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## Archive for the date of **Saturday, September 21, 2002**

### **i Advani and Sushma on a day's visit to Orissa**

BHUBANESHWAR: On a day's visit, LK Advani(Deputy Prime Minister), Sushma Swaraj(Union Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Minister), Ananth Kumar (Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Minister) and Ramesh Bais (Minister of State for I&B) are coming to the State on Saturday. However, Advani's arrival at 10 am Advani will proceed to Raj Bhawan to discuss the drought situation with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The State Government may take up the Naxal problem with him. The Home Department has also prepared a report to be presented to him. Later, he will meet BJP MPs, MLAs and State functionaries and will also inaugurate a school building cum cyclone shelter at Unit-III in the afternoon.(OTV Web Bureau)

### **i Nalco issue takes a political turn**

BHUBANESHWAR: The BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is pressurizing Vajpayee government at the Centre to put off Nalco privatization process for some days and during these days, he would try to bring stability in his party. There is every possibility that Nalco privatization issue might take a political turn. Since the current political crisis in the state has become a 'headache'. The central government on the other hand, has not taken any final decision in this direction. However, an officer in the Union Disinvestment Ministry has informed journalists of some leading Oriya newspapers over phone that the possibility of Nalco privatization process may be deferred. But authenticity of this information is under doubt. The Centre has however, categorically denied of stepping back in its decision to privatize Nalco. Even if the issue is reconsidered, Nalco privatization may be postponed for some time but its privatization is certain as per government decision.(OTV Web Bureau)

### **i Bighnaraj Patel, the 1st IAS of Orissa passes away**

BHUBANESHWAR: Bighnaraj Patel, the first Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer of Orissa has died at his Ganganagar based residence here Wednesday. He was 75. Patel, a native of Jadamunda village under Loisingha block of Bolangir district was commissioned as IAS in the year 1951. During his long tenure, he held various posts and discharged his duties meticulously. He was secretary to the Union Public Service Commission, member of Revenue Board and state Home Secretary. He also held the position of vice chairman of the Central Administrative Tribunal of the Orissa branch and member of Western Orissa Development Council. He was a renowned litterateur too.(OTV Web Bureau)

### **i PDS is not working properly: Sharad Yadav**

BHUBANESHWAR: The public distribution system (PDS) is not working in the state properly giving rise to scarcity situation according to Sharad Yadav, the Union Minister for Food Supply and Consumer Welfare on Friday. Admitting that there has been recycling of BPL rice in the State, he claimed that the Centre has initiated steps to check this. Yadav who arrived here on a two day visit of the state told newsmen that there is no shortage of foodgrains. But it is not reaching the target groups, he said, adding that he will take up the issue with the State Government during discussion on Saturday.(OTV Web Bureau)

### **i IIT would be set up at Koraput: Dr M M Joshi**

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**BHUBANESHWAR:** An Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) would be set up in the tribal dominated district of Koraput as soon as financial crises is over according to Union Minister for Human Resources Dr Murali Manojhar Joshi. However, in a letter written to the Koraput MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Joshi informed that though the central govt. is interested to impart qualitative technical education, due to paucity of funds, this intention of the govt. is not getting adequate boost. He however, has written that the Centre is considering to open up an IIT in Koraput after its financial condition improves. Bahinipati had written separate letters to the Union Human Resources Minister and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee requesting them to open IIT in Koraput. (OTV Web Bureau)

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**Press Information Bureau  
Government of India**

Tuesday, July 06, 2004

**Ministry of Human Resource Development**

**9 PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR SETTING UP OF NEW IITS**

15:44 IST

**Lok Sabha**

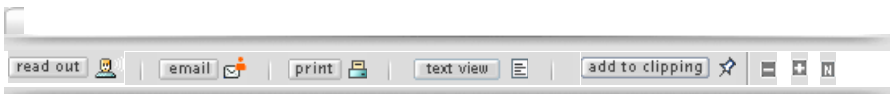
The centre has received 9 proposals from various State Governments for either setting up new IITs or upgrading existing institutions to IITs. This is in sequel to the announcement made by the former Prime Minister on August 15, 2003 that 5 new IITs will be set up by upgrading promising academic institutions. The proposals received are as follows.

