

IIT fee doubled; 100% waiver for SC, ST and differently-abled

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NEW DELHI: The annual fee for undergraduate courses in IITs will be hiked from ₹90,000 to ₹2 lakh from the next academic session, officials of the HRD ministry said on Thursday. An order to this effect is likely to be issued on Friday.

The decision comes a day after HRD minister Smriti Irani said that students belonging to the SC, ST, and differently-abled categories will get a full tuition-fee waiver at all IITs. The general category students will get 0% interest-free loan if they require.

Earlier, a proposal for a three-fold hike — from ₹90,000 to ₹3 lakh — was approved by a panel last month, although the final decision needed Irani's approval. According to sources, the minister in her capacity as the chairperson decided to increase it to ₹2 lakh.

IITs have been trying to hike the fee for some time. The last meeting of the IIT Council in October 2015 had taken up the issue but could not arrive at a consensus.

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Another recommendation by the Standing Committee of IIT Council is the proposal of a new entrance examination conducted by the National Authority of Test (NAT) should be held from 2017. Final decision in this regard too rests with Irani, it is learnt.

Students of NITs will also pay an increased fee of ₹1.25 lakh per annum from this academic year, which was approved last year.