defence are admitted under the sponsored category. They are exempted from CAT/GMAT but must appear for the PI and WAT on meeting other minimum requirements.

2. Key highlights of the 2026 admission cycle

The admission process to the MBA programs at IITs is jointly advertised by the IITs offering MBA program. One of the IITs offering the MBA program takes the lead by rotation and coordinates with the CAT organising IIM and also with the IITs for placing the advertisement in leading newspapers inviting applications to the program. For admissions to the academic year 2026 IIT Delhi was the lead institute in coordinating with other IITs, the CAT organising IIM and also for placing the advertisement in leading newspapers. The lead institute coordinates with CAT organising IIM for verifying the CAT score of candidates who has applied to any of the IITs for MBA admission. Though the advertisement is common each of the IITs have an independent selection criteria. The entire timeline of the advertisement and the last date for submitting completed applications are presented in table 1. The online application portal is opened as soon as the CAT results are declared though the formal joint advertisement follows.

Table 1: Timeline of advertisement & application cycle 2026-28

Milestone	Date
MBA admission advertisement	14-01-2026
Online application portal opens	25-12-2025 to 31-12-2025
Extended application deadline	08-02-2026

In response to the advertisement released in major newspapers on January 14, 2026, IIT Madras received 4871 applications for possible admission to the program inclusive of all categories. A candidate can apply to IIT Madras for the MBA program under any of the four categories viz. based on CAT score, IIT graduates with a CGPA of 8 or above, NRI candidates with a minimum GMAT score, and uniformed service personal from the defence forces. Table 2 presents the entire highlights of the admission cycle 2026-28 inclusive of number of shortlisted candidates at every stage and number of offers accepted. The details of the stage wise shortlisting process and the number are discussed in the subsequent chapters.

Table 2: MBA admission cycle 2026-28

Parameter	Number
Total applications received	4,871
Candidates shortlisted for personal interview and reflective written assessment test	1,302
Candidates appeared for personal interview and reflective written assessment test	1,054
PI attendance rate	80.95%
Interview centres	5 (Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata)
Candidates eligible post personal interview and reflective written assessment test	877
Sanctioned intake	106 seats
Total offers made	**406**
Offer-to-seat ratio	3.83 : 1
Total offers accepted (provisional)	126
Aggregate yield rate	31.03%

Note: *Vacancy position and accepted counts are subject to change up to 15th July 2026, as the waitlist remains active until that date.*

3. Admission process overview

The admission process has multiple stages. In the first stage each application is verified for completeness of the application form. Subsequently the Composite Score (CS) comprising of CAT score, marks obtained by the candidate in their Higher Secondary (12th standard), marks obtained in the under graduation, discipline of under graduation, etc. (all components and respective weightages are provided in the subsequent sections of this report) are used to arrive at the Composite Score. The CS is used for shortlisting candidates who are eligible to be called for Personal Interview and Reflective Writing Assessment Test. Personal interviews and reflective writing assessment test are conducted in multiple cities across India and the candidate has the option of giving their preference for the interview location when they fill the application form. Further the interview scores and the reflective writing assessment test scores are added to the CS to arrive at the final shortlist. Table 3 provides the details of important dates and cities where personal interviews and reflective writing assessment test were conducted.

Table 3: Personal Interview cities and dates

Details	Dates
Shortlist result for personal interview & WAT	19-02-2026
Personal interviews & WAT: Mumbai	7th & 8th March 2026
Personal interviews & WAT: Delhi	13th to 15th March 2026
Personal interviews & WAT: Chennai	20th to 22nd March 2026
Personal interviews & WAT: Hyderabad	28th & 29th March 2026
Personal interviews & WAT: Kolkata	28th & 29th March 2026

A total of 4,871 applications were received for admission to the MBA program at IIT Madras. This includes 42 students who applied under the IIT Track category and 13 students who applied under NRI category and 1 candidate who was from the uniformed defence services. The category wise details of all the applications received are presented in table 4. Further table 5 presents the category wise details of applications received under IIT track category.

