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Friday, March 14 2008, 7:01:56 AM

Local News

Centre urged to take early steps for IIT setup

Bhubaneswar : Chief minister Navin Patnaik on Thursday urged prime minister Manmohan Singh to take early steps should to set up an IIT in the Orissa.

The chief minister, in his letter, stated that the state has been deprived of getting an IIT in 2008-09 fiscal.

Expressing apprehension that the dream of the state to get an IIT during the 11th Five-Year Plan is not going to materialize, Patnaik said that when the other two states like Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have reputed educational institutions of national level, they have been able to get IITs.

He also said that even after 60 years of independence, Orissa had not been able to get an educational institution of national repute.

While the Centre aims to give opportunity to at least 15 percent students to avail higher education, only 6.1 percent students have been able get an opportunity to avail higher education.

Patnaik also said that if the Centre wants equal development in the country, then it should set up an IIT in Orissa as it is required to produce required human resources to meet the needs of the rapid indistrilisation of the state.

The issue also rocked the State Assembly on Thursday with the ruling members raising this issue during Zero Hour.

Raising the issue, BJD member Saroj Padhi urged Speaker Maheswar Mohanty to allow discussion on a special mention relating to the establishment of IIT.

Supporting him, government chief whip Kishore Mohanty alleged that the Centre has neglected the cause of the Orissa despite the latter 's repeated plea to set up an IIT in the state.

However, the Opposition members demanded that House should take up the on going agitation by lawyers of the Western Orissa into discussion.

As heated exchanged continued between the ruling and opposition members, Speaker adjourned the House twice.

Demanding for an IIT, BJD and BJP members sat on a dharna in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue in the premises of the Assembly.

They also displayed the placards showing the Centre's negligence to the cause of Orissa.

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Oriya News

Markets

Sensex	15357.37
Rs / \$	40.67
Gold(10gms)	Rs12350.0
Silver(1kg)	Rs 23000.00

Today's Poll

The dreadful incident of naxal attack on Nayagarh district has exposed poor intelligence networking of the Orissa Police. Do you agree?

Yes
 No
 Can't Say

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Quote of the Day

The price of freedom of religion, or of speech, or of the press, is that we must put up with a good deal of rubbish.

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