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god spurns empty-handed PM in Orissa\* \*Just 20 new tigers in 18 years

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**NISER to be at par with IISc, TIFR, says PM**

Pioneer News Service | Bhubaneswar

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, while laying the foundation stone for the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) on Monday, said the NISER would be one of the "best" in the world and at par with the Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc) and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).

"The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) will take the Bhubaneswar NISER to a new height," he said. NISER would initially function from the Institute of Physics (IOP) premises, the PM said, adding that the project would be completed in two phases.

The IOP would acquire 30 acres of land initially and impart courses on four basic subjects. IOP's existing faculty would manage the show by hiring experts from outside. Under phase-II the NISER would acquire 200 acres of land with full faculty.

"We have to take urgent steps to prevent scientifically talented persons from moving away from careers in research and development (R&D). This is happening at the 10+2 level and at the B Tech level also," he observed.

Singh said, "Most 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 rural areas have not been delivered properly. We will need to address these on a war footing."

The PM also announced that the country should spend more on R&D. India spends only 1 per cent of the GDP, which will be hiked to 2 per cent in the coming years. Stressing on research, he observed that a PhD holder in India gets less remuneration than doctors, engineers and managers. "We need to treat scientists differently from Government employees in service and salary matters," he said.

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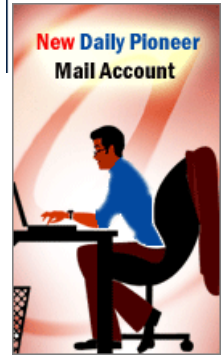
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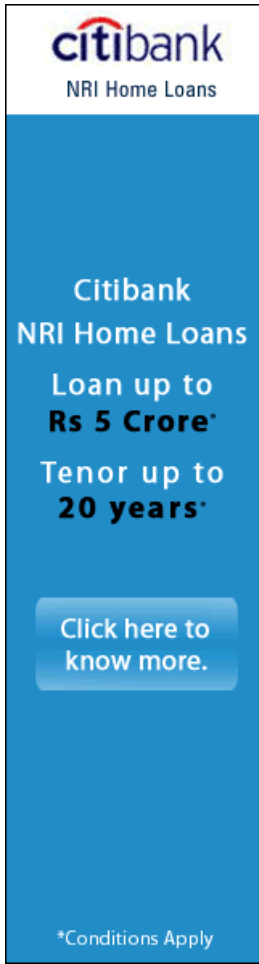
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