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Inauguration of IITs uncertain after Cabinet reshuffle

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

MUMBAI: Changes to the council of ministers at the centre has left the inauguration of two premier institutes in jeopardy. While former HRD Minister Smriti Irani had initially confirmed her presence for the inauguration of two of the newest campuses of the Indian Institutes of technology (IITs), a change in her portfolio now means the institutes are yet to get confirmation from the new HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar. Two of the newest entrants to the list of IITs, IITGoa as well as IITDharwad are scheduled to be inaugurated on July 30 and 31 respectively. "All other aspects of the event have been confirmed but we are still waiting to get an official statement from Prakash Javadekar's office. We hope this comes through before the event," said an official from the institute. This year, four new institutes made their way into the IIT's admission process, taking the total count to 22 IITs with over 10,500 seats to offer. These include campuses in Goa, Dharwad, Jammu and Bhillai (Chhattisgarh). Currently, both the institutes at Goa and Dharwad will be mentored by IITBombay, whereas IITJammu will be mentored by IITDelhi and IITBhillai will be under the wings of IITHyderabad. "The original plan was to hold inaugurations to both the institutes on the same day, but looking at logistics and after getting confirmation from Smriti Irani about her presence on both days, we decided to conduct separate events. While we have got an oral confirmation from Prakash Javadekar's office, we need a written confirmation to go ahead with the invitations," added an official from IITB.

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P-15

Now, interest-free loans to offset IIT fee hike

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NEW DELHI: The HRD ministry has formulated a scheme to ensure prospective IIT students are able to get interest-free loan to offset the fee hike done recently, the ministry said on Wednesday. HT had highlighted the plight of students who were facing difficulty in paying the fee after the hike on Wednesday.

"The existing scheme for providing interest-free loans has a limitation on the annual household income ₹4.5 lakh. In view of this, a separate scheme is formulated for providing the interest subvention which is under scrutiny of the finance," said a ministry statement.

The ministry, which was then under Smriti Irani, had approved a proposal for increasing the IIT fees from ₹90,000 to ₹2 lakh.

Later, it issued a statement saying tuition fees will be waived for all students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and differently-abled categories, besides

TWO-THIRD OF TUITION FEE WILL BE WAIVED FOR STUDENTS FROM FAMILIES WITH AN ANNUAL INCOME OF LESS THAN ₹5 LAKH

those from families with an annual income of less than ₹1 lakh.

Apart from this, it said students from families with an annual income of less than ₹5 lakh would benefit from a waiver of two-thirds of the tuition fee amount, and everybody — regardless of caste or class — would have access to interest-free loans under the 'Vidya Lakshmi Scheme' for the total amount.

However, when students seeking admission to the IITs enquired about the interest-free loans, they were told that the offer was not available to those with a family income of over ₹5 lakh per annum. A number of students from middle-class families were affected by the move.

Unfair share?

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As four new IITs begin sessions in August, experts say the current mentorship model needs revision. Instead, institutes could hire retired members, lean on tech solutions or establish satellite campuses

Bringing retired faculty members back to the pool could be a good way to fight the faculty crisis. Eventually, more students could then be taught by some of the best in the field. DEBASHIS CHATTERJEE, former director of IIMKozhikode. Location plays a huge role in convincing faculty members to shuttle between cities, or transfer entirely to a new institute. It is bizarre that IIMKozhikode is made to mentor IIMAmritsar, when they are geographically so far apart. ANINDYA SEN, directorincharge of IIMRanchi.

