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OSA demands central varsity and IIT in Orissa



KalingaTimes Correspondent

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: The Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA), a 38-year-old organisation of the Oriya people living in North America, has written letters to the Chief Minister of Orissa and Prime Minister urging them to take steps for the setting up of a Greenfield Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in the State.

The organisation has also requested the two leaders to initiate measures for the setting up a Central University in the backward Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) region of Orissa.

In two separate letters to the Chief Minister and Prime Minister, the organisation further demanded that emphasis be given for increasing rail connectivity in the KBK region and other backward areas of the State.

They also demanded for the setting up of a second Central University in the State by upgradation of the Ravenshaw University at Cuttack.

"These issues need earliest attention as the 11th Plan is getting finalised within a couple of months. If we miss the chance now, we will face a much harder struggle to get this accomplished," the organisation said in its letter addressed to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

The Central University in KBK should be a multi-campus one with campuses in the district headquarters towns in the eight KBK districts and adjacent districts of Gajapati and Kandhamal, OSA suggested.

As regards the IIT, the OSA urged the Orissa government to take some additional steps such as submitting a vision paper for an IIT stating how an IIT will help the State.

"Such a step will make Orissa's claim stronger and is perhaps necessary as other states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka have taken similar, competitive initiatives recently," the organisation observed.



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