Table 4: Category-wise Applications Received (Including NRI Track and IIT Track)

Category	Applications	Share (%)
General	2,548	52.3%
EWS	333	6.8%
OBC-NCL	1,140	23.4%
SC	718	14.7%
ST	102	2.1%
PwD	29	0.6%
Sponsored	1	
Total	**4,871**	**100.0%**

Table 5: Category-wise IIT undergraduate applicants with a CGPA of 8 and above

Category	Total
General	25
EWS	1
OBC-NCL	11
SC	2
ST	2
PwD	1
Total	**42**

Note: *13 NRI candidates applied based on the GMAT-score under the NRI track. NRI candidates are categorised as General category candidates and no other reservations apply to them. 24 applications (18 General, 5 OBC-NCL and 1 PwD) were received from IIT undergraduates with an 8+ CGPA. Further there were 18 IIT undergraduate applicants (7 General, 1 EWS, 6 OBC-NCL, 2 SC, and 2 ST) who had an 8+ CGPA and also a CAT score. For IIT undergraduates who had a 8+ CGPA and also a CAT score, the best of both (maximum of the 2 scores) to the advantage of the candidate was considered for final shortlisting.*

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4. Composite score calculation

The Composite Score serves as the primary shortlisting instrument for determining candidates to be called for the Personal Interview (PI) and Reflective Written Assessment Test (WAT). Composite Score is a weighted aggregate that combines a candidate's CAT 2025 score with prior academic performance, professional experience and diversity attributes, thereby ensuring that selection is based on a holistic assessment of merit rather than a single-dimension metric. Table 6 provides the component wise weightage for calculation of CS for the CAT based track.

The Design Rationale is rooted in 3 objectives:

(i) Primacy of Aptitude (CAT 2025 carries 75% weightage)

(ii) Recognition of Academic and Professional Achievement (Class XII, undergraduate marks and work experience)

(iii) Promotion of Diversity (Gender and academic/discipline diversity)

Table 6: Composite score components and scoring slabs

Sr.	Component	Weight	Basis / Scoring Slabs
1	CAT 2025 Score	**75%**	75 × (Overall Scaled Score / Total CAT Score)
2	Class XII marks	**4%**	≥95 = 4; ≥90 & <95 = 3; ≥85 & <90 = 2; ≥80 & <85 = 1; <80 = 0
3	Bachelor's degree marks	**6%**	≥90 = 6; ≥85 & <90 = 5; ≥80 & <85 = 4; ≥75 & <80 = 3; ≥70 & <75 = 2; ≥65 & <70 = 1; <65 = 0
4	Work experience	**10%**	<12m = 0; 12–23m = 8; 24–36m = 10; 37–48m = 6; >48m = 2
5	Gender diversity	**3%**	Female = 3; Male = 0
6	Academic diversity	**2%**	Non-Engineer = 2; Engineer = 0
	Total	**100%**	

IIT undergraduate direct entry track

Candidates who were students of any IIT and have obtained a CGPA of 8.0 or above in their undergraduate degree (on a 10-point scale) are exempted from the CAT requirement and are directly eligible for the personal interview and reflective written assessment test stage. Their CAT score component in the calculation of composite score is replaced using the following formulae:

IIT direct entry CAT component formulae: (Least CAT score from the respective category among applicants × 75 / Total CAT Score) × (CGPA / 8)

The remaining components (class XII Scores, bachelor's degree scores, work experience, gender diversity and academic diversity) are scored using the same slabs as the CAT-based track, as detailed in table 6.

NRI track GMAT-based shortlisting

Non-Resident Indian (NRI) candidates are eligible to apply through a GMAT-based track. The minimum GMAT cut-off for admission to academic year 2026 at DoMS was fixed at 640 marks by the admissions committee. NRI admissions are conducted as per the Ministry of Education guidelines in Central Educational Institutions.

Table 7: NRI Track Summary

Parameter	Details
Aptitude test	GMAT
DoMS minimum cut-off score	640
Total NRI applications received	13
Personal interview & reflective written assessment framework is common for candidates irrespective of the applicant's track.	

5. Composite score: category-wise statistics

The cut-off composite scores represent the lowest composite score among candidates shortlisted for interview within each category. The CAT score used for computing CS is based on the CAT 2025 score sheet submitted by the candidate. The scores were subsequently verified with CAT2025 organising institute. In cases of discrepancy, clarification is sought from the candidate and ineligible candidates are dropped from further processing. Table 8 provides the details of candidates shortlisted category wise for the personal interview and written assessment test.

Table 8: Shortlisted Candidates Category-wise Composite Score Statistics

Category	Shortlisted	Cut-off CS	Median CS	Top CS	Average CS
General	608	39.3456	42.0110	55.6140	42.7005
GEN-EWS	110	31.4765	34.6140	38.9154	34.7167
OBC-NCL	331	31.4765	34.3603	39.2647	34.6528
SC	230	23.6074	26.4430	38.5919	27.3465
ST	18	23.6074	26.2555	34.3051	26.7957
PwD	4	23.6074	30.3879	34.9265	30.4449
Sponsored	1	-	-	-	-
Total	**1,302**				

Note: *Sponsored candidates are Uniformed Defence Services personnel. Their selection follows a separate evaluation protocol.*

Shortlisting Summary IIT Direct Entry

A total of 42 IIT graduates were shortlisted for the Personal Interview and Reflective Written Assessment Test. Table 9 provides the details of the category-wise shortlisting of the IIT undergraduates with a CGPA of 8 or higher.

