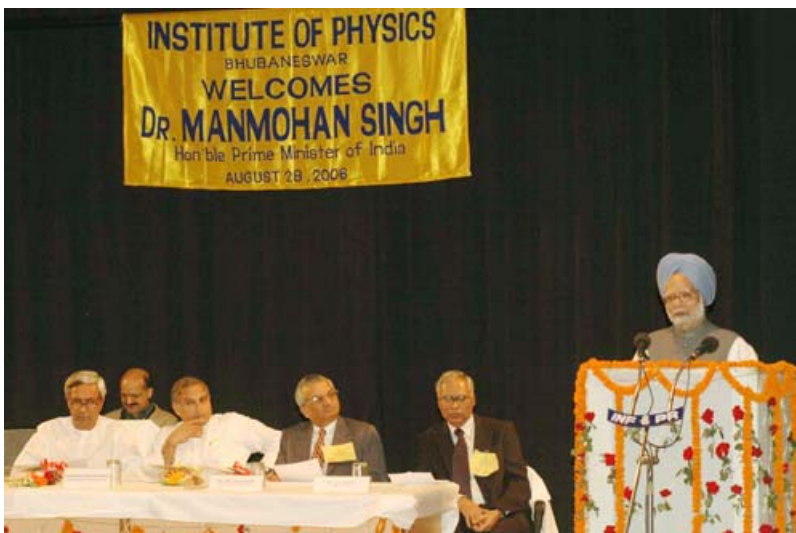




Orissa NISER to be a Mecca for science studies: PM



Bhubaneswar:28/August/2006

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has silenced those who were putting question marks on the establishment of the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) in Bhubaneswar.

While laying foundation stone for the NISER, Bhubaneswar, here on August 28, the PM said that the NISER would be one of the "Best" in the world which will match Indian Institute of Science (IIS) and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).

"The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) which is a professional body, will take the Bhubaneswar NISER to a new height," the PM said.

Though the centre would initially function from the Institute of Physics (IOP) premises here, the PM said, adding that the NISER, Bhubaneswar would be completed in two phases.

On first phase, the IOP would take a 30 acre of land in adjoining area and impart courses on four basic subjects initially. The existing faculty of the IPO would manage the show by hiring experts from outside.

Under phase-II plan, the PM said the NISER would have 200 acre land with full faculty and facilities.

"We have to take urgent steps to prevent scientifically talented persons from moving away from careers in scientific research and development. This is happening at the 10+2 level and at the B.Tech level."

He said "Most of our universities are performing sub-optimally. They lack good infrastructure and suffer from acute faculty shortage. There is not enough interaction between our academia and industry. Many technologies developed for our rural areas have not been delivered properly. We will need to address these on a war footing," the PM said.

The PM also announced that the country would now like to spend more on the R&D. Now the country is spending only 1 per cent of the GDP which will be hiked to two per cent in recent years.

Giving stress on the research, the PM observed that a Phd holder in India gets less remuneration than a doctor, engineer and managers.

"Therefore, we need to treat scientists differently than other Government employees in service and salary matters," he said.


"In order to attract bright young students to this integrated course, it is proposed to make the course challenging on a world-class level, give reasonable stipend to the students and also allow them time for research activities even during their student days."


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Monday, August 28, 2006

"There will be campus interviews and placements at both research centers and in industry in order to make the course more attractive to the students in the present competitive environment of market forces which drives them to IT-related jobs," Dr Singh pointed out.

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