

Day after BJP's victory in four states, Modi hits Gujarat trail



Sirish C Mohanty

Ahmedabad, March 11: Less than 24 hours after his party won a historic mandate in Uttar Pradesh and retained power in three other states, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was back on the election campaign trail on Friday, with a grand roadshow in his home state of Gujarat.

The PM, who led the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) campaign in the recently

concluded five-state elections from the front, spent his day in Ahmedabad addressing a cross-section of people and party leaders.

His two-day trip is expected to set the tone for the Gujarat assembly elections, scheduled to be held in December. The BJP has not lost an election in the state, which is home to Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah, since 1998.

In his speech, Modi stressed his party's governance agenda, appearing to launch the party's election campaign a day after a grueling poll season concluded.

"See the power of democracy. In states with no-repeat theory, our party has retained power. This is



because we believe in all-round development," PM Modi said in his address at the Panchayat Mahasammelan at GMDC grounds in Ahmedabad that was attended by nearly 150,000 representatives from

Panchayati Raj institutions. The crowd at the roadshow included young people, village and district panchayat representatives who attended the Panchayat Mahasammelan in

Ahmedabad, and BJP workers and senior leaders whom the Prime Minister met at the state party headquarters "Shree Kamalam" in Gandhinagar. The Ahmedabad

roadshow was seen as a victory march for the PM and the BJP, underlining the party's philosophy of relentless campaigning and ground connection with voters.

Riding in an open jeep, accompanied by Gujarat chief minister Bhupendra Patel and state BJP chief CR Patil, Modi, wearing a saffron cap and dressed all in white, greeted thousands of supporters and spectators, many waving BJP flags from the roadside along a 9km stretch from Ahmedabad airport to Gandhinagar. Several supporters were heard chanting his name throughout the stretch.

In April 2017, after BJP's massive victory in Uttar Pradesh, (Page-13)

22 injured as BJD MLA rams car into crowd, leader assaulted later

BJP state general secretary Prithviraj Harishchandran demanded immediate arrest of the MLA. The BJD, too, condemned the incident and asked for strongest action against the accused as per law.



BJD MLA from Chilika Prashant Jagdev's car.

Bhubaneswar, March 12: Chilika BJD MLA Prashant Jagdev was reportedly assaulted after he allegedly rammed his car into a crowd in Odisha's Khurda district Saturday afternoon. At least 22 persons, including seven police personnel, were injured in the incident, police officials said.

According to the police, a

huge crowd, including BJP supporters, had gathered outside the Banapur Block Development Office (BDO) for the block chairperson election when the incident occurred. Jagdev, who was driving an SUV, was initially stopped by the crowd as he tried to drive through the heavily crowded road.

"Some people tried to stop his car and an argument ensued. Police personnel present at the spot tried to intervene. But he (Jagdev) drove the car through the crowd, leaving many injured," central range IG Narasingha Bhol told media persons.

Local residents then allegedly pulled him out of the car and assaulted him with sticks. They also vandalised the vehicle, the police said. Jagdev sustained serious injuries and was rescued by the police personnel present on the spot. He is now under treatment in Bhubaneswar.

"He has been booked under attempt to murder charges. He will be arrested after recovery," Bhol added. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC were also imposed in Banapur town area to prevent any further untoward incident.

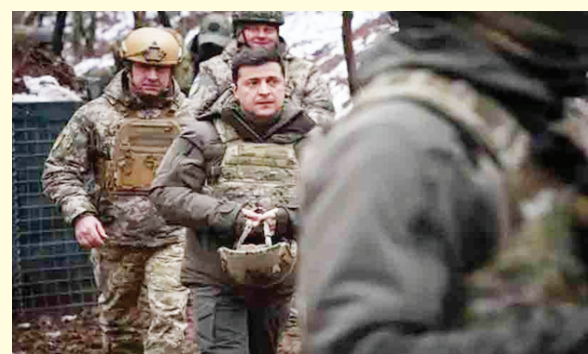
Jagdev has been booked under IPC sections 307 (attempt to murder),

(Page-13)

Ukraine ready to negotiate, but won't surrender: Ukraine ministry

Kyev, March 12: Ukraine is ready to negotiate to end the war started by Russia more than two weeks ago, but would not surrender or accept any ultimatums, the country's foreign affairs minister Dmytro Kuleba was quoted on Saturday by news agency Reuters.

Speaking at a virtual event organized by the non-partisan, nonprofit organization Renew Democracy Initiative, Kuleba said civilian lives



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky

Ukrainian soldiers have been killed in fighting since the start

He added that if that is their goal, let them come."

