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City

#### Weather

Max Min

BBSR	29.7	15.2
Katak	30.6	14.0
Baleswar	28.7	13.7
Gopalpur	29.7	17.0

# Opinion

Jharsuguda 29.4 15.2

Is the Naveen-led Government's reaction to the shifting of NIS from Odisha a case of too little, too late?

: Yes

: No

: Can't Say

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## Full Story...

Centre debunks State's NIS claim

Katak: The controversy over shifting of the proposed National Institute of Sciences (NIS) from Odisha to West Bengal has taken a new turn with the Centre submitting before the Odisha High Court that at no point of time the Human Resource Development Ministry had decided to set up the institute in Bhubaneswar.

The stand taken by the Union Government assumes significance as the issue had already triggered a row in the Assembly with the ruling BJD-BJP combine and the Opposition parties blaming each other for the shifting of the NIS from Odisha to Kolkata.

The Assembly had decided to constitute a House Committee to put pressure on the Centre to stall any such move.

"No policy decision was finalized by the Central government for setting up any science institution at Bhubaneswar," Prem Kumar, under secretary in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, clarified in an affidavit submitted to the Odisha High Court here while seeking grant of leave to set up an Indian Institute for Science Research Education (IISRE) in Kolkata.

On November 9, the Odisha High Court had issued an interim order directing the Union Government "to stay the shifting of the proposed science institution from Bhubaneswar to any other part of eastern India."

The Odisha State Public Interest Protection Council president Prasanta Das had filed the petition in August 2005.

The Central government however, has clarified that the Union Cabinet had in November 2005 decided in favour of creation of two new institutions devoted to science education and research.

The Cabinet decision was taken on the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. Subsequently, the Central government had decided to locate the two IISRE at Pune and Kolkata, the affidavit clarified while seeking vacating of the stay order.

The affidavit had further clarified that in March 2003, the UGC had come up with a proposal to establish advanced centre for science and technical education at four places, Bhubaneswar being one of them.

The UGC proposal however, was not approved by the HRD Ministry after seeking opinion of the ministry of law, Prem Kumar maintained in the affidavit.



Inspector General 'Radha' DK Panda in Puri with a woman companion.

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Earlier, the State Government in a letter to the High Court stated that the UGC had in March 2003 communicated to the vice-chancellor of Utkal University, a decision to establish NIS at four places (Bhubaneswar, Pune, Allahabad and Chennai).

The State Government had identified 75 acres of land at Gothapatna in Khurda district in response to the UGC's proposal and urged the Centre to initiate follow-up measures.

It now appears that there were two different proposals — one to set up four centres made during the NDA government's tenure which was rejected by the Law Ministry and secondly a fresh proposal of the UPA government for setting up two institutes at Pune and Kolkata.

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