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CM writes again to PM, demands IIT for State

Pioneer News Service | Bhubaneswar

Demanding the establishment of an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in the State during the ensuing 11th Five-Year Plan, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday again wrote a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Coming down heavily on the Centre, Patnaik said, "I am surprised to see that decisions are being taken on a political consideration. I have repeatedly taken up the matter of establishing of an IIT in Orissa with the Prime Minister and the Union Minister for Human Resources Development (HRD). I have told them that Orissa's case is a genuine one."

Raising his voice against the Centre, Patnaik said a question should be asked why the Centre shifted the National Institute of Science (NIS), which was sanctioned by the then NDA Government from Bhubaneswar to Kolkata.

Reacting sharply over the remarks of the Union Secretary of HRD that Orissa does not deserve an IIT as it has already got the NISER (National Institute of Science and Educational Research), Patnaik said how could the NIS be shifted to Kolkata when IIT, Kharagpur is already there.

"How West Bengal has taken two such premier institutes? All these decisions have been taken on a political consideration," Patnaik said.

In his letter Patnaik mentioned that as Orissa was witnessing a rapid growth in industrialisation, these technical institutes are required for creating the requisite manpower.

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