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First Editorial

### ORISSA

Feb 1, 2007

#### IIT in State must: Naveen to PM

Thursday February 1 2007 11:32 IST

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, on Wednesday, shot off a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh demanding that a green field Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) should be sanctioned for the State.

The letter comes in the wake of the Centre's reported move to shift the IIT from Orissa to Andhra Pradesh.

Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development MM Fatmi, on August 28 last year, announced the establishment of three green field IITs in the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan at Patna. Orissa was one of them.

Describing the Centre's move to establish the IITs in AP, Bihar and Rajasthan as 'shocking', Naveen has sought the intervention of the Prime Minister in setting up such an institute in Orissa.

Establishment of an IIT would go a long way in supporting the rapid industrialisation in the State by producing highly qualified technical and managerial personnel as well as the much needed R&D support, he said.

Drawing the Prime Minister's attention to the IIT Kharagpur's proposal for upgradation of their extension centre in Orissa to a full-fledged IIT campus, Naveen said the State Government has also formally recommended the Ministry of HRD and conveyed willingness to provide 300 acres of land free of cost for the prestigious project. He requested the Prime Minister to sanction the extension campus also.

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Stating that vibrant growth in industrial and technical education sectors provides enormous potential for industry and institutional linkages, Naveen said establishment of an IIT in Orissa will greatly facilitate in intensifying this process.

Orissa is playing host to the biggest ever FDI projects in the country, Posco and Arcelor-Mittal steel projects, he said. Presence of such strong industrial players will definitely provide required synergy for an IIT level institution to realise its full potential.

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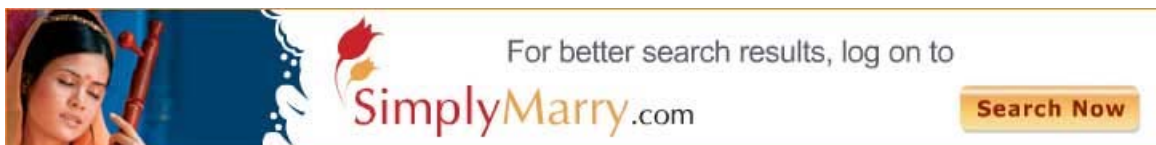


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