Sl.No	State	Proposal
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Setting up of New IIT at Basara, Adilabad District, Andhra Pradesh  Upgradation of Osmani University Engineering College, Andhra Pradesh
2.	Bihar	Setting up of new IIT in Bihar
3.	Chandigarh	Setting up of new IIT in Chandigarh
4.	Gujarat	Setting up of new IIT in Gujarat
5.	Jharkhand	Setting up of new IIT in Jharkhand
6.	Karnataka	Upgradation of NITK Surathkal to IIT  Setting up of new IIT in Dharwad, North Karnataka
7.	Kerala	Upgradation of College of Engineering Thiruvananthapuram to IIT
8.	Orissa	Upgradation of University College of Engineering (U.C.E.), Burla, Orissa

9.	Rajasthan	Setting up of new IIT in Rajasthan
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The proposals are under consideration of an expert committee set up by the Government.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Human Resource Development Shri M.A.A Fatmi in a written reply in Lok Sabha today.



# For IIT upgrade, an alternative roadmap

CHITTA BARAL

**T**HE Prime minister has established a Knowledge Commission and it has a website listing its members and their e-mail addresses. If one looks hard, one can also find who the members of SAC-PM are, and write to them. But does anyone know who is in charge of plans to upgrade some existing institutes to IITs?

How does one gets in touch with them and point out the possible mistakes and make suggestions? Why are they doing things like the old days? Why the secrecy? Why the arrogance?

Can they explain why the seven institutes chosen initially to be upgraded to deemed IITs, IIT-likes, IIT-cousins—or whatever they are being called now—significantly add to the already terrible regional imbalance with respect to institutions of higher educations?

The answer is probably that they wanted to reward the best institutions in the country, regardless of where they are from. That is a fair answer. And I would accept it if it were true. Unfortunately, it is not. When the shortlist of seven were made, National Institute

of Technologies (NITs) were not considered.

So, if the idea was to pick the best institutes and upgrade them to deemed IITs, what is the logic of not considering the NITs?

The Dataquest ranking of 2005 shows that six of the handpicked seven are worse than many of the NITs.

I understand the Dataquest ranking is just another ranking, but it is clear that NITs were not considered when deciding on which institutions will be upgraded.

Apparently, the reason cited is that NITs are already Centrally funded.

But then, how fair is it that institutions inferior to NITs will now be given IIT-cousin status and possibly more funding and attention than NITs?

Moreover, there is actually one institution in India that really deserves IIT status—not that of its distant cousin. This is the IIT-BHU, which has been taking students from IIT-JEE for over 25 years and ranks above a couple of existing IITs in many areas.

Perhaps someone feels that according IIT-BHU a full IIT status will raise eyebrows across the country, as there will be two IITs in Uttar Pradesh.

(N.B. This writer is not an IIT-BHU alumni and has no connections with IIT-BHU).

Since the panel formed by the Human Resources Development Ministry does not appear able to make the right decisions (based on whatever is reported in the media) here are some suggestions for a regionally-balanced way out of this imbroglio.

■ Upgrade IIT-BHU to an IIT immediately. Alongwith the planned additional 27 per cent OBC quota, this action will provide immediate relief.

■ Since it is probably too late to remove some of the institutes for deemed IIT status from the shortlist—and some of those are fine institutions—add 5-7 top NITs to the list. In the states from where these NITs are picked, upgrade another institution to be NIT-level. In the next 10 years, upgrade the rest of the existing NITs to deemed IIT status. Thus in 10 years, every major state will have an NIT and an IIT-cousin.

■ The new IITs should be built with care so as not to dilute the IIT brandname. That means they should not be made overnight. In this regard, the HRD panel is mostly right about giving the IIT-cousin sta-

tus (and not IIT-status) to the institutes that are being upgraded. The government should decide on 5-7 new IITs in states that are at the bottom of the HRD higher education funding computed per capita. As of now, Bihar, Rajasthan and Orissa are at the bottom of that list. A mini-IIT with 1-2 departments and with only MTech programmes should be established in these states in two years' time. Initially, these mini-IITs could be referred to as branch campus of an existing IIT. There should be a mandate and funding to make these mini-IITs to full-fledged IITs in 10-15 years by adding undergraduate programmes after 4-5 years and new departments every 1-2 years. In this regard a pilot programme can be immediately started at Bhubaneswar—where IIT Kharagpur has an extension center, where it already offers a PG Diploma in Information Technology and a 1.5-year part-time Diploma in intellectual property law.

