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Orissa govt to continue demand for special category status

27 Dec 2007, 0054 hrs IST, PTI

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BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday said his government would continue to demand a special category status for Orissa from the Centre.

"We are asking for our legitimate right from the Centre. Orissa is not begging before the

Centre," Patnaik said while addressing a massive rally held here on the occasion of the ruling Biju Janata Dal's (BJD) 10th anniversary.

Patnaik said his party would leave no stone unturned for development of the state.

Patnaik alleged that the state had been neglected by the Centre on several fronts like establishment of an IIT, IIM and expansion of railway network.

The chief minister said the state government had already launched some schemes like Biju KBK Yojana, Biju Jyoti Yojana and others after the Centre denied its cooperation for developmental work in the state.

In a bid to woo the farmers Patnaik reiterated that water meant for agriculture will not be given to industries or for any other purpose.

To show his government's commitment for the farmers Patnaik said he had recently announced a Rs 2,000 crore package for the irrigation development in the state. "I assure the farmers that the irrigation water will reach till the tail end of the canal," he said.

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