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**May 16, 2007**



**IIT must for Orissa: Naveen**

Wednesday May 16 2007 11:08 IST

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday lodged a strong protest against the Centre's neglect towards the State in the education sector and flayed its decision not to set up an IIT in Orissa.

Naveen, who met HRD Minister Arjun Singh in this connection in New Delhi, demanded that the Centre should sanction an IIT for the State as it does not have a single institution of national importance.

Other demands included a Central university for the KBK region and an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in the State. Singh promised that the demand for setting up an IIT would be considered while finalising the proposals for his Ministry for the 11th Five-Year Plan.

The Bhubaneswar unit of BJD staged a dharna in front of the Raj Bhawan on Tuesday and submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh demanding establishment of an IIT in Orissa.

Criticising the decision of the Centre, president of Bhubaneswar unit of the party Prakash Chandra Bastia alleged that the IIT project was shifted to Andhra Pradesh despite the State Government giving its consent to allot 400 to 500 acres of land.

The proposal of the State Government to have a campus of IIT, Kharagpur, has also been abandoned despite availability of 300 acres of land.

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