

Monday, November 07, 2005

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## SUNDAY PIONEER

AGENDA

FORAY

### Demand for institute gains momentum

Pioneer News Service / Bhubaneswar

Agami Odisha, a voluntary organisation on Sunday organised a convention on "Establishment of National Institute of Sciences (NIS) at Bhubaneswar".

Academics, politicians, students and representatives from civil society groups participated in large numbers to discuss the next course of action to press the demand for setting up of a NIS in the State Capital.

Rajya Sabha member RK Nayak said the earlier decision of the Centre and the University Grants Commission to set up a NIS at Bhubaneswar has been withdrawn due to many reasons, including the indifference of the State Government and its delay in taking immediate action in this regard.

The organisers declared that the convention is the beginning of a movement for establishment of a NIS in Bhubaneswar. The participants agreed to stage rallies, demonstrations, hunger strikes and other non-violent of protest to press the demand.

Former Chief Secretary Sahadev Sahoo said that due to lack of adequate public reaction and political will power the State is deprived of its legitimate right.

The participants urged MPs and MLAs of the State to strongly lobby for the cause and appealed to the media for a wide coverage of the issue to create public awareness in favour of a NIS in Bhubaneswar.

A special team of delegates, representing the broader civil society on behalf of Agami Odisha, will meet the Prime Minister soon and urge him to undo the grave injustice done to the State. A PIL has already been filed in the Orissa High Court on the issue.

Among others, Agami Odisha president Devi Prasanna Patnaik, Trilochan Pradhan, former Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University, DK Roy, former Director General of Income Tax, Abasara Beura, former Ambassador, Prof Digambar Mishra, Professor in University of Alabama were present on the occasion.

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