Table 9: Category-wise Shortlisting IIT Direct Entry

Category	Shortlisted (CGPA)	Shortlisted (CAT)	Total
General	18	8	26
EWS	1	–	1
OBC-NCL	8	2	10
SC	2	–	2
ST	2	–	2
PwD	–	1	1
Total	31	11	42

Shortlisting Summary NRI track

5 NRI candidates appeared for PI and WAT through the GMAT track and were evaluated under the same personal interview and reflective written assessment test framework as CAT-track candidates.

Ratio analysis: Application-to-shortlist funnel

The shortlist rate indicates the proportion of applicants who cleared the Composite Score cut-off and were called for Personal Interview and Reflective Written Assessment Test, the details

of which are presented in table 10 followed by table 11 where similar details of IIT undergraduates who applied under the IIT-track are presented.

Table 10: Category-wise application-to-shortlist ratio (including IIT track and NRI track)

Category	Applications	Shortlisted	Selectivity Ratio	Shortlist Rate
General	2,548	608	4.2 : 1	23.9%
EWS	333	110	3.0 : 1	33.0%
OBC-NCL	1,140	331	3.4 : 1	29.0%
SC	718	230	3.1 : 1	32.0%
ST	102	18	5.7 : 1	17.6%
PwD	29	4	7.3 : 1	13.8%
Sponsored	1	1	–	–
Total	**4,871**	**1,302**	**3.7 : 1**	**26.7%**

Table 11: Category-wise IIT track application-to-shortlist ratio

Category	Applications	Shortlisted	Selection Ratio
General	25	26	0.96 : 1
EWS	1	1	1.00 : 1
OBC-NCL	11	10	1.10 : 1
SC	2	2	1.00 : 1
ST	2	2	1.00 : 1
PwD	1	1	1.00 : 1
Total	**42**	**42**	**1.00 : 1**

Note: *1 OBC-NCL candidate qualified on the General merit cutoff and is counted under the General shortlist. Therefore, the General shortlist exceeds the number of General-category applicants.*

13 NRI candidates applied under the GMAT-based NRI track out of which 5 candidates were shortlisted for Personal Interviews with a selectivity ratio of 2.6 : 1.

6. Personal interview & reflective written assessment process

Personal Interviews for shortlisted candidates were conducted across five geographically distributed centres (Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata) to maximise candidate convenience and minimise travel burden. Each centre operated with multiple parallel interview panels per session to accommodate the candidate load within the scheduled dates.

Every panel comprised two members (two faculty members or one faculty member and another an industry expert/alumnus), from different functional specialisations to ensure a balanced, multi-stakeholder evaluation perspective and mitigate individual domain bias. The panel composition was kept dynamic as a given either both the faculty's or the faculty-industry combination was assigned to only a single session and then reconstituted, serving as a built-in normalisation mechanism. No two panel members were together in a panel for more than one session. Candidates entering through IIT direct entry and NRI tracks were interviewed at the same centres and the same panel framework was followed, ensuring procedural uniformity and comparability of scores across all admission categories. Table 12 presents the panels in each interview centre and the number of candidates who appeared for the process.

Table 12: Interview Centre Operations and Attendance

Sl.	City	Panels per session	Interview dates	Shortlisted	Appeared	Attendance Rate
1	Mumbai	6	7th & 8th Mar 2026	219	196	89.5%
2	Delhi	8	13th-15th Mar 2026	413	327	79.2%
3	Chennai	9	20th-22nd Mar 2026	332	272	81.9%
4	Hyderabad	5	28th & 29th Mar 2026	202	158	78.2%
5	Kolkata	4	28th & 29th Mar 2026	136	101	74.3%
	Total			**1,302**	**1,054**	**81.0%**

Mumbai recorded the highest attendance rate (89.5%), while Kolkata recorded the lowest (74.3%). The overall absence rate of 19.1% is broadly consistent with prior admission cycles.

Category-wise Candidates Shortlisted & Appeared for Personal Interview

From table 13 it can be observed that the EWS category recorded the highest attendance rate (89.1%) among all categories, followed by OBC-NCL (87.3%). The overall attendance rate of 80.95% is consistent with the experience of prior admission cycles.