Zelensky said that if they carry out carpet bombings and wipe off the historic memory of the entire region, the history of Kyivan Rus, the history of Europe, they could enter Kyiv.

Meanwhile German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and French President Emmanuel Macron called for an immediate cease-fire in Ukraine during a phone call with Russian (Page-13)

1,300 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed in fighting since start of Russian invasion

would be saved if Ukraine had fighter jets and more attack planes to destroy large military columns.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said about 1,300

of the Russian invasion.

Speaking at a news conference Saturday, Zelensky said it would take Russia to carpet-bomb the Ukrainian capital and kill its residents to take the city.

ASI warns of threats to Puri Heritage Project

The letter came days after ASI director general V Vidyavathi visited the temple in the last week of February to monitor the ongoing project work.

Bhubaneswar, March 11: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has written to the Odisha government earlier this month warning it of potential threats of the Puri Heritage Corridor project to the structural safety of the Puri Jagannath Temple. The letter came days after ASI director general V Vidyavathi visited the temple in the last



The ASI is the custodian of the Puri Jagannath Temple

week of February to monitor the ongoing project work. The ASI is the custodian of the Puri Jagannath Temple.

"During the visit, we found

discrepancies. There were giant earth-moving machines and excavators, which are being used for digging activities close to the temple. The scale

at which the process is underway, can pose potential threats to the temple's structure. We have written to the Puri District Collector and the Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation Ltd (OBCC) and have sought their replies to the purpose of the massive digging activities," Arun Malik, superintending archaeologist, ASI Bhubaneswar circle told media. The work on the project started soon after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik laid the foundation stone in January this year. The project is being undertaken at an estimated cost

of Rs 3,200 crore. A total of 22 projects will be executed in a phased manner.

Under the The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, any new construction within 100 metres of a temple are prohibited. But for the Puri Heritage Corridor project, the National Monument Authority has issued a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to the state government for the construction of a cloak-room, a shelter pavilion, three toilets, an electrical room and a pavement within the prohib-

ited 75-metre zone.

The ASI has, however, contended that it has not issued an NOC to the Odisha government allowing construction work within 100 meter of the shrine. "We can issue an NOC only after the government provides us with a heritage impact assessment report," an ASI official said.

Puri District Collector Samarth Verma said there is no violation of norms and all the construction will be carried out in coordination with the ASI.

Renovation of centuries old water body demanded



Baripada, 12 March:-Residents of Chitrada in Mayurbhanj district demanded immediate renovation of a century-old water body "Raja Bandh" which has been neglected for a long due to the apathy of local administration and politicians. Locals claimed that the

water body was constructed when Mayurbhanj was a princely state. The royal family of Mayurbhanj constructed the water body for domestic and agricultural purposes. The water body was neglected after the end of the Bhanja Dynasty rule.

Stretching with more than 25 acres of the water body which catered to the water crisis of domestic purposes of local people and for farming activities remained stopped due to disposition of silt and growth of wild plants due to lack of maintenance. A culvert was later con-

structed in a portion of the water body by the government subject to easy movement of commuters and later it was used as a road while heavy loading vehicles are plying on the culvert. Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Bishweswar Tudu, along with Chief Engineer of Subrarekha Irrigation Project Tarani Kumar Das, SE of Minor Irrigation Division, Mayurbhanj Guruprasad Prusty with officials from the district inspected the spot. Minister Tudu assured that he will take the necessary steps for the renovation of the water body.

Keonjhar Policemen Injured In Clash Over Filing Of Nominations

Keonjhar, March 11: A police outpost in charge and two other policemen were injured when two rival groups clashed over the filing of nominations for the post of Naib Sarpanch at the premises of Raidiha gram panchayat under Saharpada block in Keonjhar district today.

According to reports, the incident occurred while former Naib Sarpanch and current Ward member from Ward number 7 were filing his nomination for the post of Naib Sarpanch at Raidiha panchayat. He was opposed by a rival group resulting in a clash between the two groups. Following the clash in the panchayat office premises Saharpada police outpost in charge, Siba Prasad Aich rushed to the spot to maintain law and order. However,



Aich was assaulted by women belonging to one group. While Aich's hand was fractured in the attack, two other policemen also sustained injuries. When the situation went out of control, Patna IIC Rajendra Swain and Ghatagaon SDPO rushed to the spot with one platoon police force. Police have detained 13 persons in connection with the violence.