With more Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) opening every few years, an increased number of seats means students stand a better chance of getting into one. However, if you have applied to the IITs or IIMs this year, more campuses may also mean you bear the brunt of a crippling faculty shortage — rescheduled classes, unavailable professors or classes with assistant professors. As IITs at Bhilai (Chhattisgarh), Khanpur Nagrota (Jammu & Kashmir), Goa, and Dharwad (Karnataka) begin sessions this year, the mentorship model to bring new institutes up to speed could use a rethink, say experts. For several years, the IITs and IIMs have utilised a system where an established institute manages a new one until it can function without support. Since this requires the old institute to share professors with the new one, it often causes a faculty crunch at both. This year, in a first, IITBombay (IITB) is set to temporarily transfer some of its professors to Goa and Dharwad — its mentee institutes — for the first semester, instead of having them travel back and forth through the week. “The plan is to shift six professors to Goa and Dharwad each as temporary resident faculty, for the initial semester. We expect 90 students in Goa and 120 in Dharwad, and if we feel the need for more mentors, we will rope in PhD students from IITBombay to assist them,” says Shiva Prasad, professor incharge of coordination between IITBombay and IITGoa . While IIT B will oversee operations at Goa and Dharwad, IIT Bhilai will be mentored by IIT Hyderabad; IIT Jammu by IIT Delhi; and IIT Palakkad and IIT Tirupati (which began in 2015) by IIT Madras. IITB mentored IIT Gandhinagar for three years since its inception in 2008, and IIT Indore for a year in 2009.

TROUBLED TIMES

Although IITB’s fresh approach could ease travel for professors, sharing faculty is likely to cause inconvenience to students at both institutes. For students, if faculty members are transferred or travelling frequently, chances are that classes could get rescheduled, or less qualified faculty members could act as substitutes. “If the professors are travelling, assistant professors or teaching assistants like PhD students help, and we can approach them for doubts. Otherwise, if we have to get in touch with a particular faculty member, we communicate via email,” says Abhishek Khadiya, a fourthyear student pursuing an integrated masters in chemistry at IITB . For professors, relocating upsets their schedules and their research work. “Also, the prospect of moving to remote locations, such as Dharwad, is a deterrent,” says an official from IITB , who requested anonymity. A similar story plays out at the IIMs. “At the IIMs, most of the teaching is casestudy oriented. This means that frequent teacher student interaction is imperative,” says Suresh Jakhar, professor of operations research, IIMRohtak, which started in 2009, mentored by IIMLucknow for a year. “In a scenario where there are only 16 resident faculty members and 45 visiting professors at IIMRohtak, it becomes difficult to constantly consult with students for indepth research work.” Experts add that the location is often not considered when assigning a mentee institute. “Location plays a huge role in convincing faculty members to shuttle between cities, or transfer entirely to the new institute,” says Anindya Sen, director incharge of IIMRanchi and former dean of academics at IIMCalcutta. “It is bizarre that IIM Kozhikode is made to mentor IIMAmritsar, when they are geographically so far apart. The mentorship model is being made to work, but that does not mean it has been a smooth success.” Moreover, once the new IIT or IIM begins to function

independently, continuity is lost. "The older IIT or IIM takes full charge of faculty resources and curriculum for the first year. However, once a fulltime director is appointed at the new institute, there is a huge shift in the way it is run, causing confusion," adds Sen. "Sometimes, the mentor institutes hesitate to implement any major plans in the first year, because it doesn't have much incentive to." Meanwhile, the model has received more positive feedback in the southern states. IIT Madras, which successfully mentored IIT Hyderabad in the past, has shifted focus to IIT Palakkad and IIT Tirupati. "We had six courses when we launched last year, and now, we are going to offer 30 subjects, including electives. We are considerably close to IIT Madras, which makes it easy for faculty to travel between the two when needed," says PB Sunil Kumar, professor incharge, IIT Palakkad. THE WAY AHEAD The IITs and IIMs have tried using a blend of online and offline courses, MOOCs (massive open online courses) and the integrated, highspeed National Knowledge Network to combat faculty shortage. However, these methods have seen varying success. "Using video conferencing is more like a backup tool. As a teacher, the satisfaction of physically being there is unparalleled," says KN Satyanarayana, professor incharge, IIT Tirupati. "But when it comes to mentored courses, it only makes sense that we are immediately accessible and can provide feedback," he adds. Moreover, in remote location institutes such as IIMRohtak and IIMKashipur, National Knowledge Network (NKN) and videoconferencing face connectivity issues. IIT Palakkad currently has 12 resident professors and 11 visiting faculty members, and is in the process of hiring more. They have also roped in retired professors as a stopgap measure. "Bringing retired faculty members back to the pool is a good alternative. Eventually, students are being taught by some of the best in the field," says Debashis Chatterjee, former director of IIMKozhikode. Another solution is to plan systematically, say experts. "To get a relatively new institution up on its feet in a short span of time is an ambitious task. There are so many areas to look into, including faculty appointment, curriculum planning and setting up infrastructure. In an ideal scenario, appointing a director should be the first step, before the session begins. This reduces pressure on the mentor institution as well," says Anurag Sharma, dean of academics, IIT Delhi.

