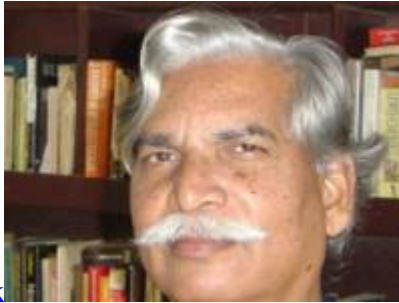


•:[[OrissaMatters](#)]:•



News. Views.



[Subhas Chandra Pattanayak](#)

Representative-in-Chief

[Saswat Pattanayak](#)

Content Editor

Calendar

October 2005

M T W T F S S

1 2

3 4 5 [6](#) [7](#) 8 9

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

31

[« Sep](#)

- Categories

- [Editorials](#)
- [Splendor](#)
- [Lang Syne](#)
- [Art & Culture](#)
- [Tradition](#)
- [Eco-Talk](#)
- [Humdinger](#)
- [Verdicts](#)
- [State in Brief](#)
- [Animadversion](#)
- [MediaMatters](#)
- [Assembly](#)
- [Administration](#)
- [Children](#)
- [Education](#)

- [Crime Beat](#)
- [National](#)
- Archives
 - [October 2005](#)
 - [September 2005](#)
 - [August 2005](#)
 - [July 2005](#)
 - [June 2005](#)
 - [May 2005](#)
 - [April 2005](#)
 - [March 2005](#)
 - [February 2005](#)
 - [January 2005](#)
 - [December 2004](#)
 - [September 2004](#)
 - [December 2003](#)
 - [November 2003](#)
 - [October 2003](#)
 - [August 2003](#)
 - [July 2003](#)
 - [June 2003](#)
 - [May 2003](#)
 - [April 2003](#)
 - [March 2003](#)
 - [February 2003](#)
 - [January 2003](#)
 - [December 2002](#)
 - [November 2002](#)
 - [October 2002](#)
 - [September 2002](#)
 - [August 2002](#)
 - [July 2002](#)
 - [June 2002](#)
 - [May 2002](#)
 - [April 2002](#)
 - [March 2002](#)
 - [February 2002](#)
 - [January 2002](#)
 - [December 2001](#)
 - [November 2001](#)
- Meta
 - [Login](#)
 - [Valid XHTML](#)
 - [XFN](#)
- **Alternative Media**
 - [Whose Media](#)
 - [Saswat.com](#)
 - [Tom Paine](#)
 - [Tehelka](#)

• International Media

- [Economist](#)
- [International Herald Tribune](#)
- [New York Times](#)
- [Washington Post](#)

• Local Media

- [Dharitri](#)
- [Pragativadi](#)
- [Samaja](#)
- [Sambad](#)

• National Media

- [Hindustan Times](#)
- [India Today](#)
- [Indian Express-East/South](#)
- [Indian Express-North/West](#)
- [Outlook](#)
- [The Hindu](#)
- [The Statesman](#)
- [Times of India](#)

October 7, 2005

UNDER WHOSE SPELL THE PRIME MINISTER HAS DONE IT?

Filed under: [Editorials](#), [Education](#) — Subhas C Pattanayak @ 10:35 pm

UNDER WHOSE SPELL THE PRIME MINISTER HAS DONE IT?

Subhas Chandra Pattanayak

It is sad to say that Hon'ble Prime Minister of India can act under a spell. But people of Orissa are so bruised by an order of the PM that it is difficult to believe that he could do this without a spell.

On 9th December 2003, the then HRD minister Prof. M. M. Joshi had announced that UGC had decided to establish four National Institutes of Sciences (NIS) one each at Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Pune and Allahabad. This was documented in the Ministry of Human Resource Development – Science & Technology – press release, dated 10 December 2003.

But it is shocking for Orissa that instead of establishing the planned NIS at Bhubaneswar, the Central Government has obliterated this proposal.

Government of India's Press Information Bureau (PIB) in a Press Release datelined 28 Sept 2005 informs that the Prime Minister has passed orders for establishment of an Indian Institute of Science for Education and Research (IISER) at Kolkata. The only other IISER is cleared for Pune.

The aim of the N I S that Prof. Joshi had announced in December 2003 is the same as the proposed IISER. Thus, NIS and IISER, though they differ in their names carry the same concept.

Thus Orissa is severely affected by the September 28 order of the PM. She does not have any central university, any institution of national importance (such as IITs, ISI, etc.), any reputed centrally funded institute such as an IIM, or any centrally funded IIIT or IIITM. It also does not have an autonomous science and technology / institution of the department of science and technology. The PM's order for an IISER at Kolkata has jeopardized her chance of having one such Institute even in future. There is every reason to apprehend that as and when any additional IISER would be announced, Bhubaneswar will not be one of them, as many would then argue for a regional balance. Therefore, in a sense, the PM's order is contributive to regional imbalance.

Candidly speaking, Orissa may not have any objection against Kolkata getting the IISER, if the NIS offered to her in 2003 is not withdrawn. To ascertain if Orissa is affected by the PM's order, we from orissamatters.com had posted a query at the e-mail address of the PMO. It was addressed to the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and was worded as follows, keeping in mind the highest limit of 500 characters:

“Dear Pr. Secretary to Prime Minister,
On 09/12/03 Orissa was offered a National Institute of Sciences (NIS)

Before it materialized, the PM has cleared an IISER for Kolkata (PIB 28 Sept 05)

Please inform: Is NIS offered to Orissa withdrawn in context of IISER cleared for Kolkata?