Kabindra Naik wins unopposed for Joda Block Chief

Joda, March 12: Kabindra Naik of BJD was elected unopposed as the Chairman of Joda block after all the 19 PS Members supported him. Prior to this, he was also the Chairman of Joda block from 2012 to 2017, but last time for the period (2017- 2022), he could not contest as the



seat was reserved for women (ST). Naik, who was born in a poor family, was a workman in the Odisha Forest Corporation to support his family. Later being influenced by the personality of Bijubabu, he resigned from the corporation and involved himself in social activities.

Senior Odia Journalist Akshaya Padhi Passes Away



Bhubaneswar, March 12: Senior journalist from Odisha, Akshaya Kumar Padhi, breathed his last at the age of 51. He was suffering from cancer. Padhi was the correspondent of Kalinga TV in Keonjhar since 2015. Earlier, he was with OTV from 2003 to 2015. He is survived by his wife and a son. Many across the media fraternity have expressed immense grief on his demise.

India in churn, pines for new economy, leadership



Prof. Shivaji Sarkar
Former HOD in English journalism in IIMC, Delhi

The state elections 2022 have elements of surprise, feelings of relief, introspection for the opposition, diminution of smaller parties, and a question of whether 2024 Lok Sabha would be a cakewalk for the BJP or counter a new challenge.

It is naïve to believe that the personal benefits motivate more for voting a party than a focus on the national economy. The path to 2024 can be replicated through sound economic progress, less privatization, a stable rupee, and emancipation that can boost the pride of individual voters - a new order.

The BJP and allies reclaim UP with reduced mandate than 2017 tally of 325 with 41 percent vote; unexpectedly trounce

Congress in Uttarakhand though its chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami loses despite replacing three CMs in quick succession, and retain Manipur and Goa. The Congress loses the remaining glory. The Samajwadi Party may not have been that powerful in dislodging but certainly has broken barriers to cut BJP numbers.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) springs the greatest surprise and shock for the political community bagging 89 of the 117 Punjab Assembly seats rummaging established contenders. The political tsunami of its leader Arvind Kejriwal started with Chandigarh UT's local body. In Punjab, AAP demolishes all traditional political powers. It is likely to emerge as a

major contender in the ensuing Municipal Corporation of Delhi elections. The move for reunifying three MCDs into one is credited to the rise of the AAP. His rise is a challenge to the entire privileged political class.

It complicates comprehension of the electoral mood. The electorate has gone through a period of turbulence, difficulties, social tension on account of three farmers' bills, Citizenship Amendment Act 2019, demonetization, GST, marginalization of SMEs, an acute pandemic that sent at least over 12 crore people trekking back to their homes and Ganga delta dead bodies. It follows a severe stagflationary situation, with food, edible oil, and commodity prices reaching new highs.

The Samajwadi Party's 32.05 percent votes denote the simmering anger but Akhilesh Yadav has to come out of his caste cloak to look to new realities in a changing Indian society. The caste engineering of Akhilesh did not work the wonders.

The difficult economic pangs are forgiven not forgotten by the soothing new M-Y - Modi-Yogi touch. Or are the people just giving up their comforts for the sake of ration, saashan, and prashan - food dole and the administrative approach or is it just being "labharthi" - free benefits, housing, pension, and cash doles alleging loyalty to the "namak" salt?

Difficult questions but the electorate possibly believes that the BJP dispensation can do better throw their plank with it. This leads opposition to raise accusations to the extent of expressing doubts over the mandate. That the contest was too close is testified by an array of seats being won or lost by hundreds to thousand votes symbolized by UP deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's loss to Pallavi Patel, Apna Dal founder Sonelal Patel's daughter, almost like a game of see-saw. The likes of Swami Prasad Maurya, Dara Singh Chauhan who quit the BJP bite the dust but Apna Dal's daughters Anupriya Patel and Pallavi Patel despite in opposing camps could have their kill.

The BJP leaders Modi-Yogi's sharp assault on SP's love for the minority could not prevent 35 Muslims from getting elected to UP assembly under a Hindu leader Akhilesh against 24 in 2017. Now it is also being claimed that the poorest minority labharthis with a house, gas cylinder, and free food, tended by the Rashtriya Muslim Morcha (RMM) of RSS executive member Indresh Kumar have sailed with the saffron. So have Christians, including the Nagas, in Manipur and South Goa due to the efforts of Indresh Kumar.

The minorities despite the business relationship with the majority

community have not been able to share the social space. Mutual suspicion, the legacy of the Partition, sours the ties leading to polarization of the communities. The social tension was palpable at almost every stage of the seven-phase elections becoming acute with the fourth phase in the Avadh region. Strangely enough whenever there is blatant minority polarisation, the party being favored by them slinks to play the second fiddle since 1991.

