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ORISSA

August 24, 2005

Patnaik urges PM to reconsider the decision on institute relocation

Wednesday August 24 2005 00:00 IST

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has urged Prime Minister Manmohan Singh not to shift the proposed Indian Institute of Science (IISc) from the State.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Patnaik said that the decision on the proposed IISc on the model of IISc, Bangalore, was taken by the NDA Government and the Planning Commission had allocated Rs 100 crore for four such new institutes of excellence including the one in Bhubaneswar.

Accordingly, the State Government identified 75 acres of land for the proposed institute. However, it has come to the notice of the Government that the Centre has decided to relocate the proposed institute to the neighbouring West Bengal.

This has evoked sharp reaction from the people of the State, he said. Expressing his concern over the Centre's decision, Patnaik pointed out the lack of reputed institutes like Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Orissa.

The Centre has also not accorded any of the State universities the status of central university, he regretted.

Incidentally, the State Government proposal for central university status to Sambalpur University is hanging fire.

The Chief Minister has requested the Prime Minister not

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Road block against proposed delimitation

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to shift the proposed IISc from the State.

The Chief Minister's letter to the Prime Minister came in the wake of publication of a report in this *website's newspaper* about the Centre's decision to relocated the proposed IISc to West Bengal.

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