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**8THDAY**



## [Orissa Plus]

### BJD-BJP members on dharna for IIT

Statesman News Service

BHUBANESWAR, March 13: Ruling BJD-BJP members made a forceful plea for establishment of a IIT in the state by raising the issue in the assembly and sitting on a brief dharna in the assembly premises today chief minister Mr Naveen Patnaik also dashed off yet another letter to the prime minister reiterating the demand.

Mr Patnaik regretted that the state was once again deprived of the premier technical institute in the fiscal 2008-09. Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal which already have many elite institutes, are awarded with IIT and other centers of excellence in the budget whereas Orissa has been ignored. This is nothing but political discrimination, he charged.

The state has been deprived of premier educational institutes like a central varsity or IIT he noted.

While the national target for enrollment in higher education during 11th Plan period is 15 per cent, only 6.1 per cent students of the state avail higher education facilities, the chief minister pointed out.

If the union government wants uniform development of all regions of the country, then Orissa should get an IIT on a priority basis, he observed.

Given the rapid industrialisation of the state especially during last four years, the state is in need of an IIT to meet the growing demand of competent human resources, Mr. Patnaik contended.

### Discussion on this Orissa Plus item

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