Table 13: Category-wise Personal Interview Attendance

Category	Shortlisted	Appeared	Absent	Attendance Rate
General	608	465	143	76.5%
GEN-EWS	110	98	12	89.1%
OBC-NCL	331	289	42	87.3%
SC	230	184	46	80.0%
ST	18	14	4	77.8%
PwD	4	3	1	75.0%
Sponsored	1	1	–	100.0%
Total	**1,302**	**1,054**	**248**	**81.0%**

7. Interview: weightage and evaluation criteria

The Personal Interview (PI) is designed to assess dimensions (table 14) of a candidate's suitability for the MBA programme that cannot be captured through standardised testing or academic records. The PI evaluates attitudinal orientation, managerial aptitude, domain awareness and the quality of professional experience within a structured evaluation framework. The same PI framework applies to candidates from all entry tracks.

Table 14: PI Evaluation components

Sl.	Component	Weight	Marks	Skills Assessed
1	Attitude	**25%**	10	Motivation, maturity, leadership disposition, ethical orientation
2	Skills / competence	**25%**	10	Analytical ability, communication, problem-solving aptitude
3	Knowledge, potential & aptitude	**25%**	10	Awareness of current affairs, business acumen, intellectual curiosity
4	Quality & relevance of work experience	**25%**	10	Depth of professional exposure, relevance to management career
	Total	**100%**	**40**	

Relevance of work experience

The quality, duration and relevance of a candidate's work experience to the management programme was specifically considered by the panel during the interview. Candidates with meaningful professional experience involving project leadership, client engagements or technical problem-solving at scale were comparatively scored higher. Work experience is evaluated both quantitatively (part of composite score prior to shortlisting) and qualitatively (during the personal interview). For sponsored (defence) candidates, work experience evaluation takes into account the unique nature of the service.

Reflective written assessment test

In addition to the personal interview, each candidate was required to complete a reflective written assessment test as part of the selection process. The test was designed to evaluate the candidate's ability to articulate thoughts coherently, demonstrate self-awareness and express reflective capacity.

The test was assessed on the following parameters:

(i) Clarity and coherence of expression;

(ii) Depth of reflection and self-awareness;

(iii) Originality and authenticity of thought;

(iv) Relevance to the prompt/topic provided.

It carries a total of 10 marks and contributes 10% to the overall score. The evaluation was carried out after PI was completed at all centres, by independent external assessors who are experts in assessing these attributes from candidates' writings.

8. Overall score: computation and statistics

The final selection of candidates is determined by the overall score, which represents a weighted combination of composite score, reflective written assessment test and personal interview. The overall score is the terminal metric on the basis of which the category-wise merit list is prepared and offers of admission are issued. The weightage structure ensures that the assessment is based on objective, verifiable metrics as well as the panel-assessed dimensions of interview performance and reflective writing capability. Table 15 presents the components and the weightages for arriving at the overall score.

Table 15: Overall Score Components

Component	Weightage (%)
Composite score (CS)	50%
Reflective written assessment test	10%
Personal interview (PI)	40%
Total	**100%**

Category-wise Overall Score Statistics

An important structural observation is that 877 candidates were finally deemed eligible for admission offers out of 1,054 who appeared for Personal Interview and Reflective Assessment Test, yielding an eligibility rate of 83.20%. Table 16 provides the details of category-wise scores for the eligible candidates.

Table 16: Eligible candidates category-wise overall score statistics

Category	Eligible	Cut-off	Median	Top Score	Average
General	373	42.9412	57.8640	71.0239	56.7911
GEN-EWS	89	34.3530	45.7794	57.6857	46.1025
OBC-NCL	246	34.3530	44.8382	57.6158	45.7065
SC	153	25.7647	36.6158	57.0257	37.6642
ST	12	25.7647	32.5915	54.3768	35.6147
PwD	3	25.7647	37.8272	49.7132	39.8496
Sponsored	1	-	-	-	-
Total	**877**				

9. Eligible candidates and vacancy position

DoMS has a sanctioned intake of 106 seats, distributed across categories in accordance with the reservation policy applicable to Central Educational Institutions. The sponsored category (10 seats) is reserved for uniformed defence services personnel, serving officers and personnel of the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force. For the 2026 batch, a total of 406 offers were made. Subsequent waitlists are operated depending on the number of seats vacant in each category and the overall vacancy. The over-acceptance buffer is calibrated to ensure that the final enrolled cohort closely matches the sanctioned intake. Table 17 presents the category wise offers and acceptance details.

