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Govt plans to set up 8 IITs & 7 IIMs

29 Mar, 2008, 0430 hrs IST, TNN

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NEW DELHI: Human resource development minister Arjun Singh unveiled the government's ambitious [higher education](#) expansion programme. Over the next five years, the government proposes to set up eight new Indian Institutes of Technology, seven Indian Institutes of Management, 14

[universities](#) which aim to have world class standards, and 16 central universities in states that do not already have one.

The establishment of new IITs, IIMs and central universities was subject to state governments offering adequate land at suitable locations and free of cost. This programme does not mean that Mr Singh has given up on the expansion necessitated by the plan to increase the ambit of reservation to include the other backward classes. On that front, Mr Singh expressed the hope that there would be a positive outcome, when the Supreme Court delivers its judgement. However, it would seem that the human resource development minister was relying on prayers as well to see his 'reservation' policy through.

States that would be host to four of the eight new IITs, one of the seven IIMs had already been announced, the HRD minister added to that announcing that the remaining four IITs would be located in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh (Indore), Gujarat and Punjab, while the IIMs would be set up in Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh (Raipur), Uttarakhand and Haryana. Mr Singh said that locations of the new [education](#) institutes has been approved by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

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Sources said that a single IIT would require an investment of Rs 750 crore over a six year period; this would include capital and recurring costs over this time. Setting up one IIM would require around Rs 175 to Rs 200 crore over a period of six years. The Planning Commission has provided Rs 660 crore for a five year period for the seven IIMs.

Earlier, announcement had been made to establish an IIT in Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh and an IIM at Shillong. Though some of these institutions had been expected to be operational earlier, the IITs, barring the one in Himachal and the IIM in Shillong will begin admitting [students](#) from the 2008-09 academic year.

It is not clear how these institutions will actually deliver on this announcement, given that the Rajasthan government is yet to finalise a site for the IIT, and that physical infrastructure required to function from July 2008 is nowhere near complete.

It would appear that IIT (Delhi) would assist IIT (Rajasthan) in its efforts, while IIT (Bihar) would be assisted by IIT (Kanpur) and IIT (Andhra Pradesh) by IIT (Chennai). The minister also said that student intake would be stepped up to 2,500 in each IIT. Currently, all seven IITs collectively admit 3,980 students; each IIM will admit 120 students in a year.

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