These steps will not only correct the unfairness of the current proposal, but if taken, will address the regional balance in the distribution of higher education institution in a better way. Also, there will be more IITs without any dilution of the brandname or the associated quality.

*The writer is a professor at the Arizona State University and is an alumni of IIT Kharagpur*  
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**State wants UCE in the elite club**

Sunday October 15 2006 10:45 IST

**BHUBANESWAR:** With Vice-President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat by his side, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday seized the opportunity by urging the Centre to accord University College of Engineering (UCE) Burla the status of Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IEST).

Addressing the Golden Jubilee function of the college here, the Chief Minister said the Anandakrishnan Committee, constituted by Ministry of Human Resource Development, had shortlisted five institutes for upgrading them into IEST.

But, an institute of UCE's repute has not been included.

Naveen requested the Centre to send an expert committee to assess UCE for giving it the status of IEST, he said.

Principal of UCE Prof K C Singh said HRD Ministry had set up Joshi Committee which shortlisted seven colleges to get the status of Institutes of National Importance (INIs). Subsequently, the Ministry appointed a three-member committee, headed by Dr M Anandakrishnan to prune the list.

The committee, Singh said, submitted its report earlier in February and it had narrowed down the colleges to five. The Engineering departments of Jadavpur University and Aligarh Muslim University were left out because of land problems, but were given bloc grants of Rs 50 crore each to be developed as centres of excellence.

In fact, some of the engineering colleges received massive financial support from HRD

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Ministry. The Andhra University College of Engineering got an allocation of Rs 408.15 crore while Benaras Hindu University received Rs 545.95 crore for 2007-12.

After 2012, the five shortlisted institutions will get annual funding of Rs 100 crore each, close to what an IIT gets. Subsequently, the institutions would be called IEST, a new facility different from IITs and NITs, Singh said.

Currently, UCE is facing financial constraints despite possessing excellent teaching faculty and infrastructure. It gets annual grant of Rs 4.21 crore.

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Sunday, November 26, 2006

son out of danger\* \*Snake crowd main road\* \*Four soldiers, two militan

Updated: 03:53 am .

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## Agami Orissa seeks full-fledged IIT

Pioneer News Service | Bhubaneswar

Agami Orissa, a leading organisation with an objective of highlighting educational problems in the State, held a seminar at the Utkal University on Friday under the presidency of linguist Prof Debi Prasanna Patnaik. They unanimously resolved to support State's demand for a full-fledged IIT.

Hundreds of students and academicians, who attended the seminar, were of the opinion that even after 59 years of Independence, the State has been immensely suffering from poor education and health facility. The State is deprived of getting national institutions like IIT, IIM and Central Universities.

They pointed out that the Anandakrishna Committee, specially constituted to recommend for newer IIT campuses in the country, has selected five places where Orissa does not figure. The committee has recommended establishment of IITs in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, even though these States already have IITs, IIMs and Central Universities. Andhra Pradesh and Kerala are also privileged to have new IITs, although they have Central Universities. However, the proposal to upgrade Orissa's Burla Engineering College to an IIT was turned down.

"In light of the Centre's gross negligence of Orissa in respect of providing Central institutions and patronising higher education, Agami Orissa is planning a mass revolution in future. It has proposed an all-party consensus in the State Assembly for setting up of an IIT in the State. It also demands that Burla Engineering College be declared a Deemed University and converted to Indian Institute of Science and Technology (IIST)," said Santosh Tripathy, the convener of the organisation.

For any comments, queries or feedback, kindly mail us at [feedback@dailypioneer.com](mailto:feedback@dailypioneer.com) or [pioneerletters@yahoo.co.in](mailto:pioneerletters@yahoo.co.in)

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