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Give me an 'Ivy League': CM to Centre

Wednesday October 17 2007 00:51 IST

Express News Service

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BHUBANESWAR: Continuing with his anti-Centre stand, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik demanded that an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) should be established in Orissa.

Seeking the intervention of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in this connection, Naveen said that establishment of these premier educational institutions is a long standing demand of the people of Orissa. He said that such types of educational institutions have become necessary in view of the rapid industrialisation of the State.

The tug of war between the State Government and the Centre over the establishment of the educational institutions is continuing since long.

While the State Government has alleged that the UPA Government at the Centre has ignored the demands of Orissa by shifting the proposed institutions to neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, Centre has cited the example of setting up the National

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Institute of Science and Educational Research (NISER) in Orissa.

Naveen's demand has assumed significance in view of the Centre's decision to set up eight IITs, seven IIMs, five NISER, 20 IIITs and 30 central universities. Orissa does not have an IIT, IIM or central university.

Sources said that the Centre does not even have proposal to set up these institutions in Orissa in the near future.

Possibilities of large-scale investment in steel, aluminium and power sectors have opened up opportunities for rapid industrial growth in Orissa, Naveen said and added that the automobile, petrochemical and information technology sectors are also poised for big growth.

Naveen observed that the State needs huge technical manpower in the background of these developments. He said that the State Government has formulated a plan to improve the standards of technical training institutions with the help of industrial houses.

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