



# Centre out with IITs, IIMs location list

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By PARUL CHANDRA

New Delhi, March 28: It's a decision that's sure to bring cheer to some states and heartburn to the rest. The decision concerns the location of the new IITs and IIMs and "worldclass" [universities](#) proposed by the UPA government in the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12). The list of states where the Centre has decided to locate these prestigious institutions was finally unveiled by Union minister of human resource development, Arjun Singh on Friday morning with the assurance that the decision was "taken at the highest level". At least three of the new IITs — in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan — are expected to become functional at the beginning of the next academic year (2008-09). Despite the expected intake of each of the new IITs being 2,500 students annually, those aspiring to make it to these institutes can hope to improve their admission chances only marginally given that over a lakh take the joint entrance exam (JEE) every year. As for the faculty that so many institutes would require, the government claims that various measures are being taken to meet the requirement.

While there had been demands from various states for having the eight new IITs and seven new IIMs located in their region, it's clear that the request of all could not have been met. So the fortunate ones to make it to the latest list of states where an IIT will be located are Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Punjab. Among these four, MP is the only one where the town where the IIT is to be located has been identified. It's Indore. It means that Indore will have the distinction of being the only city in the country with both an IIT and an IIM. The minister who is from MP to a question on whether political considerations determined the locations said it was an "overall decision".

As for the IIMs, the ones that have made it to the final list are Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Haryana. Chhattisgarh's state capital, Raipur, is the only city identified so far for locating the IIM. The government had earlier announced that the seventh IIM would be located in Shillong, Meghalaya.

In a decision taken earlier, the Centre had decided that new IITs would come up in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. While the locations for both AP and Bihar have been decided in consultation with the respective state governments, the Rajasthan government still hasn't been able to decide where it would like to have the IIT located. Contending claims by some cities in the state have considerably delayed a final decision on the location.

Significantly, Mr Singh said that the location of the IITs and IIMs would be subject to land being identified by the state governments. He said the states have been asked to identify the land so that preliminary work can begin. Asked about OBC reservation in the IITs and IIMs which he had attempted to introduce and which was then stayed by the Supreme Court, he remarked, "Please pray for it."

As for the 14 worldclass universities, he said "the contour and shape will be defined shortly". They are to come up in Pune (Maharashtra), Kolkata (West Bengal), Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), Mysore (Karnataka), Vishakhapatnam (Andhra pradesh), Gandhinagar (Ahmedabad), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Patna (Bihar), Bhopal (Madhya pradesh), Kochi (Kerala), Amritsar (Punjab), Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Greater Noida (UP) and Guwahati (North Eastern region). Asked about the basis for selecting the locations for these universities, the HRD minister said, "They cannot be established in a totally new place. They need connectivity."

The only institutions where the government hasn't had to grapple with locational decisions are the 16 Central universities that are to come up during the Eleventh Plan. For the government had earlier announced that these will be set up in states that do not have a Central varsity at present. These are Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, MP, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Haryana, HP, Uttarakhand, J&K, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Goa. The government has said that among these, the state varsities in MP, Chhattisgarh and Goa will be upgraded to the status of Central universities.