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Naveen writes to PM, protests shifting of IIT from State

Pioneer News Service | Bhubaneswar

Taking strong exception to the reported move of the Centre to shift the proposed Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) from Orissa to Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday shot off a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, demanding that an IIT be sanctioned for the State.

The Centre had earlier announced establishment of three greenfield IITs in the country during the Eleventh Five-Year Plan with Orissa to be included in this proposal. Union Minister of State also made an announcement to this effect for Human Resource Development MM Fatmi on August 28 last year in Patna.

Describing as "shocking" the Centre's move to establish the IITs in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan and not in Orissa, Patnaik has sought the intervention of the Prime Minister regarding the matter.

Establishment of an IIT 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 research and development (R&D) support, Patnaik pointed out.

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

Patnaik has stated that the vibrant growth in the industrial and technical education sectors provides enormous potential for industry and institutional linkages.

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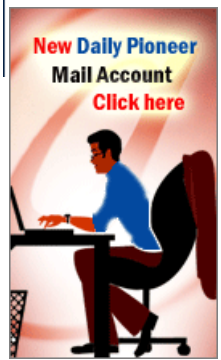
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