The concept of satellite campuses might also help mitigate the problems in the mentorship model. "If we can build complexes close to the mentor IITs or IIMs, working in tandem might become easier for both institutions. This could be a temporary measure, to ensure that quality of teaching does not suffer because of sharing faculty at either institute," says Sen.

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बढ़ते कदम

प्रति सेमेस्टर हॉस्टल फीस 24,500 रुपए, कई टेक्नोलॉजी का लाभ भविष्य में

आईआईटी हॉस्टल में मिलेंगी फाइव स्टार होटल जैसी सुविधाएं



रायपुर। व्यूरो, छग

इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी) भिलाई के स्टूडेंट्स को हॉस्टल में फाइव स्टार होटल जैसी सुविधाएं मिलने वाली हैं। वह भी मात्र 4 हजार रुपए प्रतिमाह की दर पर। सुविधाओं में मेडिकल इंश्योरेंस, फ़िम, स्पोर्ट्स क्लब, वर्ल्डवाइड, भोजन (वेज-नॉनवेज), डाइनिंग, वॉशिंग मशीन, एलईडी टीवी, फोन, बस और एक



प्रिन्सिपल कम बनेगा, जहां छोटी-सी लाइब्रेरी और बालरूम, कैरम जैसे छोटे गेम खेले जा सकेंगे।

अधिकतर आईआईटी में इस तरह की सुविधा स्टूडेंट्स व संस्थान के

स्टैंडर्ड को मेंटेन रखने के लिए दी जाती है। आईआईटी भिलाई अभी नया है, इसलिए यहां अनेक मॉडर्न टेक्नोलॉजी की सुविधा छात्रों को आने वर्षों में मिलेगी। गौरवस्तव है कि आईआईटी

ये मिलेंगी

मेडिकल इंश्योरेंस, वेज-नॉनवेज, फ़िम, वर्ल्डवाइड, स्पोर्ट्स क्लब, डाइनिंग, वॉशिंग मशीन, एलईडी टीवी, फोन, बस और एक प्रिन्सिपल कम समेत अन्य सुविधाएं।

भिलाई में क्लास की गुरुआत 1 अगस्त से हो रही है, इसलिए यहां सुविधा इस तरह मुहैया कराने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है कि कोई भी चीज की कमी न रहे। द्यूशन फीस जनरल वर्ग की 1 लाख 45 सौ और एग्जी-एक्सीवी की मात्र 45 सौ रुपए है।

सौ एयर व इलेक्ट्रिकल के लिए दो लैब : अस्थायी कैम्पस सेजबहाद

दो हजार में खाना-वेड समेत अन्य चीजें

आईआईटी का अस्थायी कैम्पस सेजबहाद रिजल्ट सख्तारी इजीनियरिंग कॉलेज के बी ब्लॉक में लगेगा। वही हॉस्टल में दो लैब वेड की व्यवस्था है। मासिक बिडिंडम में 40 वेड और वॉकअप बिडिंडम में 120 वेड की व्यवस्था की गई है। बसों वेड भीषण व्यो देखते हुए रिजर्व रखे गए हैं। वेड और यद्दे संस्थान द्वारा ही दिए जाएंगे।

में स्टैंडर्ड लेवल की दो लैब कम्प्यूटर साइंस और इलेक्ट्रिकल ब्रांच के लिए निर्मित की जा रही हैं। अगस्त के अंतिम सप्ताह तक यहां मशीन और अन्य जरूरी उपकरण रख दिए जाएंगे।

इसके अलावा एक लॉकर हॉल और बैच मिलेगा। इसमें स्टूडेंट्स अपनी नोट्स, कपड़े व अन्य महंगे वस्तुओं को रख सकते हैं। हॉस्टल की सेमेस्टर फीस 24500 रुपए है। औसत एक माह का खर्च 4 हजार है, यहां की सुविधा को देखते लगता है कि वह कोई फाइव स्टार होटल से कम नहीं।

