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 sand 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 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.
Inauguration of
Bharat Abhiyan Cell
Institute of Technology, Delhi
by
SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI
Minister of Human Resource Development
Government of India
on
29th April 2016

The inauguration was held to mark the launch of the Bharat Abhiyan Cell, which is an initiative aimed at promoting scientific and technological development in India. The event was attended by the Minister of Human Resource Development, who gave a speech highlighting the importance of scientific research and its role in the development of the country.

The inauguration plaque reads:

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

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.

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 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.
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 of 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 disable (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 commitments. “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 special students. She also told the students about a special scheme, “Udant”, 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 Udant or other schemes of the government. “At the top level, we are trying for innovative strategies 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 Udant scheme last year, as many as 140 cleared the IITs, she added.
A similar programme is being implemented in Nirody Rabindra Vidyalaya Schools. “We had 100% results at our Bhopal and Pune centres,” Irani said.
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 बच्चों को दिया भरोसा

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी में पढ़ने की इच्छा गरीब बच्चों की लड़कियों के सपनों को अब उठाने मिला सकेगी। दरअसल, केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी ऐसे बच्चों की लड़कियों के आईआईटी में पढ़ने के सपनों का पूरा करने का जरूरी है।
आईआईटी दिल्ली में छात्रों को संबोधित करते हुए उन्होंने यह बात कही। उन्होंने कहा कि यदि किसी को ऐसी कड़ी मिले जो गरीब है और आईआईटी में पढ़ना चाहते हैं तो मुझे बताएं।
ऐसा जानकारी देने के लिए उन्हें में भी किया जा सकता है।
आईआईटी दिल्ली में उक्तकर की स्मृति ईरानी ने नवनिर्मित लेकर होल, उन्हें भारत अभियान सेल का उद्घाटन किया और इंजीनियरिंग विभाग का स्तर पार की आवश्यकता रखी। इंजीनियरिंग को संबोधित करते हुए ईरानी ने कहा कि आईआईटी के दरबार के मध्य संपन्न वर्ग के लिए नहीं बालक गरीब बच्चों के लिए भी खुले हैं।
यदि आईआईटी का सपना देखने वाली आपको बीत वर्ग की लड़कियों मिले तो मुझे में भी किया जा सकता है।

हॉस्टल की रसोई में चप्पल उतारकर पढ़नें
स्मृति ईरानी ने आईआईटी में हॉस्टल का औद्योगिक निरीक्षण भी किया। यहाँ हॉस्टल की रसोई व हॉटेल में पैदा और छात्रों से उनकी समस्याओं के लिए यहाँ में जाता। शिखरकर हॉस्टल की रसोई में वह चप्पल उतार कर पैदा और छात्रों का जायजा लिया। रसोई में उन्होंने 15 मिनट में बनाया और कमर्चरियर्स से स्वभावित व वैज्ञानिक के बारे में बात की। उन्होंने छात्रों के चाक खेलने के अनुरोध को भी पूछा किया। उन्होंने आईआईटी विद्यार्थियों को विचारों में विशेष व्यापक के लिए एक दौड़ लगाने को कहा। छात्रों के लिए यह अवसर का अनुभव नहीं है।
Sanskrit in IITs

It is an uncomfortable marriage with engineering

HRD 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 irrelevant 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 Chadhan
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 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 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 projects, the selection is almost certain.

The HP State Council of the CII has already indicated its willingness to support the project. The decision on all this will be taken once we float the project Dharamsala Smart City Corporation, said J M Pathania, Director, Urban Development. He added that similar offers had come from ITT-Roorkee, Indian Institute of Technology Madras 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 multimodal 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 of 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.

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अस्थायी कैंपस
आईआईटी भिलाई की क्लास
सेजवाहार में लगेगी

राक्षपुर (छुट्टी)। इंडियन इन्स्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी) भिलाई का अस्थायी कैंपस नये सत्र से सेजवाहार के सस्कारी इंजीनियरिङ कॉलेज (जीईसी) में लगेगा। इसके हपसे आईआईटी हैदराबाद की टीम ने कॉर्सेस के बीच व्याख्या का निरीक्षण किया, जहाँ भू-भूगी बौद्ध मैन की पहाड़ी होती है। जीईसी में कैंपस लगाए जाने को लेकर राज्य सरकार के तकनीकी पिक्षा विभाग और आईआईटी के बीच समझौता हो गया है। इसके अनुसार भवन व गर्दन होटल का रेजिडेंस मेंटरिंग आईआईटी को करना होगा। जीईसी के एक व्याख्या में पहले से आईआईटी में स्थापित है। वहीं अन्य विभिन्न व्याख्या में आईआईटी की पहाड़ी होगी। उल्लेखनीय है कि आईआईटी का ज्यादा अनुसार भवन व गर्दन होटल का रेजिडेंस मेंटरिंग आईआईटी को करना होगा। जीईसी के एक व्याख्या में पहले से आईआईटी में स्थापित है। वहीं अन्य विभिन्न व्याख्या में आईआईटी की पहाड़ी होगी। उल्लेखनीय है कि आईआईटी का ज्यादा अनुसार भवन व गर्दन होटल का रेजिडेंस मेंटरिंग आईआईटी को करना होगा।
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 24×7 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.