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**Arjun's design to foil Orissa IIT**

New Delhi:31/January/2008

Now it is clear that Arjun Singh is allegedly out to play a devil's role over setting up of an IIT in Orissa.

The Union Minister of Human Resources Development (MHRD), who is known for his bias against the state is allegedly making all out efforts to sabotage its claim for an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) during the Eleventh Plan.

The inkling was given by a top mandarin of the MHRD on 29 January here at the Eight Editor's Conference on Social Sector issues held by Press Information Bureau (PIB).

The leading Oriya Daily "The Samaja" has reported the story.

Addressing the conference K C Achrya, Special Secretary of the MHRD in charge of Technical Education said that Orissa and other states are demanding that IITs to be set up in their respective states.

So far Orissa is concerned; it has got National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER).

NISER will more or less fulfill the demand of the IIT, said he.

Admission in NISER and IIT will be of same pattern and it will be taken up at the same time.

So when NISER takes care of the requirement than demand for an IIT is not to be harped upon, said Mr.Achrya.

"This is a clear indication of an ulterior design of the MHRD", lambasted Chitta Baral.

Professor Baral, who teaches at Arizona State University alleged that the Union Minister is sending testing balloons and gauzing the situation.

This can not be tolerated at any cost and we will leave no stone unturned to raise the issue at national level, said Dhirendra kar, another leading Non Resident Oriya (NRO).

"We will raise the issue in the Budget Session of the Parliament through our MPs", said Mr.Kar.

Drawing the difference between the IIT and NISER, Professor R Nayak said that IIT are like apples and oranges compared with each other.

NISER is supposed to emphasize on basic sciences education and research where spin offs would be technology, said Dr.Nayak.

IITS are on the other hand are the technology institutions where science plays the supporting role, suggested he.

NISER will strive to achieve excellence in Science-Education and Research while IIT will do the same for Engineering, Technology-Education and Research/Application.

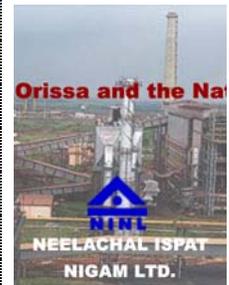
The Institutions are complementary but not mutually exclusive, said Dr.Nayak.

Besides Orissa needs an Institution like IIT for effective utilization of its natural resources and also to be in the main stream of high quality manpower training, said Professor Baral.

Now it is high time that the people of Orissa must come out of the slumber to raise the issue of IIT in a befitting manner to force the Centre for setting up an IIT.

**Comment**

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**Comments :**

Mr. Arjun Singh has done more damage to orissa than any other politician..he is just denying orissa what it deserves by giving ridiculous logics..this is just an excuse..how can west bengal have an IISER, an IIT, an IEST and IIM..does this logic apply to other states or to orissa only? Even the funding is done by DAE for NISER..how can he mix HRD department's due with any other department..Mr. Singh ..do not fool people of orissa by giving this kind of stupid logic.

Kanhu  
1/31/2008

The above logic is absolutely ridiculous and filled with falsehoods and contradicts with MHRD actions with respect to other states. 1. NISER and IITs have different admission process and they have no connection with each other. NISER uses the NEST test (<http://www.iopb.res.in/niser/admission.php> ) conducted by DAE while IITs have their own JEE. The secretary may be confusing NISER with IISER which do take some students from the IIT JEE merit list. 2. NISER will not fulfill the need for an IIT. Currently, NISER only offers M.Sc degrees in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Some day in the future it may offer a few technology degrees. However, it will not be soon, as having full-fledged engineering degrees will defeat the purpose of NISER, as students when given a choice between Science and Engineering disciplines in the same institute will prefer engineering, and as a result the NISER science departments, the reason de etre for the establishment of NISER, will not get good students. In this regard it may be noted that Science is second class in the IITs where students prefer engineering over Science courses. Most students who get into sciences into IITs are the ones who can not get into any engineering disciplines. Note that IISc, where both engineering and science are flourishing is different because it does not offer undergraduate degrees in science so there is no competition between student choosing between science and engineering after +2. 3. Even if NISER abandons its reason-de-etre and decides to expand into engineering aggressively, the infrastructure, especially the 300 acres allocated to NISER will not allow that. Note that the IITs in Patna and Hyderabad will have 500 acres land. 4. The engineering and technology disciplines will not be established in NISER that quickly, and because of the break-neck industrial progress happening in Orissa, it needs a top notch engineering and technological institute like an IIT "yesterday." 5. Finally the following actions contradict the assertion that Orissa will not get an IIT because it has a NISER (a) Maharastra was given a IISER even though it has an IIT. (Both are funded by MHRD.) (b) West Bengal was given an IISER and an IIT like institute (IEST) eventhough it has an IIT. (All are funded by MHRD and the IISER and the IEST will be in the Kolkata area.) (c) Andhra Pradesh

Chitta Baral  
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was given an IIT and two IESTs. (All are funded by MHRD.) (d) Kerala was given an IISER, an IEST and an IIST (Indian Institute of Space Technology); the first two funded by MHRD, while the last one is funded by Ministry of Science and Technology. So why is that when it comes to Orissa, when Orissa is now at the bottom of per-capita MHRD funding on higher education institutions, NISER counts against Orissa. This is despite that Orissa needs to bridge the largest gap in higher education enrollment, from 6.1% to the targeted 15%. Is it because the above four have UPA allied governments while Orissa does not? Also, earlier it has been remarked in the Parliament by an UPA minister that Orissa has this and that institute (such as Inst of Physics etc.). Yes, but other states have more of such institutes. See the list we compiled at [http://iit.orissalinks.com/vol1/state\\_wise\\_national\\_lab.pdf](http://iit.orissalinks.com/vol1/state_wise_national_lab.pdf). So why does it count against Orissa getting an IIT, and does not count against the other states. Is not this blatant discrimination against Orissa? Is not such discrimination in the past a main reason why Orissa is now at the bottom of higher education enrollment and many other parameters? Is that what the government of India wants? And in this information age of news media and Internet will the people of Orissa stand-by and just meekly accept this blatant discrimination?

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