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**ORISSA**

**Feb 1, 2007**

**Talks with Janamanch, a political stunt: Cong**

Thursday February 1 2007 11:33 IST

BHUBANESWAR: Congress on Wednesday described the talks between Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Visthapan Virodhi Janamanch of Kalinga Nagar, a political stunt in view of the ensuing panchayat polls.

Addressing a news conference here, president of the Orissa Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Jaydeb Jena alleged that the long-awaited meeting was convened on Wednesday not to break the Kalinga Nagar impasse, but to give an impression that the Chief Minister is keen to resolve the crisis.

Criticising the Chief Minister for convening the meeting without any agenda, Jena alleged that the State Government was not sincere to solve the problem. He observed that the talks had no meaning as a splinter group stayed away alleging that Rabindra Jarika, the secretary of the Janamanch is dancing to the tunes of the Naxalites.

President of the organisation Padmacharan Haiburu and several other pro-Congress leaders stayed away from the talks.

Refuting reports in a section of the press on the Centre's move to shift the proposed Indian Institute Technology (IIT) from Orissa to Andhra Pradesh, Jena said there was no such proposal.

He said he had clarified the matter from the Prime Minister's Office and there is no such move in this regard. This is a campaign launched by the BJD and BJP to malign the Congress before the panchayat polls, he added.

Jena claimed that Congress candidates will win

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a majority of seats in the Zilla Parishad polls. Criticising the State Government for its failure to implement welfare measures funded by the Centre, the OPCC chief said, this along with corruption at every level of the Government and deterioration in the law and order situation would be some of the major issues of the party in the polls.

Congress has fielded candidates for 848 seats leaving six for the CPI as part of the seat adjustment at the district level.

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