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Briefly...

Shifting of NIS unacceptable : CM to PM

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, stating that the Centre's move to shift the proposed National Institute of Sciences (NIS) from Bhubaneswar to Kolkata is "unacceptable". Mr Patnaik pointed out that the people have reacted strongly to the move.

A PIL has also been filed in the Orissa High Court against the move, he pointed out. The Chief Minister stated that the land required for establishment of NIS has already been identified. The Centre should respect the decision of the NDA Government in July, 2003 to set up the institute in Bhubaneswar.

Children's festival kicks off

Bhubaneswar: The Adivasi ground in the city wore a festive look with the Anjali National Children's Festival that began here on Thursday. Children from all walks of life have gathered here to participate in the festivals with a host of educative and entertainment activities.

Anjali, the only children's festival in the country aims towards the attainment of an inclusive society through interactive and joyful learning. More than 700 children and escorts from different districts of Orissa and as many as from 20 states of the country including Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Assam are participating in the festival.

Apart from workshops, competitions and exhibition, several fun activities like kite flying, synchronised yoga, treasure hunt, game booths will also be held. The five-day festival also has a series of award function and announcement of scholarships for competent but economically weak students.

NESCO Ceo sacked

Bhubaneswar: The Chief Executive Officer of NESCO NC Das on Friday was sacked by its Board of Members. The management of the power distribution company is run by the Reliance Energy and the Gridco.

While the Reliance has five members in the board, Gridco has three. It was alleged that Mr Das awarded a few orders to a contractor without following the rules of the tender processing. However, sources claimed that he was unable to sustain the pressure from the Reliance Group to speed up the work process and collect the dues.

Balloon gas mishap: Rs 15,000 to victims

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday donated Rs 15,000 from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to each of the 11 student, who were injured in the gas balloon mishap.

The Chief Minister gave away the donations when the students met him at the Secretariat before leaving for the Daljeet Singh Eye Hospital in Amritsar for treatment of their eyes. It may be recalled that conditions of eyes of five students have improved while the remaining six students are yet to register improvements.

Koche to be the new Phulbani SP

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Bhubaneswar: RP Koche, who has just returned from central deputation has been posted as the new Phulbani SP. A notification to this effect was issued on Friday. Mr Koche was the Assistant Director, Intelligence Headquarters, New Delhi previously.

Week-long dharna ends

Jagatsinghpur: The week-long dharna staged by the Paradip Progressive Construction Workers and Employees union in front of Paradip Carbons ended on Wednesday following an agreement between the factory management and union leaders in the presence of the District Labour Officer, labour contractors and police. The union had started the dharna to press for its 16-point charter of demands.

District Collector Arabinda Padhee intervened in the matter and directed the management to sort out the issues amicably. Following this, the management called a meeting with the union leaders, including its president Sudhakar Mantri. The management agreed to consider the employees' demands, following which an agreement was signed with the union leaders. Mr Mantri thanked to the Collector and the factory management as well as Paradip municipality chairman Govinda Tarei for ensuring an amicable settlement of the dispute.

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