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**[Orissa Plus]**

## CM for IIT off-campus in Orissa

Statesman News Service

BHUBANESWAR, Sept 29: An off-campus of IIT Kharagpur in Orissa and an IIIT were two issues raised by chief minister Mr Naveen Patnaik during his meeting with Union minister for human resources development Mr Arjun Singh in New Delhi.

The chief minister informed the Central minister that he had already offered 300 acres of land close to Bhubaneswar for the Kharagpur IIT and is fully committed to provide all necessary assistance to the institution.

Since Orissa is fast emerging as a hub for industrial activities, an institution of the stature of IIT will provide the much needed boost to support these industries.

Mr Patnaik also spoke on the establishment of a new Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Bhubaneswar. He said that the state government is willing to provide land for the institution.

A release issued by the CMO claimed that Mr Arjun Singh responded positively and said that the Centre will consider the case of Bhubaneswar favourably while sanctioning new IIITs in the near future.

The ruling BJD here had opposed the alleged shifting of a proposed National Institute of Sciences (NIS) from Bhubaneswar to West Bengal by the HRD ministry. BJD MLAs had petitioned the PM and staged protests in the Parliament. The PM, however, further enraged the BJD by declaring that an institute of excellence under the atomic energy department will be established in Bhubaneswar.

The PM was even prepared to lay the foundation stone for it during his last visit but, the land was not ready so he made an announcement at the Institute of Physics here. Refusing to concede that an institute, much better than the NIS had been proposed, the BJD went on to underplay the PM's declaration by saying it was just an extension of the existing IP.

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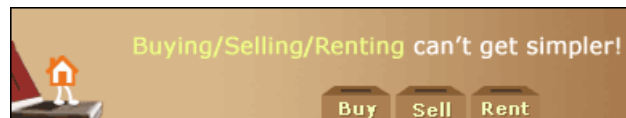
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