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## CM requests IIT for state

Statesman News Service

BUBANESWAR, Feb. 1: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik sent yet another letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today reiterating his demand for establishment of an IIT in the state.

Referring to the recent discussion with the Union Minister for Human Resources Development Mr Arjun Singh and his positive response, Mr Patnaik said given the rapid industrial growth of the state during the last five years, it needs optimum development of technical human resource.

The national target of the admission rate in the higher education during the 11th Plan is 15 per cent, the same for the state is a meager 6.1 per cent, he said before adding that only by establishing of the premier institute like IIT the 'historic discrimination' against the state can be rectified.

Reacting strongly to a remark that Orissa does not need an IIT since it has a National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), the CM said how come West Bengal has the benefit of both such institutes, isn't it based entirely on political considerations, he countered.

### Discussion on this Orissa Plus item

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