इसी तरह मैकेनिकल के स्टूडेंट्स को कॉन्सोपे के लिए कैकल्टी के हिसाब से आईआईटी हैदराबाद समय-समय पर जाने होंगे। अगस्त-नवंबर सेमेस्टर के लिए टाइम टेबल जारी कर दिया है।

पीपीपी में चलने वाले ट्रिपल आईटी के लिए अलग कानून

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय निजी क्षेत्र की मदद से संचालित ट्रिपल आईटी के संचालन को अलग से एक कानून तैयार करने पर विचार कर रहा है।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर की अध्यक्षता में हुई ट्रिपल आईटी काउंसिल की बैठक में यह निर्णय लिया गया। देश में निजी क्षेत्र की मदद से कुल 20 ट्रिपल आईटी स्थापित होने हैं जिनमें से कुछ हो चुके हैं।

आईआईटी काउंसिल की बैठक को संबोधित करते हुए जावड़ेकर ने कहा कि वे सॉफ्टवेयर पर बड़े शोध करें और इसके लिए अगले पांच साल का रोडमैप तैयार करें।

बैठक में कई अहम फैसले लिए गए। इनमें निजी क्षेत्र के ट्रिपल आईटी के संचालन के लिए अलग से कानून बनाने का फैसला प्रमुख है। दरअसल, निजी क्षेत्र के ट्रिपल आईटी में केंद्र की हिस्सेदारी 50, राज्य की 35 तथा निजी क्षेत्र की 15 फीसदी है। कुछ ट्रिपल आईटी राज्य सरकारों द्वारा पूरी तरह से संचालित हैं। चार ट्रिपल आईटी को राष्ट्रीय महात्व का घोषित किया गया है तथा वे केंद्र द्वारा संचालित हैं। अन्य फैसलों में पीएचडी

जावड़ेकर का आह्वान

- ट्रिपल आईटी काउंसिल की बैठक में निर्णय लिया गया
- अगले पांच साल का रोडमैप तैयार करें संस्थान

स्कोलरो को भविष्य में बतौर फैकल्टी इस्तेमाल करने की बात कही गई है। उन्हें शिक्षण कार्य में अस्थायी रूप से लगाया जा सकता है।

दरअसल, ट्रिपल आईटी शिक्षकों की कमी से जूझ रहे हैं। निजी ट्रिपल आईटी को डीम्ड शिक्षक का दर्जा देने पर भी सहमति नहीं। ट्रिपल आईटी का एक सचिवालय बनेगा जो ट्रिपल आईटी ग्वालिंजर में होगा।

इसी प्रकार ट्रिपल आईटी में 15 फीसदी सीटें विदेशी एवं एनआरआई छात्रों के लिए आरक्षित करने का भी फैसला हुआ है। सभी ट्रिपल आईटी को कहा गया है कि वे मुक्त कोर्स शुरू करें तथा इसमें कुछ क्रेडिट का भी प्रावधान करें। सभी संस्थानों को कहा गया है कि वे स्टूड को एक ब्रांड के रूप में विकसित करें।

अब उड़ान योजना के लिए 20 जुलाई तक आवेदन संभव

नई दिल्ली : मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की ओर से इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों में लगभग कम होती छात्राओं की संख्या को बढ़ाने के लिए शुरू की गई उड़ान योजना के लिए आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि 20 जुलाई तक बढ़ा दी गई है। इस योजना के अंतर्गत बेहतर प्रशिक्षण की सुविधा उपलब्ध करवाकर इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों में पढ़ाने के लिए प्रेरित किया जाता है। सीबीएसई के माध्यम से उड़ान योजना के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्रक्रिया से हर साल दिसंबर से एक हजार छात्राओं का चयन किया जाता है। इसमें 50 फीसद सीटें अनुसूचित जाति-जनजाति व अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग की छात्राओं के लिए आरक्षित है। दरग्री के बाद डिजिटल डिजाइनिंग, केम्पस व मेकमेटिक्स में आवश्यकतानुसार आवेदन कर सकती है। चयन मेरिट के आधार पर होगा। इस योजना में चुनी गई छात्राओं को एक टेब दिया जाता है। उसके माध्यम से उन्हें आईआईटी, जेईई की परीक्षा की तैयारी से संबंधित ट्यूटोरियल, सेक्टर व अध्ययन सामग्री उपलब्ध कराई जाती है। उड़ान योजना के लिए आवेदन प्रक्रिया बार जुलाई से शुरू है और 13 जुलाई को इसका अंतिम दिन का लेकिन आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि बढ़ा दी गई है।