Table 17: Category-wise sanctioned seats, offers, acceptances and Final enrolled

Category	Sanctioned seats	Offered (Includes all waitlists)	Total Accepted	Accepted per seat ratio	Final Enrolled
General	39	264	45	1.15 : 1	20
GEN-EWS	10	40	13	1.30 : 1	11
OBC-NCL	26	114	36	1.38 : 1	23
SC	14	56	28	2.00 : 1	17
ST	7	12	5	-	1
PwD*	–	3	2	-	1
Sponsored	10	1	1	-	1
Total	**106**	**490**	**130**	**1.22 : 1**	**74**

PwD seats are reserved horizontally within each category as per applicable norms and are therefore not separately counted under sanctioned seats.

Note: *As per the vacancy, admission offers are made until the programme commences.*

10. Comprehensive ratio analysis

In this section table 18 presents a category-wise consolidated view of the entire admission process i.e. from applications received through shortlisting, PI attendance and WAT, eligibility, offers, acceptances and final enrolled.

Table 18: Category-wise End-to-End Admission Funnel

Category	Applied	Short-listed	Short-list %	Appeared	Attend %	Eligible	Offered (Includes all waitlists)	Final Accepted	Yield %	Final Enrolled
General	2,548	608	23.9%	465	76.5%	373	264	45	17.0%	20
EWS	333	110	33.0%	98	89.1%	89	40	13	32.5%	11
OBC-NCL	1,140	331	29.0%	289	87.3%	246	114	36	31.6%	23
SC	718	230	32.0%	184	80.0%	153	56	28	50.0%	17
ST	102	18	17.6%	14	77.8%	12	12	5	41.7%	1
PwD	29	4	13.8%	3	75.0%	3	3	2	66.7%	1
Sponsored	1	1	–	1	100.0%	1	1	1	100.0%	1
Total	**4,871**	**1,302**	**26.7%**	**1,054**	**81.0%**	**877**	**490**	**130**	**26.5%**	**74**

The aggregate yield rate of approximately 26.5% (130 acceptances out of 490 offers) is consistent with the experience of prior admission cycles. SC category records the highest yield (50.0%) among the non-sponsored categories, followed by ST (41.7%) and OBC-NCL (31.6%).

11. Data sources and limitations

The following data sources were relied upon for the preparation of this report:

• **CAT 2025 scores:** Sourced from the details of the application submitted by the candidate and further verified with the official CAT 2025 scorecard data.

• **GMAT scores:** For NRI candidates, sourced from official GMAT score reports submitted by the candidates.

• **CGPA data:** For IIT direct entry candidates, sourced from official transcripts/grade cards issued by the respective IITs.

• **Academic marks:** Self-reported by candidates at the time of application, subject to official document verification at the time of enrolment. Admission is cancelled if discrepancies are found.

• **Work experience:** Computed based on information declared by the candidate, verified with records at the time of enrolment. For Sponsored candidates, service records as certified by the nominating authority were considered.

• **Interview scores:** Assigned by the respective panels on the basis of their assessment.

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12. Disclaimer

This report is issued by the admissions committee of the Department of Management Studies (DoMS), IIT Madras, for the purposes of official record-keeping and transparency.

1. The composite score has been calculated based on the data submitted by the candidate at the time of application. The department and the institute are not responsible for any discrepancy arising from incorrect, incomplete or fraudulent data furnished by the candidate.

2. The method of scoring, the weightages assigned to each component and the selection criteria detailed in this report are applicable exclusively to the 2026 admission cycle. Criteria for subsequent cycles will be determined independently and may differ materially.

3. The personal interview assessment is based on the holistic evaluation of the interview panel and no disclosure will be made of component-wise interview scores.

4. As per the vacancy, the admission offers are made until the programme commences.

5. PwD seats are reserved horizontally within each category in accordance with the rights of persons with disabilities act, 2016, and applicable guidelines of the Ministry of Education.

6. Sponsored seats are reserved exclusively for uniformed defence services personnel.

7. The NRI admissions are governed by the admission policy of IIT Madras as approved by the senate. NRI candidates are subject to a separate fee structure.

8. IIT Direct Entry candidates are exempted from the CAT requirement and their composite score is computed using a separate formula prescribed by the admissions committee.

9. The reservation policy applied is in accordance with the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006, the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019 (EWS) and subsequent Government of India directives.

10. No part of this report shall be published, reproduced, distributed, or disclosed in any form without the prior permission of the concerned authority.

For any clarification, candidates may contact: *DoMS Admissions Office, IIT Madras*

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