

NAVEEN PATNAIK

CHIEF MINISTER, ORISSA



ORISSA STATE

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D. O. No. UM-1/07-39/cm

BHUBANESWAR

Dated 31.1.07

Dear Prime Minister Ji,

We are aware that the Government of India has proposed to establish 3 greenfield Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) under the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Originally, Orissa was included in this proposal, which was also announced by the Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development Shri M. M. Fatmi on 28.08.2006 at Patna. However, we have recently come across news reports stating that the greenfield IITs will be set up in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan, which is quite shocking, as Orissa has been excluded.

As you are kindly aware, Orissa is today poised to emerge as the mining, metals, manufacturing and power generation hub of the country with investment proposals amounting to over Rupees 400,000 crore. We have also made considerable headway in promoting technical institutions at ITI, diploma and degree level, which provides the required critical mass to support institutions of higher learning of the level of an IIT. I am happy to inform you that Orissa has the highest concentration of Engineering Colleges in Eastern India and with the current rate of growth we expect to be amongst the top States in the country in the very near future. The vibrant growth in the industrial sector and the technical education sector in the State provides enormous potential for industry and institution linkages, which includes research development activities. Establishment of an IIT in Orissa will greatly facilitate in intensifying this process, which is of critical importance to make the industry globally competitive. Today, Orissa is playing host to the biggest ever FDI Projects in the country such as POSCO and Arcelor Mittal Steel Projects. The presence of such strong industrial players will definitely provide required synergy for an IIT level institution to realize its full potential.

As you are kindly aware,

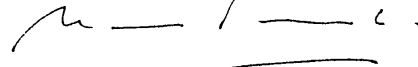
considerable headway

I would, therefore, request your personal initiative for establishment of an IIT in Orissa, which would go a long way in supporting the rapid industrial growth in the State by producing highly qualified technical and managerial personnel as well as the much needed R&D support. It may also be appropriate to mention here that IIT, Kharagpur has separately approached Ministry of Human Resources Development for upgradation of their Extension Centre in Orissa to a full fledged IIT campus. The State Government has also formally recommended the proposal to the Ministry of HRD and has conveyed its willingness to provide 300 acres of land free of cost for this prestigious project. I shall be ever grateful if you could sanction a greenfield IIT for Orissa in addition to the full fledged Extension Campus proposed by IIT, Kharagpur..

I look forward to receiving your kind support in the above matter.

With Regards,

Yours Sincerely,



(NAVEEN PATNAIK)

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH, State of Orissa, India
Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi