

## Newspaper Clips

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# IIT-Delhi adopts eight village clusters across India under Unnat Bharat plan

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**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Institute of Technology has adopted village clusters in eight districts across different states in India to develop them under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) scheme.

The BJP government had launched the scheme in 2014.

On Friday, HRD minister Smriti Irani inaugurated the UBA cell of IIT-D and held its first steering committee meeting.

Teams from IIT-Delhi are working in coordination with local authorities such as district collectors, gram panchayat and gram sabhas in various districts of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and others.

With an aim to develop rural India, village clusters in 89 districts are being provided technical and managerial solutions by institutes such as Indian Institutes of Technology, National Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management under the scheme.

The UBA is a flagship scheme of the HRD ministry, coordinated by IIT Delhi. Forty-five institutes are part of the scheme.

The aim of UBA is to enable higher education institutions to work with people of rural India and help identify the developmental challenges and evolve solutions for accelerating sustainable growth, officials said.

"Each institute will adopt village clusters and work closely with district officials to develop technological solutions specific



Union minister for Human Resource Development Smriti Irani at the Indian Institute of Technology during the inauguration of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan cell. RAJ K RAJ/HT PHOTO

to the needs of the people," VK Vijay, national coordinator of the programme, said.

Vijay Bhatkar, chairman of UBA committee, said, "Gram panchayat will tell us what is the exact problem and then we can find specific solutions. We will cover every district in the country."

"Solutions need to be specific to requirements. For example, IIT-D has adopted a district in Agra where locals are engaged in potato farming. Their concern is to grow potatoes with high yield. So our UBA team is developing a technology to evaluate potatoes for higher yield," Bhatkar said.

### devising solutions

Each institute that becomes part of the scheme will adopt village clusters and work closely with district officials to develop technological solutions specific to the needs of the people.

VK VIJAY, national coordinator of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

Gram panchayat will tell us what is the exact problem and then we can find specific solutions. We will cover every district under this plan... Solutions need to be specific to requirements.

VIJAY BHATKAR, chairman of UBA committee

National Duniya ND 30.04.2016 P-11



Hindustan Times ND

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## Irani visits hostels at IIT-Delhi, takes stock of problems

HT Correspondent

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**NEW DELHI:** HRD minister Smriti Irani made a surprise visit to two hostels at IIT-Delhi on Friday and inspected the kitchen, halls. She talked to the students about the problems they face.

She visited Kailash, one of the three hostels for women and Shivalik hostel, one of the 13 hostels for men. At Shivalik hostel she inspected the common room, dining room and the kitchen.

She asked the students if they have enough facilities. Most students complained about lack of desert coolers and water coolers even during peak summers. "I have asked the director to see that your problems are solved," she told a group of students.

Some students also complained about the condition of the hostel mess and food served to them. Irani visited the kitchen of Shivalik hostel and talked to the staff about hygiene.

Pioneer ND 30.04.2016 P-2

## IIT students breathe easy after Union Minister visits hostels

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A surprise visit by HRD Minister Smriti Irani to IIT Delhi hostels found that students were grappling with peak season heat without proper arrangements after which the institute's administration allowed coolers in rooms and promised to install air-conditioning in common areas.

Senior officials said Irani had gone to the IIT to inaugurate a new teaching-learning complex after which she proceeded to meet students in the boys as well as girls hostels. "After visiting the hostels and interacting with students, the Minister was quite critical of the fact that there were no proper arrangements for students during the peak of summer season. The Director of the Institute then immediately called a meeting and a package for hostels has been announced," a senior official told reportedly said.

In the package, it has been decided that air coolers will be allowed in all hostel rules and arrangements will be made for providing cool drinking water in all the wings and blocks. The IIT administration has also promised to centrally air-condition all common areas of the hostel. Another key decision taken is that all future hostels constructed will be centrally air-conditioned, officials added.

Sources said students also

**Smriti Irani was quite critical of the fact that there were no proper arrangements for students during the peak of summer season; the administration ordered coolers and AC for students in the hostels**



complained to Irani about the condition of the dining halls and mess of the hostels after which a package for modernisation of kitchen and dining halls has also been finalised. "These measures may be brought in at IIT Delhi first and then will be applied in other IITs also," a senior official said.