जेईई टॉपर दीपांशु ने एलजी से की मुलाकात

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी जेईई मेंन की परीक्षा-2016 में ऑल इंडिया टॉपर रहे दीपांशु जिंदल ने उपराज्यपाल नजीब जंग से मुलाकात की।

इस मुलाकात के दौरान उपराज्यपाल ने उनके उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन के लिए प्रशंसा करते हुए भविष्य के लिए शुभकामनाएं दीं। इस अवसर पर दीपांशु के पिता जय भगवान जिंदल और माता अनीता भी मौजूद थीं। दीपांशु की सफलता में उनका प्रमुख योगदान है। उपराज्यपाल ने टॉपर के परिजनों को बधाई दी। इस दौरान दीपांशु ने उपराज्यपाल को अपनी भविष्य की योजनाओं के बारे में भी बताया।



आईआईटी जेईई मेंन की परीक्षा-2016 में ऑल इंडिया टॉपर दीपांशु जिंदल उपराज्यपाल नजीब जंग से मुलाकात के दौरान।

IIT-M student, teacher's wife found hanging

Chennai: The IIT-Madras campus was shaken on Wednesday evening by the news of two suicides within a span of an hour, in unrelated incidents. The first one was an assistant professor's wife, the second a post-doctoral research scholar.

Police said physics assistant professor Ganeshan's wife Vijayalakshmi, 47, was found hanging inside her quarters around 3pm. An hour later, P Maheshwari, 34, a post-doctoral research scholar was found dead hanging in Sabarmathi hostel.

Maheshwari's friends, after searching for her for a while, peeped into the hostel room and found her hanging from the ceiling. IIT officials informed the Kotturpuram police who reached the hostel and lowered the body. Police said there was no suicide note, and the reason was not known immediately. Police, after conducting inquiries, said she was upset that her husband Pandiarajan was not visiting her in the hostel.

Cut-off parity for college job

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160714/jsp/nation/story_96622.jsp#.V4dAmPI9600

Students from other backward classes who want to teach in colleges or universities now need to score only 50 per cent in their master's exam.

The government has reduced by five per cent the teacher eligibility cut-off for OBCs, making it a uniform 50 per cent for sitting for the National Eligibility Test and for applying for a teacher's job in colleges.

Till now, OBC students who had got at least 50 per cent could sit for the NET - which an aspiring college teacher has to clear - but couldn't apply for an assistant professorship if their master's score was below 55 per cent.

The University Grants Commission this week notified the amended regulation, removing the discrepancy.

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates had already been getting the five per cent relaxation from the 55 per cent cut-off, the eligibility criterion for general category candidates.

The modified cut-off applies to MPhil and PhD candidates too.

The new regulations also de-link student feedback from promotions, fulfilling a key demand by agitating college and university teachers.

In 2014, the UGC had amended its eligibility norm for the NET, reducing the cut-off for OBCs to 50 per cent.

But delay in a corresponding amendment to eligibility norms for teaching jobs led to a situation where thousands of OBC students were rejected despite clearing the NET.

It led to a challenge in a Delhi court. The Patiala House court directed corrective action in 2014, said Sudhanshu Kumar, an assistant professor in a Delhi University college.

"But the UGC half-heartedly implemented the relaxation in NET eligibility and did not do it in the requirement for teaching posts. Now the injustice has been set right," said Hansraj Suman, the president of the Delhi University's SC/ST/OBC Teachers' Forum.

"Deserving OBC students with NET qualification will not face rejection for not having 55 per cent in master's," Kumar said.

Nearly six lakh candidates appear for the NET every year and about 30,000 clear the test.

