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[Orissa Plus]

Mixed reaction to budget

BHUBANESWAR, Feb 29: Orissa has once again been deprived of an IIT as political considerations seem to have governed such decisions remarked ruling BJD-BJP circles here today while reacting to the budget.

Chief minister Mr Naveen Patnaik who is presently in Delhi, is reported to have reacted on the same lines. Mr Patnaik said "the expected special package for backward states like Orissa had been overlooked. The special package was a need to bridge the regional disparities" he added. Mr Patnaik pointed out that there was no special scheme for welfare of tribals.

State finance minister Mr Prafulla Chandra Ghadei was also critical of the budget and said "it may cause further inflation" adding "the loan waiver is a pre-poll populist measure which does not make economic sense at all".

Mr Ghadei said "the state was not only denied an IIT but was also deprived of additional funds and coverage of the Backward Region Grant Fund scheme".

The Congress however hailed the budget today. Leader of Opposition Mr JB Patnaik termed it as the best of the lot presented by Mr P Chidambaram over the last four years. "It has focused on rural area and farmers", he said.

Rural development minister Mr Biswabhusan Harichandan (BJP) however dismissed the budget as populist and poll centric. n SNS

Discussion on this Orissa Plus item

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No discussions on this item

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