Deccan Herald ND 30.04.2016 P-6

# Perform or perish, Smriti tells faculties of IITs

## Minister makes surprise visit to IIT-Delhi hostel

**NEW DELHI, DHNS: HRD Minister Smriti Irani on Friday sent out a tough message to faculties in the IITs, saying action will be taken against those who were slack in their work.**

She was addressing students and faculties of the IIT-Delhi at an event organised on the campus. "We will disabillitate (sic) those teachers who do not take interest in their students," she

said, adding that standards of the premier technical institutes have to be maintained as parents send their wards to study in IITs with very high hopes.

The minister, however, noted that many of the faculties of the IITs put extra efforts to help students lagging in academics. She described such teachers as "unsung heroes" and expressed her deep gratitude towards their efforts and com-

**The minister, however, noted that many of the faculties of the IITs put extra efforts to help students lagging in academics**

mitments. "You are unsung heroes of the Indian education system. My hearty thanks to you," she said.

Smriti told the students about the IIT council's decision to waive the tuition fee of students coming from economically weaker sections and spe-

cial students. She also told the students about a special scheme, 'Udaan', being implemented by the Central Board of Secondary Education to support girls belonging to economically weaker section in preparation of Joint Entrance Examination, conducted in two parts for admissions to centrally-funded technical institutes, including IITs.

The minister asked the students to bring it to her knowledge if they come across a student who could be provided support under 'Udaan' or other schemes of the government.

"At the top level, we are trying for innovative strategy to help students. It is my request to you that if you come to know about a disabled student or a girl belonging to an economically weaker section, do reach us so that we provide adequate support to enable them realise their dream," she said.

Of the total 300 girls supported under the 'Udaan' scheme last year, as many as 140 cracked the JEE Main, she said.

A similar programme is being implemented in Navodaya Vidyalaya Schools. "We had

100% results at our Bengaluru and Pune centres.

Irani, who visited IIT-Delhi to inaugurate a new teaching-learning complex built inside, also made a surprise visit to hostels.

She observed there was no adequate facility for the students in the summer, prompting the director of the institute to commit installation of air coolers and cool drinking water facilities in all the hostels. During her interaction with students, she asked them to let her know if they want more facilities in their hostels.

Amar Ujala ND 30.04.2016 P-7

# आईआईटी में पढ़ना चाहें, मुझे बताएं

केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी ने गरीब बच्चियों को दिया भरोसा

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी में पढ़ने की इच्छुक गरीब वर्ग की लड़कियों के सपनों को अब उड़ान मिल सकेगी। दरअसल, केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी ऐसे वर्ग की लड़कियों के आईआईटी में पढ़ने के सपनों को पूरा करेगी।

आईआईटी दिल्ली में छात्रों को संबोधित करते हुए उन्होंने यह बात कही। उन्होंने कहा कि यदि किसी को ऐसी कोई लड़की मिले जो गरीब है और आईआईटी में पढ़ना चाहती हैं तो मुझे बताएं। ऐसी जानकारी देने के लिए उन्हें मेल भी किया जा सकता है।

आईआईटी दिल्ली में शुक्रवार को स्मृति ईरानी ने नवनिर्मित लेक्चर हॉल, उन्नत भारत अभियान सेल का उद्घाटन किया और इंजीनियरिंग ब्लॉक व रिसर्च



पार्क की आधारशिला रखी। छात्रों व शिक्षकों को संबोधित करते ईरानी ने कहा कि आईआईटी के दरवाजे केवल संपन्न वर्ग के लिए नहीं बल्कि गरीब वर्ग के लिए भी खुले हैं।

यदि आईआईटी का सपना देखने वाली आपको गरीब वर्ग की लड़की मिले तो मुझे मेल

आईआईटी दिल्ली में नए लेक्चर हॉल, उन्नत भारत अभियान सेल का उद्घाटन किया

सीबीएसई के उड़ान कार्यक्रम की प्रशंसा, 300 छात्राओं में से 143 जेईई में हुई हैं सफल

