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Editorial

Centre to take up Orissa's IIT demand

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The Centre would look into the demand of the Orissa government for setting up of an Indian Institute of Technology in the state.

This was intimated by the Union minister of HRD Arjun Singh during his discussion with chief minister Navin Patnaik in New Delhi on Tuesday.

During the discussion, the Union minister also said that the matter would be taken up while finalizing proposals of his ministry for the 11th Five Year Plan.

During their meeting, Patnaik argued that Orissa does not have a single institution of national excellence and that the people of the state have a long standing demand for establishment of an IIT.

Patnaik also put forth a demand for setting up of a Central University in the KBK region and an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in the state.

It may be mentioned here that the Orissa chief minister has also sent a letter to prime minister Manmohan Singh protesting against the Centre's decision not to set up the institute in Orissa.

Later in the day, the chief minister met Union minister for road transport, highways and shipping TR Baalu and apprised him of the poor conditions of the National Highways in Orissa.

The Union minister, in his reply, assured Patnaik that the Centre would allocate extra funds to take up urgent repair work on National Highways that connects Keonjhar district.

Discussions were also held on the proposed Vijayawada-Ranchi road, which would traverse through 11 Maoists infested districts.

The chief minister also met Union minister for chemicals and fertilizers Ram Vilas Paswan and urged him to take steps to revive the Fertiliser Corporation of India Limited plant at Talcher in the first phase.

Paswan assured Patnaik that the plant would be revived and necessary advertisements in this regard would be issued shortly.

The chief minister also discussed the proposed petroleum chemicals and petrochemicals investment region in Paradip and assured the Union minister that the state government would take all necessary steps to expedite the ground work for the said project.

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