Selection of PhD Guide and research topic:
===========================================
a) Candidates who are financially supported from sources which do not require him/her to work on a particular topic/project typically take admission without a commitment to the research area. This is the case for institute TA positions and other positions supported through many government and industry initiatives. The student then decides his/her guide and research topic within a reasonable time-frame after joining the institute based on mutual consent of the student and the guide.

b) If the candidate is selected for a particular project, it usually means that there is a funded research project in the institute from which he/she will be financially supported. These projects have specific investigator(s), and the candidate will be required to work on that project under the guidance of the specific investigator(s). Having taken admission under this category, it is not possible to change to the above category (Category a). He may change to a self financed category.

c) In case of candidates who are sponsored by their employer, typically the employer may have a requirement that the candidate has to work on a topic/research problem of interest to the employer. In many cases, the employer may also require that the candidate has a co-advisor in the employer organization. In such cases of external restrictions, it is recommended that the candidate contacts a faculty member in the department (of EE, IITB) who works in the same area before applying for PhD. A faculty member should be interested in guiding the candidate under the restricted conditions of topic and co-advisor. This process of seeking prior consent from a faculty member should be followed if such external restrictions on topic or co-advisor apply due to any other reason, including very narrow personal choice of a candidate.

Please note that this is only a necessary step, and it does not guarantee admission to the PhD program. The candidate will still have to go through the normal admission process.