करें। इस अवसर पर उन्होंने सीबीएसई के उड़ान कार्यक्रम की प्रशंसा की। उल्लेखनीय है कि उड़ान कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत आईआईटी जेईई की तैयारी के लिए लड़कियों को कोचिंग कराई जाती है। उड़ान कार्यक्रम की 300 छात्राओं में से 143 लड़कियां जेईई में सफल रही हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि आईआईटी में पढ़ने वाले ऐसे छात्रों की फीस को माफ किया है, जिनके परिवार की सालाना आय एक लाख रुपये से कम है।

## हॉस्टल की रसोई में चप्पल उतारकर पहुंचीं

स्मृति ईरानी ने आईआईटी में हॉस्टल का औचक निरीक्षण भी किया। यहां वह हॉस्टल की रसोई व हॉल में पहुंची और छात्रों से उनकी समस्याओं के विषय में जाना। शिवालिक हॉस्टल की रसोई में वह चप्पल उतार कर पहुंची और खाने का जायजा लिया। रसोई में उन्होंने 15 मिनट बिताया और कर्मचारियों से स्वच्छता व मैनुयू के बारे में बात की। उन्होंने छात्रों के चाय पीने के अनुरोध को भी पूरा किया। उन्होंने आईआईटी निदेशक को संस्थान में बिजली बचत के लिए एलईडी बल्ब लगाने को कहा। छात्रों ने बताया कि गर्मी में उन्हें कूलर लगाने की अनुमति नहीं है।

Tribune ND 30.04.2016 P-12

## Sanskrit in IITs

It is an uncomfortable marriage with engineering

**H**RD Minister Smriti Irani has requested the IITs to include Sanskrit as a course of study. Sanskrit and engineering may not have much in common, but the Modi government does not always do things by logic or reason. A school dropout that she is, Smriti Irani may be helped in understanding that exposing brilliant minds to a revered language is inadvisable and can have the opposite effect of what she intends to achieve. Rational minds may ask irreverent questions, point to blind spots in the language of the gods, thus committing unpatriotic acts and exposing themselves to the charge of being anti-national. A possible clash of science and non-science may not augur well for the RSS/Hindutva agenda she seeks to promote.

Prime Minister Modi seems to have learnt his lessons after his remarks that genetic science and cosmetic surgery existed in ancient India were received with derision. He has so far spared the nation more such pearls of wisdom. It is difficult to explain to education-deprived leaders at the helm simple things such as a nation needs engineers more than priests, IITs may not be the best of places to teach Sanskrit, institutional autonomy needs to be respected and an education minister need not always meddle if educational institutions, especially those which have earned a reputation for excellence, are running without the benefit of her day-to-day supervision.

Leaders like Modi and Smriti Irani are usually so sure about the correctness of their beliefs and goals that even the advisers and expert committees they appoint tell them what they want to hear. They are not free to suggest something outside the BJP/RSS agenda. A committee of the faithful has suggested that the IITs should "encourage students to learn about aspects of science and technology that are mentioned in Sanskrit texts". If Sanskrit has to be introduced in IITs, why not other regional languages too? And why not in medical colleges and IIMs also? The simple fact is Sanskrit should not be imposed anywhere and maybe arts colleges and universities are more suitable than the IITs since Sanskrit integrates more comfortably with humanities than science.

## MAKING DHARAMSALA A SMART CITY

## IIT-Roorkee, CII offer expertise

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, APRIL 29

As the Urban Development Department is ready to create the special purpose vehicle Dharamsala Smart City Corporation, the Netherlands Embassy, IIT-Roorkee and the CII have offered to provide the expertise in various areas to develop the city.

The CII has already given its letter of support offering all technical expertise for undertaking various works in the field of urban transport, solid waste management, streetlighting and other high-end services to residents. Though the final confirmation of Dharamsala being selected in the next list of Smart Cities will be made by May 15, with the town ranking at the seventh position in a list of 23 probables, the

## A big step forward

- Dharamsala Smart City Corporation set to be the special purpose vehicle
- Besides IIT-Roorkee and the CII, the Netherlands Embassy has also offered to provide expertise in various areas to develop the city
- The CII has already given its letter of support offering all technical expertise in the field of urban transport, solid waste management, streetlighting and other high-end services to residents
- Though the final confirmation of Dharamsala being selected on the next list of Smart Cities will be made by May 15, with the town ranking at the seventh position in a list of 23 probables, the selection is almost certain
- About Rs 1,000 crore would be spent on developing Dharamsala as a Smart City over five years.

selection is almost certain. "The HP State Council of the CII has already given its letter of support and the Embassy of the Netherlands has also conveyed its desire to associate with the Smart City, but a final decision on all this will be taken once we

float the project Dharamsala Smart City Corporation," said JM Pathania, Director, Urban Development. He added that similar offers had come from IIT-Roorkee, Indian Institute of Technology-Mandi and National Institute of Technology, Hamipur.

