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Mar 29, 2008

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Finally, Centre says yes to IIT in Orissa

Saturday March 29 2008 07:04 IST

BHUBANESWAR: The long-standing demand of Orissa for establishment of an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and a Central university have been met with the Centre announcing that one each of the four new IITs and 16 Central universities will be set up in the State.

Bhubaneswar will also have a world class university as announced by the Centre. While the new IITs will be located in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh (Indore), Gujarat and Punjab, the Central universities will be in Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Goa, which do not have a Central university at present.

Announcing this, Human Resource Development Minister Arjun Singh said these new institutions would be part of the eight IITs and seven IIMs proposed to be set up during the 11th Five Year Plan.

The location of the new higher education institutions has been approved by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The establishment of new IITs, IIMs and Central universities is subject to State governments offering land at suitable locations free of cost.

The State governments would be requested to identify adequate land in or near the selected cities, Singh said, adding the contour and shape of such world class universities would be defined shortly.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik referred to the announcement by the Centre before leaving

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for New Delhi on a fourday visit. Naveen had several times written letters to the Prime Minister demanding establishment of institutions of higher education in the State.

All the Opposition parties, including the Congress, have welcomed the announcement by the Centre.

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