PM's decision being conducive to regional imbalance and tension, clarification is needed for proper reporting”.

We are shocked to see that the PMO is not opening up as yet. Therefore, we have every reason to fear that the NIS offered to Orissa is dropped in a clumsy manner.

It is beyond all logic and acceptability that Government of India changes an educational investment decision made by an earlier government, especially related to a state like Orissa, which has, as shown above, been kept bereft of any super-specialty central institute of higher education, particularly in the field of Science and Technology. If the PM's September order connotes to withdrawal of NIS offered to Orissa in the context of IISER cleared for Kolkata, it will certainly be disastrous to healthy growth of academic facilities in the Country.

A PTI report filed on 28 September 2005 informed that while releasing the first report on the country's performance in the area of science, the PM had enumerated how all round progress of the country was affected by lack of balanced distribution of academic facilities. “I trust our government as well the state governments will take note of these findings and evolve policies to remedy these regional imbalances”, he was quoted to have said. It is, therefore, specifically surprising that he, while clearing the IISER for Kolkata on the very same day, failed to see how his own action in jettisoning the NIS announced for Orissa would worsen regional imbalance.

West Bengal in whose favour one of the IISERs is cleared by the PM has an IIT in Kharagpur, a central University in Shanti Niketan, two additional institutes of national importance in an IIM and an Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), and three autonomous science and technology institutions established in Kolkata.


If not under a spell, how has the PM obliterated Orissa's legitimate due for an IISER if that stands for the NIS?

Keeping mum in this matter is not becoming of the Prime Minister of the Country.

<><><><><>

...

1 Comment »

1. Nice to read the article  As an Oriya its obvious. But Scinece / Reserach is not a local phenomena and any out come represent INDIA as a whole. No one do research / science for the sake of locality, but its for the whole world level. One has to compete with world leaders for reserach / science.

We Indian never like to publish our own research in Indian Journal and the fact is TRUE. People prefer American journal rather than any JUNK Indian journal. In science / reserch "Citation Index" is a very strong factor and will not be high if it is published in Indian Journal. Next no Indian journal has any good "Impact Factor".

Hence it simple says that all Reserach / Science Institute are only for better product and not for the improvement of the locality. Kolkota is far far in a better position to have NIS as compared to BBSR. Air communication is one of the best in the country. Whereas we lack it in BBSR. In BBSR there are few reserch Institute like IOP, RRL, Matchemtical, Material, Life science, Cancer Reserach etc..but none are upto the mark so WHY another Institute in BBSR ????

Few years back one IIT was established in Gawathi i.e IITG. But how many counts IITG as an IIT ????

So having a NIS like Institute in BBSR will not make the output what it demands. BBSR is not a place atall for a high profile Inst.

Research Institute need Qulality Out Put and not Garbage. WB is far better place to do Science.

best wishes.

Debu

Comment by [Debu Mohapatra](#) — October 8, 2005 @ [2:19 am](#)

2. 1. Higher education and research institutes have a lot of local impact. An IISc in BBSR would have had tremendous impact on Bhubaneswar. See details in <http://www.public.asu.edu/~cbaral/orissa/iit-nis.html>
2. Bhubaneswar has nurtured two fine institutions. XIMB <http://www.orissalinks.com/#ximb> is ranked 8th in India in one of this years ranking. Institute of Physics (IOP) has had a big impact on not only Orissa but on Indian Physics. See what IOP graduates are doing at <http://www.iopb.res.in/~alumni/members/members.html>
3. Yes, air connectivity to BBSR is less than Kolkata and we should improve it. But there are fine institutions (IIT Kharagpur is an example, University of Illinois Urbana, Penn State Univ, Texas A & M) which are not well connected, but are very good and have tremendous impact on the state they are in.
4. For more arguments about why NIS should be in BBSR see <http://www.public.asu.edu/~cbaral/orissa/nis-why.html>
5. For more detail on this whole issue see <http://www.orissalinks.com#nis>
6. Finally, Kolkata is a fine city and having an NIS/IISc in Kolkata is no problem, as long as the one announced in BBSR is also established. Please join the letter writing campaign.

Comment by [Chitta Baral](#) — October 8, 2005 @ [9:02 am](#)

3. For quality of IOP, please check http://www.iopb.res.in/~library/ar_02_03/ and especially http://www.iopb.res.in/~library/ar_02_03/Publications.pdf

If you check its faculty and alumni vita, you will find some have joined IOP after being in an IIT. IOP is well respected in India and abroad.

—

ILS is new but still pretty good.

See <http://www.ilsc.org/publication.htm> for their publications, many are in International journals.

—

In Oriya we have the saying 'ghara kania singhaninaki'. Really, IOP has always been a top notch place for research in Physics, and it shows Orissa can sustain and nurture an NIS/IISc.

IOP has been a stealth performer, and has focussed more on research and less on publicity. Perhaps because of that many of us do not know how good it is.

Until I looked up their website, I also had doubts. But now-a-days with most things available in the web, we should no make assertions without doing some checking first.

The problem is besides the political angle, many other decision makers may have had thoughts similar to Mr. Mohapatra without checking the facts carefully.

best regards
Chitta

Comment by [Chitta Baral](#) — October 8, 2005 @ [9:40 am](#)

[Comments RSS](#) • [TrackBack URI](#)

Leave a comment

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website

? 2001-2005 **The News Syndicate**. (Regn. # 17013/1847 of 1979-80) Office: VR-32, Unit-6, Bhubaneswar 751001, Orissa, India