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Orissa given the go by as Kerala, HP get IITs

Pioneer News Service | Bhubaneswar

It appears that if the State's leadership does not take up the matter of opening an IIT in Orissa with the Centre, it is unlikely to get one. While all the other States are actively lobbying for a new Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Orissa has only opted for written letters. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has sent four letters to the Prime Minister and Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD), requesting them for an IIT in the State.

After Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan, now Kerala and Himachal Pradesh have been given the go-ahead for their IITs. Behind-the-scenes lobbying by these two States has helped them get the IITs, according to sources. Union Defence Minister AK Anthony has been pressing Union HRD Minister Arjun Singh for quite some time for an IIT in his home State of Kerala. An IIT at Palakkad in Kerala has now been granted, said sources.

Similarly, Himachal Pradesh tried hard during Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh's regime for an IIT in the State.

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