The amended regulations have rolled back the enhanced workload from 18 hours of direct teaching a week for assistant professors to 16 hours, and from 16 hours for associate professors and professors to 14 hours each.

DU Teachers Association member Abha Dev Habib welcomed the amendments that also de-linked student feedback, which carried a certain weightage, from teacher promotions.

"It is a victory for the teachers' struggle. We will now discuss our future course of action on the issue at our next executive meeting," Habib said.

IISC WON'T LET MOISTURE KILL PILL

[HTTP://WWW.BANGALOREMIRROR.COM/BANGALORE/OTHERS/IISC-WONT-LET-MOISTURE-KILL-PILL/ARTICLESHOW/53199976.CMS](http://www.bangaloremirror.com/bangalore/others/iisc-wont-let-moisture-kill-pill/articleshow/53199976.cms)



Use of graphene will also bring down the cost of packaging drugs, food and electronic items

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, are close to field-testing an alternative to plastic packaging for the electronics and pharmaceutical industry, which can increase the shelf-life of electronics, drugs and subsequently bring down costs. Prof Srinivasan Raghavan from the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering and Prof

Praveen C Ramamurthy from the Department of Materials Engineering are using graphene to make paper impermeable, that is moisture-proof, which will in turn help replace plastic packaging. A prototype has already been made.

While flexible, transparent and moisture impermeable materials are critical for packaging applications in electronic, food and pharmaceutical industries, the average plastics or polymers are, not water proof enough, thereby reducing the lifetime of electronics and medicines.

"For the packaging industry, it will be significant, especially for pharma. Medicines have expiry dates and major issue is due to packaging failure, as a result of which moisture and oxygen seeps into the packets. So drugs interact with the oxygen and moisture and consequently fail. Hence, if there is better packing, this will increase the lifetime or expiration date of drugs by several more years, automatically reducing the cost of medicines. The field tests are expected to start within a month," Prof Ramamurthy told Bangalore Mirror.

The team says that if realised, it could be an invention that parallels the invention of plastics themselves atleast as far as packaging goes, with particular respect to current packaging used for medicines and electronics.

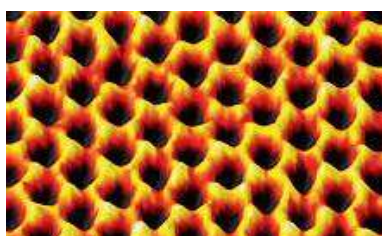


As a step in this direction, the researchers have developed and demonstrated moisture-impermeable polymer using graphene. This, according to the team, reduces its water vapour transmission rate by up to a million fold. The team has applied for a patent and the findings have been published in ACS Nano journal.

According to Gubbi Labs, which is a private research collective, the new organic polymer is expected to address the challenge of "permeation of atmospheric water vapour into flexible organic electronic devices, thus increasing its active lifetime and improving performance."

This whole project started when Prof Raghavan told Prof Ramamurthy that they make graphene in their lab and it was impermeable even to helium and that they were attempting to make paper impermeable. "This is when I suggested that we first try it on plastics as he was working on making plastics, which are supposedly waterproof and even more impermeable. The next week we had the first result and soon the patent was submitted," added Prof Raghavan.

The team showed that this new material will be a big advantage for organic electronics, which is a field of materials science concerning the design, synthesis, characterisation, and application of organic small molecules or polymers, which show desirable optoelectronic properties such as conductivity and flexibility. "While the current paper we have published shows that this new material will be a big boon for organic electronics, our primary focus now is to use graphene to make paper impermeable for the pharma industry," added Prof Ramamurthy.



This is a scanning probe microscopy image of graphene. The researchers are using graphene to make paper impermeable, that is moistureproof, which will in turn help replace plastic packaging.

According to the team, the new polymer is flexible, transparent and moisture-impermeable and was created by embedding a monolayer of graphene on a film. With the new polymer, the researchers were able to obtain large-area composite films with almost negligible water permeation. The researchers performed transparency and flexibility tests on the new graphene or polymer composite films and found that they were almost as transparent as other available polymer films. The addition of the graphene monolayers did not compromise the flexibility of the polymer films. The team also demonstrated the ability of the films to protect encapsulated devices like organic photovoltaic (OPV) devices and tested for their power conversion efficiencies. The results showed that the devices packed with the composite films would have ambient operating lifetimes of almost one million minutes (almost 1.9 years), which is highly desirable for most organic devices.

