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Technical Documentation Directorate  
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section  
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*Subject: Submission of News Clippings.*

The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

*P. Mahesh*  
26.10.17  
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

*Ans del 26/10*

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,  
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News item/letter/article/editorial published on 26/10/77 in the

Hindustan Times  
Statesman  
The Times of India (N.D.)  
Indian Express  
Tribune  
Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)  
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
The Hindu  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)  
Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle  
Aaj (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC

# Package for drought-hit Odisha farmers

Over 3.15 lakh hectares of kharif crop spread over 70 blocks in 15 districts affected

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday announced a special package for the drought-hit farmers of the State.

Over 3.15 lakh hectares of kharif crop spread over 70 blocks in 15 of the 30 districts have been affected by drought. The paddy crop has been affected the most in Bolangir, Bargarh, Dhenkanal, Boudh and Nuapada districts.

Announcing the package after a high-level meeting, Mr. Patnaik said agriculture input subsidy would be provided to small and marginal farmers who have sustained crop loss of 33% and above at the rate of ₹6,800 per hectare in the rain-fed areas and ₹13,500 per hectare in areas under assured irrigation.

"Agriculture input subsidy will also be provided to farmers other than small and marginal farmers at the same



**Welcome move:** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at a function to lay the foundation stone for a rest house for Haj pilgrims, in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. ■PTI

rates subject to a ceiling of two hectares per farmer. The assistance would be provided to actual cultivators," he said.

## Fresh finance

Farmers whose kharif crop has been affected by drought would be provided fresh finance for rabi cultivation during the current season, which commenced on October 1, Mr. Patnaik said.

The Chief Minister said short-term kharif loans ad-

vanced in the affected areas this year, having a crop loss of 33% and above, would be converted into medium-term loans.

The due date for kharif short-term loans advanced in the affected areas would be extended up to September 30 next year to facilitate conversion of such loans into medium-term loans.

Mr. Patnaik said the Centre would be requested to provide interest incentive of

3% on medium-term loans, on a par with crop loans for prompt-paying farmers.

He said the district administrations will keep a close watch on moneylenders and other unscrupulous elements causing financial hardship to farmers and the police will initiate tough action against such elements under the Odisha Money-Lenders' Act and various sections of the Cr.PC.

## Subsidy on pump sets

Besides, a total of 5,000 pump sets would be provided with 50% subsidy limited to ₹15,000 to the farmers. Besides, availability of pump sets in different agro service centres would be published to enable farmers to hire them to save their standing crops.

The Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation will also take immediate steps to repair lift irrigation points in the affected areas. Steps would be taken to operate all points during

the rabi season and the Energy Department would energise the points immediately.

The landless, marginal and small farmers in the drought-affected areas will be provided livelihood support in terms of backyard poultry. At the same time, a focused approach will be adopted to take up intensive fodder cultivation in these areas through distribution of suitable fodder kits.

Also, a 50% remission in respect of cess on land revenue will be given to farmers where the crop loss is 33% or more. Collection of the remaining amount will be deferred to the next financial year without levying any interest. Collection of water tariff in the drought-affected areas will be waived for the current year.

Furthermore, tuition fee and examination fee in government and aided schools and colleges in the drought-affected areas would be waived, Mr. Patnaik said.

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# Already polluted river braces for yet another onslaught

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**New Delhi:** City ghats are all decked up for chhath puja while extensive preparations have been made to ensure that devotees face no hardships, environmentalists are having sleepless nights over what it could mean for the already fragile river.

Immersion during Ganesh Chaturthi and Durga Puja had led to pollution levels soaring at Yamuna. The National Green Tribunal had taken civic bodies to task over semi-dissolved idols and puja material being strewn all over the banks.

As devotees prepare to enter the Yamuna to offer prayers to the Sun God, similar fears are being expressed, even as experts say that foam in the river already testifies to the poor quality of water post-immersion last month. The Delhi government has declared a holiday on the final day of the three-day festival, which sees devotees entering the water and offering 'Arghya' to the setting sun.

A Delhi Pollution Control Committee official told TOI that special steps have been taken to monitor pollution levels in the river. "We have barricaded the river and arrangements have been made on the banks for the puja. The ghats will be cleaned immediately after the puja is over," the official said.

A report released by DPCC last year had shown an increase in biological oxygen demand (BOD) levels up to 30

## WHAT CHHATH MEANS FOR

### CURRENT STATUS

Biological oxygen demand (BOD) levels at 7 of the 9 ghats exceed the standard of 3mg/l for water bodies. The higher the BOD value, the greater the amount of organic matter, or "food", available for oxygen consuming bacteria.

**LAST YEAR,** post-immersion data showed total soluble solids (TSS) touched 120 mg/l at Geeta Ghat, up from 20-30 mg/l, leading to foaming in the river as dissolved oxygen levels plummeted to zero.

### PREPARATIONS

- 1 This year, Chhath Puja is being conducted at 565 ghats against last year's 268.
- 2 The govt has also constructed 50 permanent ghats for celebrations.

- 3 Arrangements include tents, temporary toilets, ambulances, lighting, seating and drinking water on ghats.



mg/l at several ghats, even as dissolved oxygen levels plummeted to zero. The standard BOD level for water bodies is 3mg/l. DO should be 4 mg/l, or higher. Yamuna's water quality is currently in the 'E' category, which makes

it fit only for irrigation and industrial usage.

Satish Sinha, associated director of NGO Toxics Link, said: "As it is, the water in Yamuna is very polluted. Lead and heavy metals present in the river can prove harmful,

so exposure should be reduced."

This year, the government has earmarked 565 ghats for chhath puja against 268 last year. It has also constructed 50 permanent ghats for the celebrations.

Photo: Anindya Chattopadhyay