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## Eighth IIT to be located in Andhra Pradesh

December 19, 2006

By Indo Asian News Service

Hyderabad, Dec 19 (IANS) The government will set up the eighth Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy announced in the state assembly Tuesday.

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Making a statement in the house, he said the union human resource development (HRD) ministry had given a green signal for the premier institute - widely regarded as one India's centres for excellence - that would come up at Isnapur near Sanga Reddy in Medak district, about 100 km from the state capital.

'I am happy to inform this house that I have just received a communication from (HRD Minister) Arjun Singh informing that one IIT is sanctioned to

Andhra Pradesh in response to our sustained request for locating an IIT in our state,' he said.

This acceptance is part of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan agenda to start three new IITs in the country, the chief minister added.

The HRD ministry has requested the state government to identify and allot 500-600 acres of land free of cost, with physical and social infrastructure, including road, rail and air connectivity.

'Therefore, my government has decided to locate the IIT in Medak district, which was once represented by former prime minister Indira Gandhi in the Lok Sabha as it will satisfy the requirements laid down by the HRD minister,' he said.

The chief minister recalled that the assembly had earlier adopted a resolution requesting the government for an IIT at Basara, the temple town of goddess Saraswati (the Hindu goddess of learning) on the banks of river Godavari in Adilabad district.

'However, we are constrained to locate it in Medak district having proximity to the metropolitan twin cities of Hyderabad-Secunderabad, in view of the letter of the HRD minister,' Rajasekhara Reddy explained.

He expressed the hope that the IIT in Medak would help develop the backward Telangana region where a powerful section of people have been agitating for a separate state.

'This, I am sure, will help develop the backward parts of Telangana, providing opportunities to a large number of our youngsters to pursue high quality technical education, which is our strong point in the entire country,' Reddy said.

As some members expressed their disappointment over ignoring Basara, the chief minister announced that a 21st century gurukul (traditional centre of learning) institute would be set up in the temple town.

There are seven IITs in India - in Mumbai, New Delhi, Kharagpur, Roorkee, Guwahati, Kanpur and Chennai.

It was not immediately known where the two other new IITs would be located.

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