July 13

Times Of India ND 13/07/2016

P-20

HRD mantri attends RSS-linked event

Says Edu- Must Be Free Of Politics

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: New HRD minister Prakash Javadekar's first public engagement in the capital on Tuesday was in an event organized by Bharat Shikshan Mandal, an RSS-linked outfit.

Javadekar, however, struck a conciliatory note answering critics who felt his attending an RSS function points at shape of things to come. He said, "Education is not BJP-Congress-Communist thing. Everyone should be involved in this. I will go wherever I am invited." He bemoaned the fact that too much is expected from government while society itself has stopped getting involved in education.

Javadekar said lasting change can be brought through innovation. Education, he said, should stress on accessibility, affordability, qu-



Prakash Javadekar bemoaned the fact that too much is expected from the government while society itself has stopped getting involved in education

ality and accountability. He requested for more views on the summary of national education policy that has been now been put out in the public domain.

Earlier, J S Rajput, former director of NCERT and a member of the committee that brought the education policy reiterated his old criticism of Western education by attacking Macaulay. He said if education has to improve it should consider reaching out to schools in villages. "This is the only way class distinction will be removed," he said. Rajput

also said child's right should be at the centre of all education policies.

Mukul Kaniitkar of Bharat Shikshan Mandal said instead India should make efforts to contribute to the world rather than imbibing from outside. He gave the example of Massive Open Online Course being launched by HRD ministry and said not only courses from foreign universities but also from India should be included. Kaniitkar claimed India is the only country that has the strength to become world leader.

He also claimed there is a statue of Saraswati, goddess of learning near the White House in US and quoted another instance where a Muslim vice-chancellor in Indonesia prays to the goddess. "In India with more than 100 crore Hindus can a vice-chancellor think of doing this?" he asked.

BJP general secretary Murlidhar Rao said education policy should celebrate diversity with feeling of oneness. He said any exclusivist religion will not work in India.

823 SC students in JEE (Advanced) general list, 22 in top 2,000

ANKITA DWIVEDI JOHRI
NEW DELHI, JULY 12

THIS YEAR'S Joint Entrance Exam (Advanced) exams for entry into the IITs saw 823 SC students make it to the Common Rank List in which candidates across categories are given ranks. In other words, these students got a general rank without using the 50 per cent relaxation in marks they were entitled to.

According to data provided to *The Indian Express* by IIT Guwahati, the organising IIT for this year's JEE, 22 of these 823 students ranked between 1 and 2,000 in the Common Rank List. To be included in the CRL, students irrespective of category need to score a minimum 10 per cent in each subject and an aggregate 20 per cent.

The 823 qualifiers are a marked increase from the 515 SC students who made the CRL last year. They account for 11.21 per cent of the total 7,339 SC students who had cleared JEE (Advanced), while the proportion of SC students who had got general ranks last year had been 20 per cent of the total 2,570 who had cleared the exam.

"Until last year, SC students needed to score at least 3.5 per cent in each subject and an aggregate of 12.25 per cent to qualify for IITs. This year, the minimum aggregate percentage that SC students need to qualify has been brought down to 10," said 2015 JEE chairperson Professor P V Balaji of IIT Bombay. "This explains why over 7,000 SC

THE RISE

SCs	2015	2016
Cleared	2,570	7,339
Made gen list	515	823
%	20	11

STs	2015	2016
Appeared	7,736	9,537
Cleared	1,745	2,392
%	23	25



students qualified this year compared to 2,570 in 2015."

The IITs have 10,500 seats. Of these, 7.5 per cent are reserved for STs, 15 per cent for SCs, 27 per cent for OBCs and the remaining 50.5 per cent for general category students.

"While these 823 students are eligible for the open seats [general category seats], it is likely that a majority of them will take admission under the SC category. This is because they have better chances of getting their preferred institute and course in the reserved seats. Unless someone from among these 823 has a rank in the top 20 [CRL], these students are unlikely to get into the college of their choice," said Prof K V Krishna, chairman, JEE 2016, of IIT Guwahati.