Pathania said about Rs 1,000 crore would be spent on developing Dharamsala as a Smart City over five years. The Union Ministry of Urban Development would provide funds to the tune of Rs 1,000 crore, Rs 670 crore would be raised through private-public partnership (PPP) and about Rs 265 crore through convergence with Central schemes.

Once the approval from the Centre was received on Dharamsala being in the second list of cities, global tenders would be invited for having a multi-model transport system replete with passenger and travel information.

The decision to upgrade Dharamsala Municipal Committee into a corporation was also taken up with an eye on the selection of the town under the Smart

City project. The decision had generated a lot of heat with residents of Shimla crying foul and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Shimla MC moving court on the issue.

Dharamsala is the district headquarters of Kangra and enjoys the unofficial status of the second capital as the government moves here during winters when the brief Assembly session is held here. For this purpose, the town also has a Vidhan Sabha complex.

In fact, Dharamsala has earned global recognition with Tibetan spiritual leader and Nobel laureate Dalai Lama making McLeodganj his abode for the last almost 50 years. The presence of the Dalai Lama here is the biggest reason behind the huge foreign tourist arrivals.

Nai Duniya ND 30.04.2016 P-4

अस्थायी कैंपस

आईआईटी भिलाई की क्लास  
सेजबहार में लगेगी

रायपुर (ब्यूरो)। इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नॉलॉजी (आईआईटी) भिलाई का अस्थायी कैंपस नए सत्र से सेजबहार के सरकारी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज (जीईसी) में लगेगा। इसी हफ्ते आईआईटी हैदराबाद की टीम ने कॉलेज के बी ब्लॉक का निरीक्षण किया, जहां शुरुआती दौर में तीन ब्रांच की पढ़ाई होनी है। जीईसी में कैंपस लगाए जाने को लेकर राज्य सरकार के तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग और आईआईटी के बीच समझौता हो गया है। इसके अनुसार भवन व गर्ल्स हॉस्टल का रेगुलर मेंटिनेंस आईआईटी को करना होगा। जीईसी के एक ब्लॉक



में पहले से आईआईएम स्थापित है। वहीं अब दूसरे ब्लॉक में आईआईटी की पढ़ाई होगी। उल्लेखनीय है कि आईआईटी का स्थायी कैंपस भिलाई स्थित कुटेलाभाठा की चार सौ एकड़ में बनना है। आईआईटी में एडमिशन के लिए जेईई एडवांस क्लियर करना होगा। इसकी परीक्षा 22 मई को होगी।

## **IIT-Kharagpur students develop driverless shuttles**

<http://www.bgr.in/news/iit-kharagpur-students-develop-driverless-shuttles/>

*For travelling inside the vast IIT-Kharagpur campus, its Robotics Research Group has developed a self-driving shuttle which runs on electricity.*



Self-driving shuttles for in-campus travel, designed by a team of students from IIT-Kharagpur's Robotics Research Group, would reduce operating costs by 40 to 60 percent, a statement from the institute said on Friday. Powered by electricity, Auro Shuttles, launched by Nalin Gupta, Jit Ray Chowdhury and Srinivas Reddy of the Group and Y-Combinator, uses latest technology to ensure safe navigation even on busy roads. It eliminates the cost of a driver.

"The shuttle can be used 24x7 and in all weather conditions. No special rails or dedicated pathways are required for its operation. The vehicle is equipped with lasers, camera, radar and GPS. The shuttles rely on a prior 3D map of the environment. It uses this 3D map to localize itself and interpret road topography," the statement said.

Passengers can feed in destinations through a touch screen mounted on the vehicle, or through their mobile app. The underlying software automatically figures out the optimum high-level route to reach the destination safely, the statement said.