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

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)

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)

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)

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)

IIT would be set up at Koraput: Dr M M Joshi

Home
Delhi News
Oriya Edition
Regional News
Oriya News
Paper's Days
Schedules
News Specials
Current Affairs
Orissa TV
Specials On
OTV
Entertainment
Know Orissa
Feed Back
Disclaimer

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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