

PM speaks of education revolution

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TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GUWAHATI, AUGUST 26

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, while addressing the faculty and students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-G), here today, said an amount of Rs 2,75,000 crore would be invested during the 11th plan period to undertake an education revolution that would aim at creating a pool of 500 million trained human resources by the year 2020.

He also called for intensive knowledge collaboration between the corporate sector and eminent educational institutions in tune with the global trend.

Dr Singh announced that the knowledge investment was aimed at massive expansion of elementary and secondary education besides setting up world-class institutes in the fields of management, technology, science, education and research.

"We are beginning a major expansion of secondary schooling. In higher education we are building eight

6 We are beginning a major expansion of secondary schooling. We are building eight new IITs, seven IIMs, 16 Central universities, 14 world-class universities and five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research

new IITs, seven new IIMs, 16 new Central universities, 14 world-class universities and five new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, of which few are already functioning," he said.

"We have tried to address the uneven geographical spread of higher education facilities in this phase of rapid expansion. The north-east and Assam in particular have received its due share of such institutions. Ten new National Institutes of Technology, 20 Indian Institutes of Information Technology and a thousand new Poly-



technics are all being established in this Five Year Plan to provide our youth with vocational and professional educational opportunities to realise their individual potential and create a globally competitive India," the PM added.

To the students, the PM said: "The Nation has invested heavily in IITs so that best brains are given the opportunity to fire their imagination. The country expects you to use your creativity, enterprise, leadership and innovation to solve challenging problems.

Assures to consult cabinet on faculty quota

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GUWAHATI, AUGUST 26

The Prime Minister today pledged to consult his Cabinet about the demand of the IITs for permanent exemption from reservation in respect of faculty recruitment.

In response to a request made in this regard by Prof Gautam Baruah, Director of IIT, Guwahati, the PM said: "I take note of the point that Prof Baruah has made with regard to reservation in recruitment of faculty. I will bring it to the notice of my cabinet colleagues."

On behalf of all IITs in the country, Prof Baruah said: "Introducing reservation in at IITs after 36 years will create problems, as shortage of faculty is likely to become acute with the establishment of eight new IITs."