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## Wake-up call for IIT campus in Orissa

Pioneer News Service | Bhubaneswar

Orissa has already lost the National Institute of Science (NIS) to West Bengal. But the real question is, can it afford to sustain another loss by not making its bid for opening a campus of the IIT Kharagpur that has already planned to have a new campus? Sources said the IITs, across the country, are planning additional campuses in other cities.

It has already been known that IIT Mumbai is planning satellite campuses in Goa, Pune and another one in Mumbai. This institute also has an invitation to add another one in Ahmedabad.

IIT Chennai is planning a satellite campus in Tiruchirapally. IIT Kharagpur has just announced a new campus in Rajrahat, Kolkata. They have also announced plans for another campus.

In an open letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, prominent Oriyas living in the United States have suggested that Orissa may get a campus of the IIT Kharagpur, if it makes timely effort.

"If Orissa moves slowly, then who knows this campus may go to another location outside the State," apprehended Professor Chitta Baral of Arizona State University."

As the IIT Kharagpur already has an extension centre in Bhubaneswar, where it offers a PG Diploma in IT and is about to offer a diploma in intellectual property law, the educationists outside India have requested the Chief Minister to immediately pursue this and make sure that this campus is established in Bhubaneswar.

The Orissa Government and many Orissa-based companies support a lot of research in IIT Kharagpur. Under such circumstances, if Bhubaneswar does not become the third campus of IIT Kharagpur, the fault would lie with Orissa, its Ministers and bureaucrats for their delay in pursuing this golden opportunity, said Dharendra Kar, vice-president of the Orissa Society of Americas (OSA).

In its recent 37th convention, the OSA sought to impress upon the State Government to develop Orissa as a 'Knowledge State.'

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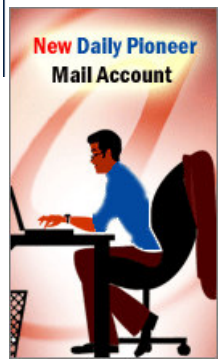
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