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Nov 17, 2005

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record number  
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**BJP petitions President on National Institute of Science issue**

Thursday November 17 2005 10:35 IST

BHUBANESWAR: Members of BJP's State unit took out a rally in the city and staged a dharna near Raj Bhawan here on Wednesday protesting the UPA Government decision to relocate the proposed National Institute of Science (NIS) in Kolkata.

In two separate memoranda to President A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, the party has sought his intervention in the matter by directing the Centre not to shift the national institute. The party has also demanded dismissal of the Union Minister Natwar Singh for his alleged involvement in the oil-for-food scam.

Alleging that Congress has done unimaginable injustice to the State in the past, the BJP said that the UPA Government's decision to shift the proposed NIS in the eastern region is unjustified.

The NDA Government had decided to set up four science institutes of excellence in Allahabad, Bhubaneswar, Chennai and Pune.

The Centre has allocated Rs 100 crore for the four institutes and the State Government had allotted 75 acres of land in the city as desired by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

However, the UPA Government reversed the NDA Government's decision and shifted the NIS to Kolkata under pressure from the Left parties. Instances are galore of Congress' negligence to the State. The latest decision is another instance of Congress' anti-Orissa attitude, party members alleged.

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- Yes
- No
- Can't Say

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Although Chief Minister Naveen Patnbaik has written thrice to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh requesting to reconsider the decision, the UPA Government is non-committal.

In a separate memorandum, BJP has demanded the dismissal of Natwar Singh and action against the Congress president Sonia Gandhi for bringing dishonour to the country for their alleged involvement in the Iraq's oil-for-food scam.

A delegation led by party president Jual Oram, national general secretary Om Prakash Mathur and party's national Juva Morcha president Dharmendra Pradhan and state vice-president Nayan Mohanty submitted the memoranda to Governor Rameshwar Thakur.

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