The RSS-BJP understands the phenomenon leading to Yogi's sharp blurb that he is contesting for 80 percent and not the 20 percent. It seemingly has paid dividends again despite the touted bonhomie with kisans, Jats, and minorities in western UP.

Parties like the BSP must be worried about vote share plunging to 12 percent.

It means that BSP leader Mayawati is no more the force to lead her Dalit vote banks, particularly Jatavs despite Amit Shah exchanging niceties with her. Evident new Dalit politics is surfacing.

It changes the scenario for BJP too in its march to 2024 elections. If SP acts with vigor, forges effective national alliances with TMC of Mamata Banerjee, NCP of Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena, TRS, the residual Left, and maybe also the Congress a resistance can be put up. It, however,

looks too farfetched. The impending Gujarat and Himachal polls would set the tone. If such alliances remain utopian as the Goa experiment of Mamata Banerjee, the BJP may remain comfortable.

But such comfort may elude it as a new political order emerges. The challenge in UP from SP-RLD was hackneyed. But an emerging Kejriwal can create a national alternative as voters can break away from identity silos to get their lives improved. Punjab is a lesson. Its rise in 2017 led to the rise of Congress. His Tiranga Yatra burnishes his nationalist credentials. The committed Hindu voter turned against Congress and BJP. They voted along with Sikhs and other communities to usher in the change. Tainted Ram Rahim's furlough angered Dalit voters to vote for AAP.

The politics is changing. The voter does not want to remain in the Labharathi mode. There has to be economic and political emancipation. BJP has to realize it and effectively improve its rhetoric into economic action may be drastically away from privatization and respond to the mundane concerns like

junking of efficient cars, imposition of new rules every day, high tolls, and prices, and a review of National Education Policy. Indian politics is in a churn and pines for change.

Dalmia foundation Fosters Sports in Rajgangpur Region



Rajgangpur, March 10: Dalmia Bharat Foundation (DBF), the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd (DCBL), has undertaken a range of stimulus measures to foster sporting talent, especially for youth dwelling in villages surrounding its Rajgangpur plant and Lanjiberna Mines. These initiatives have created many opportunities for hundreds of youth athletes interested in pursuing competitive sports such as Hockey, Football, and

Volley Ball etc. Aimed at unleashing the sports potential in youth, DCBL presented sporting gear including hockey sticks, jerseys, kits to 100 young hockey talents of Keshramal Grampanchayat. Before it DCBL also supported Abhishek Shukla, a specially abled international cricketer from Rajgangpur by providing him sports equipments.

"As a business, we continue to lead the East's cement market and we attribute our growth and

regional progress to the communities within which we operate in and are committed to. In continuation of our support and social responsibilities, we are creating varied sports avenues for our local youth to participate, train and excel in," said Chetan Shrivastav, Executive Director, DCBL and Unit Head - Rajgangpur. "We are confident that, by fostering a sports culture that involves a shared purpose and providing the necessary sporting requirements, we will

be able to encourage and positively empower our talented youth athletes across Rajgangpur."

In line with the organisation's objective, DCBL has also renovated a playground at Rumabahal and Katang village that helps youth across villages to organize

Football tournaments annually. This is in addition to contributing sports gear that undoubtedly enhance sporting efficiencies of budding talent and athletes in neighbouring communities.

Recently, DCBL partnered with the Odisha government to successfully host the state's first ever International Badminton event 'Odisha Open 2022.' Through its continuous efforts, DCBL hopes to reignite the glory witnessed by Sundargarh district in Odisha.

Panchayat Elections: BJD Sweeps Opposition

Sundargarh, March 11: In the recently concluded Panchayat election ruling BJD decimated all opposition parties in the district.

The ruling BJD maintained its winning streak in the Sundargarh district also as in other districts of the state in the three-tier panchayat elections held in February month. BJD registered its magnificent victory of the Zilla Parishad zones by winning 33 of the 35 seats. In the previous election of 2017 BJD had won 14 seats only. The elections were held in five phases on February 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24, while counting was done on February 26, 27, and 28.

BJD this time more than doubled its seat number by winning 33 Zilla Parishad seats out of a total of 35 seats. BJD has gained more than 19 seats as compared to its performance in the previous panchayat polls of 2017. While the saffron party had secured 13 ZP seats in the 2017 elections, its tally has now come down to one only. CPM kept intact its one seat.

Congress could not open its account in this election.

The Congress, which had bagged 5 ZP seats in 2017, has now a big zero against their name. CPM won another seat.

Since BJD could not touch the magic figure of 18 to form Zilla Parishad on its strength they had to approach Congress to form the Zilla Parishad as they had only 14 ZP with them. Congress lent its support to BJD to keep BJP away from capturing district ZP.

