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US to open consulate in Hyderabad

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PM positive about setting up NIS in Orissa

Pioneer News Service/ Bhubaneswar

Hopes of the proposed National Institute of Science (NIS) not being shifted from Bhub-aneswar were strengthened on Friday, with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh telling a high-power delegation of 16 BJD and BJP MPs from Orissa in Delhi that the State very much needed such an institute of scientific excellence.

The Prime Minister had an audience in State's ruling coalition MPs, led by BJD member in Lok Sabha Brajakishore Tripathy and BJD member in Rajya Sabha Baijayant Panda.

During the interaction, the delegation strongly criticised the callous move of the Union Government to overlook the interests of an underdeveloped State like Orissa.

Dr Singh, however, assured that he would sort out all the modalities to ensure that such an institute comes up in the State.

An elated Brajakishore Tripathy, after emerging from the half-an-hour-long meeting told mediapersons that the Prime Minister has admitted this to be a justified demand for the State. BJP MP Kharabela Swain said the UPA Government was now trying to respect the Opposition's feelings and he is confident that the dream of Orissa having the NIS will be a reality soon.

BJD MPs Bhartruhari Mahtab and Baijayant Panda also congratulated the Prime Minister on Thursday's successful agreement with the United States on the Civilian Nuclear Cooperation Pact.

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