

IIT-B, Manipal Among 6 to Bag 'Eminence' Tag

Govt panel also picks BITS Pilani, IISc and Jio University; no IIM, central or state university makes the cut

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: Three public and three private institutes will be conferred with the 'Institute of Eminence' status, which promises them unprecedented administrative and academic autonomy, human resource development minister Prakash Javadekar said on Monday.

State-run IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IISc Bangalore, private institutes BITS Pilani and Manipal University and yet-to-be-established Jio University have bagged the tag.

However, not a single central or state university or any IIM has made it to the list.

Relliance's Jio University is the only greenfield institute to be selected from the four that had applied.

Chairman of the Empowered Ex-

Seeking Eminence

The Chosen Ones	Those Left Out
IIT Bombay	IIM-A
IIT Delhi	ISI
IISc Bangalore	TIFR
BITS Pilani	Delhi University
Manipal University	JNU
Jio University	Bharti University

Among 114 applicants

11 central universities

27 state universities

27 institutes of national importance, IITs and NITs

10 private universities and four greenfield institutes



pert Committee (EEC) that short-listed institutes for the status said that Jio University will not be conferred the status of eminence right away but only after three years once it achieves certain targets.

"Jio University being greenfield will not get the status. It'll only get a letter of intent and after three years, it will be assessed if it has achieved what it promised and only then will the status be accorded or withdrawn as the case may be. They were chosen as they were ready with a clear academic and administrative plan, funds and land. These are the things that will be looked at in greenfield category as there is no academic record to assess," N Gopalaswami told ET.

While the Centre announced in the 2016 budget that it would establish 20 Institutes of Eminence, it

had to go with just six after a high powered selection committee could not find many institutes eligible enough, as ET reported on July 7.

Though the panel found more institutes eligible in the government-funded category, the ministry is learnt to have later decided that it was best to pick an equal number of institutes from both public and private categories.

Gopalaswami, however, told ET that this was not the "end of the road" for the institutes that have not made it and they will be assessed again for improvement. "The EEC has been asked to review institutes again on shortcoming. We found so that we are able to select 10 from each government and private category as was envisaged. We expect to do the same. So the doors are not shut on other institutes," he said.