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ORISSA

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Main Article

**Naveen seeks IIT for State in 11th
plan**

Saturday February 2 2008 13:44 IST

Express News Service

**HURRY! GEMS Portfolio closing
on 15th Feb'08**

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has demanded establishment of an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Orissa during the 11th Five Year Plan in view of the rapid industrial growth registered in the State.

In a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Naveen said though the State has registered industrial growth in the last few years, it still lags behind in human resources development.

Naveen drew the attention of the Prime Minister to the discussion he had with Union Human Resources Development Minister Arjun Singh in this connection on January 23 and the assurance given by him.

As per the latest report of the National Sample Survey Organisation, the target for rate of entry to higher education has been fixed at 15 percent whereas in case of Orissa this is only 6.1 percent. This injustice done to Orissa can be set right only by establishment of an IIT, he said.

The Chief Minister disapproved the statement given by an official of

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the Human Resources Ministry that Orissa does not need an IIT as National Institute for Science and Education Research (NISER) is being set up in the State.

Naveen drew the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact that the proposed National Institute of Science (NIS) was shifted from Orissa to West Bengal even though there was IIT there.

Then why should there be any problem for giving permission for opening an IIT in the State, he asked.

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