"Also, not all the 7,000-plus SC students who have qualified will make it to the IITs - remember, there are only 10,500 seats in all. But they can get admission to the other engineering colleges in the country through their JEE (Main) ranks," Krishna said.

Among ST students, 9,537 students appeared this year and 2,392 of them (25 per cent) qualified. Last year, 1,745 of 7,736 ST students (22.5 per cent) had cleared the exam. The cutoff for STs was the same as for SCs in both 2015 and 2016.

This year, 212 ST students have found a place in the common merit list as opposed to 108 last year. Of the 212, two had ranks between 1 and 2,000 in the CRL.

The JEE (Advanced) 2016 results were declared on June 12.

जॉब ऑफर वापस लेने पर स्टेजिला को बैन करेंगे IIT !

गौरी गणेश शर्मा

जॉब ऑफर वापस लेने पर स्टेजिला को बैन कर देंगे IIT। स्टेजिला के खिलाफ एक्शन ले सकते हैं। केन्द्रीय शिक्षा विभाग और स्टेजिला के बीच अंतरिम समझौते के तहत 13 स्टूडेंट्स को जॉब ऑफर देने के फैसले का एक्शन लिया जा सकता है।

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IIM BILL PMO, HRD meet, most issues 'resolved'

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 12

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY to the Prime Minister, Narendra Mishra, held a meeting with Higher Education Secretary V S Oberoi on Monday to resolve differences over the IIM Bill and draft regulations for setting up world-class universities. The meeting was held within a week of Prakash Javadekar being appointed the new HRD Minister.

Sources said the PMO and the HRD Ministry have arrived at a consensus on most issues and that the IIM Bill is expected to go to the Cabinet for approval soon. Earlier, the two ministries were locked in a tussle over the autonomy to be granted to the IIMs and the proposed world-class institutions. This meeting between Mishra and Oberoi was first scheduled on July 2, just three days before Irani was transferred to the Textiles Ministry. It was cancelled at the last minute.

The Indian Express had first reported on March 11 on the differences between the HRD Ministry and PMO over the IIM Bill. The PMO had recommended more than five changes to the draft Law — which aims to empower the premier B-schools to award degrees instead of diplomas — to dilute the scope of government control over the institutes. The HRD Ministry did not adopt two.

The ministry is learnt to have retained the provision which makes the HRD Minister the head of the IIM Coordinating Forum. The PMO was not in favour of this. The HRD Ministry was also not willing to dilute the clause that empowers the President to review the work of any IIM in his capacity as the Visitor of the premier B-Schools. The PMO then virtually blocked Cabinet approval for the Bill and the matter was escalated to Mishra.

UGC Calls For Reservation For J&K Students In Central Universities

<http://examswatch.com/ugc-calls-for-reservation-for-jk-students-in-central-universities/>

In a row with changing education system, University Grants Commission (UGC) made an important decision for the students of Jammu and Kashmir. Now, with the new recommendations of UGC, all the central universities will have to reserve two supernumerary seats in their affiliated colleges. The decision has been approved by the Ministry of HRD.

The UGC has issued a letter regarding the creation of two supernumerary seats. In the letter, all the information has been forwarded. "The Ministry of Human Resource and Development had decided that two Supernumerary Quota will be made available to the students of Jammu and Kashmir who seek admission through centralized counselling in universities/colleges approved under section 2(1) and 12 B of the UGC Act or recognized by AICTE and have at least one NBA approved course," the letter by UGC secretary Jaspal S Sandhu said.

Also, the letter added, "I would feel highly obliged, if you kindly ensure that the two supernumerary in your esteemed university and colleges affiliated under your esteemed university are created for the students of Jammu and Kashmir."

The move by the HRD Ministry will definitely felicitate the students of Jammu and Kashmir. The students of Jammu and Kashmir need to get this leverage as efficiently as possible. As some parts of Jammu and Kashmir are not well connected to the rest of India, this move would motivate the students of Jammu and Kashmir to get a better education in the renowned universities of India.