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## NIS will be set up in Bhubaneswar, assures PM

Pioneer News Service | Bhubaneswar

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assured the Union Minister of State for Labour Chandrasekar Sahu that a National Institute of Sciences (NIS) would be set up at Bhubaneswar.

The Prime Minister has also promised to include 20 backward districts of the State under the Backward Region Grant Fund Scheme (BRGFS).

Sahu who met Singh over major issues relating to Orissa, appraised him that the University Grants Commission (UGC) in 2003 had announced to set up four Regional Centres of Studies in Integrated Science at Bhubaneswar, Pune, Allahabad and Chennai.

For this purpose 75 acres of land was identified at Gothapatana at Bhubaneswar. However, the Centre dropped the proposal on the ground that UGC was incompetent to set up such institute under the Act. Sahu said that the Centre established two NIS at Pune and Kolkata through Ministry of HRD.

He urged Singh to either revive the proposal of UGC to set up NIS at Bhubaneswar or implement the same through Ministry of HRD.

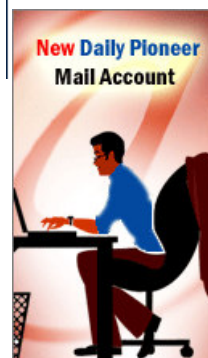
Besides, Sahu also requested to establish a Central University in the KBK districts of the State having specialised centres for tribal development and poverty amelioration related studies.

He said that a Central University is required in Orissa as nearly 50 percent of the State's geographical area constitute of poor region.

He also urged the PM to elevate the University College of Engineering (UCE) at Burla to the status of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). He said it would enable UCE, Burla to cater to the requirement of higher technical and specialised education of the people in the entire south-east and central region.

The Prime Minister has told Sahu that the Government would take up the proposals on priority basis.

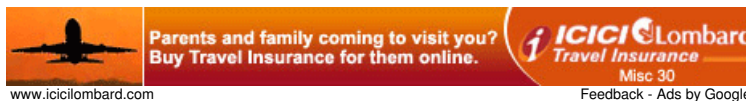
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