

## THIS WORD MEANS

# IIT-PAL

## What is this IIT initiative for engineering aspirants?



FOLLOWING A meeting of the IIT Council Monday, HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar said the IITs will strengthen their Professor Assisted Learning programme. Known as IIT-PAL, it is an initiative taken by the IITs to fight the coaching industry's influence among engineering aspirants, and inspired from an initiative of IIT-Gandhinagar where first-year undergraduate students are tagged with bright seniors who coach them. Launched in July last year, this platform hosts lectures by IIT professors on Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Biology to help students crack the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE). IIT-PAL channels are available for free on the Internet and DTH TV, and each subject has a dedicated channel. IIT-Delhi, the coordinating institute, has a bank of pre-recorded lectures of over 600 hours. Because it may not be completely possible to wean aspirants away from coaching institutes, IITs also describe the platform as an aid especially for aspirants from economically weaker backgrounds. "Not everyone can afford coaching classes. We need to help children from the rural backgrounds and from disadvantaged sections to enter the IITs," IIT Delhi director V Ramgopal Rao had said about IIT-PAL.

**Title:** IIT-PAL: What is this IIT initiative for engineering aspirants?

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