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### IIT issue catching up

Bhubaneswar:13/March/2008

Like the issue of NISER, setting up of an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) is catching up in Orissa.

On 13 March, the demand for IIT was picked up in a big way.

Naveen Patnaik wrote another letter to the Prime Minister demanding an (IIT) in Orissa.

For the fourth time the Chief Minister has sent a missive to Dr. Man Mohan Singh, requesting him for the IIT.

Mr.Patnaik has said that with huge investment in the industry sector, the requirement of IIT is the need of the hour.

He has pointed out that as the Planning Commission has projected to include 15 per cent students in the Higher Education system in the Eleventh Plan, Orissa has got only 6.1 per cent.

So it is high time that Orissa to have an IIT.

He has also requested Mantek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to favor the genuine demand of the state.

While Mr.Patnaik is sending letters on the most emotive issue of the state, BJD-BJP legislators also agitated the issue in and outside the House.

BJD Legislators raised the issue inside the House and demanded a detailed discussion on the matter.

Both BJD and BJP lawmakers squatted in front of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and raised slogans against the UPA Government.

Kalikesh Singhdeo, BJD legislator said the Congress led Government at Delhi is ignoring the state of its most legitimate demand.

Mr.Singhdeo threatened to take the issue to the streets.

Draupadi Murmu, former Minister and lawmaker representing BJP said it is high time for the Centre to sanction an IIT for the state.

More than 30 legislators squatted and raised slogans against the Centre and Arjun Singh, Union Minister for HRD.

However, sadly the opposition Congress taking up the issue, dubbed the move as politically motivated.

Jaydev Jena, PCC President said that the Chief Minister is busy in writing letters and making it a political instrument.

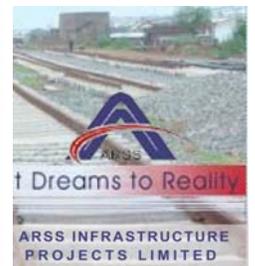
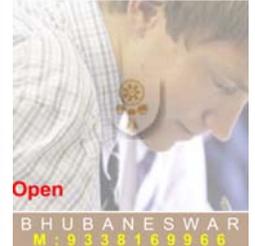
Mr.Jena alleged that Naveen is trying to draw political milage out of it.

Narasingh Mishra, Deputy Leader of Opposition said "who is opposing IIT in Orissa, let the Chief Minister come up for discussion and we will support the cause".

However it should not be made a political issue, warned Mr.Mishra.

## Comment

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