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PM to receive Orissa Govt's wishlist

Bhubaneswar, Aug 27: When Prime Minister Manmohan Singh lands here tomorrow, he may have to encounter a long wish-list being prepared by the BJD-BJP led Orissa government.

A memorandum, which will be submitted to Singh, will primarily focus on demands for special assistance and other welfare measures for Kalahandi-Balangir-Koraput (KKB) region besides reiterating its previous demand for special category status for the state, official sources said.

"The government will surely seek additional annual grant of Rs 500 crore to KKB districts besides the grant being given under backward region grant fund," the sources said.

The state government is likely to demand for a central university in the KKB region and extension of incentives and tax relief for industrial development in the area as is the case in the North-Eastern states.

The memorandum would also urge the Centre to give equal status to national institute of science, education and research as the institutes planned in Kolkata and Pune.

The Chief Minister may also press for fixation of coal royalty at 20 per cent of its price.

In view of three back-to-back floods in last two months, the state government is expected to request the Prime Minister to release special flood assistance of Rs 1131.83 crore.

Moreover, Rs 856 crore additional assistance would be sought for execution of a drainage master plan to discharge water from water-logged areas.

"The state government will request the Centre to enact law for imposition of special tax on the power to be generated in Orissa. The state should also be given ten per cent of the generated electricity as its share," the sources said.

Bureau Report

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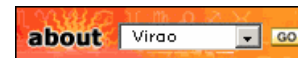
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