

## **DNA India**

### **Vacancies, student initiatives on agenda for Javadekar's meeting with VCs of central universities**

Human Resource Development minister Prakash Javadekar's upcoming meeting with Vice Chancellor's of 31 Central universities is being looked forward to with much anticipation by the universities as well. This will be the first time that the new HRD minister will meet all the Vice Chancellors under one roof. The day-long meeting which is scheduled for October 6, is being considered as a major meet.

According to sources, Aligarh Muslim University plans to raise the issue of its minority status. The ministry had recently withdrawn its stand supporting the minority status for the university. The Allahabad High Court had in January 2006 struck down the provision of the AMU (Amendment) Act, 1981 by which the University was accorded minority status. The AMU administration had also filed a separate plea against the High Court verdict on the issue.

Jawaharlal Nehru University which came under controversy with the sedition row during the previous HRD minister's reign is, however, treading with caution, focusing the agenda on review only, sources in the university said.

While the minister has already set up an agenda for the meeting, the universities have been asked to raise issues that concern them. Filling up of vacancies, improvement of infrastructure and review of student-centric initiatives will be one of the top-most agendas of the meeting.

A Parliamentary Committee report on central universities, released in 2013, had also pointed out towards the need of filling up vacancies in central varsities and the need to improve infrastructure.

“Reviewing issues of what are the expectations and what are the plans of the universities will be the main agenda of the meeting. We will be discussing actions taken and planned for improving quality and research, internal resource generation. Initiatives like the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and barrier free university among others will be reviewed,” HRD Minister said in an interaction with the media.

According to sources in the ministry, major announcements are expected after the meeting.