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Non-resident Oriyas bank on PM's NIS promises

Pioneer News Service | Bhubaneswar

While the non-resident Oriyas (NROs) have lauded Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for honouring his promise to provide a National Institute of Sciences (NIS) for Orissa, they have pleaded for early implementation of the project. Dr Singh will lay the foundation stone for the proposed NIS here during his maiden visit to the State on August 28.

Professor Chitta Baral of Arizona State University, Dhiendra Kar, Vice President Orissa Society of Americas and others have expressed appreciation for the PM's move that finally honours an assurance made by President APJ Abdul Kalam and the HRD Minister in 2004.

They said it was a decision in the right direction to fund NIS through the Department of Atomic energy. They have requested the PM to implement the proposal on a priority basis by ensuring that the funding has to be made as per the present days' requirement for IITs and IISERs. "From past experience, we know that there is a big difference between announcements and implementations with Budget allocations," they observed. "So, even though the initial announcement was made in 2004, Orissa would be ever grateful to PM for actually implementing it and assigning a budget to it," they said.

They further stated, "While the details about this institute are not available to us, we request that this institute be accorded a status similar to the IITs, IISc and IISERs."

NROs reminded Dr Singh about the need for such interdisciplinary research, which was mentioned by the PM's Scientific Advisory Committee. Several scientists of Oriya origin developed a short proposal along these lines and sent it to one of the members in December 2005, appealing PM to consider it.

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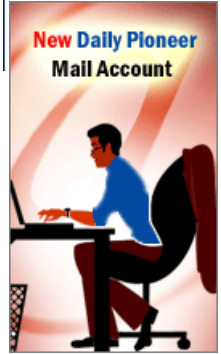
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