Now the ruling party, with its landslide victory, is all set to form the Parishad again in Sundargarh.

The results have shocked opposition leaders of the district. They were clueless to react to the results.

Jual Oram, BJP MP of Sundargarh, Rourkela's Congress president,

George Tirkey in their reactions blamed government machinery and money power for their party's dismal performance.

Jual Oram, while accepting the people's verdict said "never imagined such kind of results". He said, "our party could not match the money power of the ruling party".

George Tirkey was more forthright while expressing his reactions. He said this election was not between political parties. The government machinery was fighting an election for BJD. SHG groups, gaon sathi, Aanganbadi workers acted as workers of BJD. Right now we might be down but not out. We will fight back".

Sundargarh was, perhaps the last bastion of opposition parties. Now BJD has conquered this citadel also.

New Plate Mill of Rourkela Steel Plant touches new pinnacles by surpassing 5 Million Tones production mark

Rourkela, March 12: The state-of-the-art New Plate Mill of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has surpassed the 5 Million Ton production mark on 10th March 2022. The ultra-modern Mill began its journey with the commencement of rolling in the year 2014. It produced the last one million Tonne of Plates in the record 13 months that signifying its high rate of rolling. Another important achievement of the New Plate Mill is that in the current financial year for the first time it is going to surpass its annual rated capacity of 0.92 Million Tonnes.

Atanu Bhowmick, Director In-Charge, RSP while Congratulating the collective, said, "The milestone has been achieved with the hard and smart working of the New Plate Mill and associated departments. I am sure that the greater New Plate Mill collective will continue to work dedicatedly to bring more glory for RSP and SAIL." The DIC cut a cake to mark the occasion and interacted with the Senior Officers and employees of the department.

It is noteworthy that the Mill with cutting-edge technology produces a wide



range of plates with high strength and close tolerances to meet stringent international standards. It has received the approval of DNV-GL (Det Norske Veritas-Bermanischer Lloyd) Business Assurance to produce CE Mark Plates for the European market. With a rich product profile and diverse grades including key import substitutes, the Mill has been

able to carve a niche for itself. The products of the mill have wide applications in boilers & pressure vessels and their support structures, earth moving equipment, railway projects, roads & bridges, Urban Infrastructure, etc. In the current financial year, the Mill has exported more than 1 lakh ton plates to South East and the European countries.

Interpretation Centre inaugurated at IG Park

Rourkela, March 2: An Interpretation Centre was inaugurated at Indira Gandhi Park of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) by Atanu Bhowmick, DIC on 2nd March 2022.

The state of art air conditioned Interpretation centre has been developed at the hexagonal building situated near the main entrance of the park. The objective of the centre is to impart knowledge to school and

college going students towards protection and conservation of wild life to maintain ecological balance. Number of colourful wall mounted posters depicting different types of wild life and biodiversity of Odisha are displayed in the centre in addition to the animal models and museum specimen for better insight into the wild life protection and conservation. The centre also houses audio visual system, an overhead projector

facility and a large LED TV screen for effective presentation of documentaries, videos, and study material on wild life of Odisha, its protection, conservation plan and practices. The centre has been developed by Messrs NBCC (India) Limited as a part of their CER initiative at an approximate cost of Rs. 17.00 lakhs. The large number of evergreen trees, sprawling grass lawns and variety of

ornamental shrubs and seasonal flowers surrounding the Interpretation Centre are not only enhancing the ambience but are also creating the right environment for learning. The project was implemented in compliance to the guidelines of Central Zoo Authority, a statutory body under Government of India, in association with the Horticulture Department of RSP.

A K Kundu, ED (Mines),



S R Suryawanshi, ED (Works), A K Pradhan, ED (Projects), P K Satpathy, ED (P&A) and many other senior officers were present at the inaugural function.

BJD sweeps Jagatsinghpur ZP, bags 25 out of 26 seats

JAGATSINGHPUR, March 11: The ruling Biju Janata Dal [BJD] has won a record 25 Zilla Parishad [ZP] Seats out of a total of 26 in Jagatsinghpur district. The results were formally announced on Wednesday, so far other party positions reported as congress managed to bag 1 seat.

By winning landslide triumph the BJD is set to form ZP and to retain the ZP president post third time in a row. The BJP which had secured 3 ZP seats in 2017 draws a blank while Congress who got one seat in the last ZP polls maintained a similar number in 2022 elections and remained at second position.

Sources informed that the lone seat Congress won in ZP zone 4 under Erasama block comprises Panchayat's as Dhinkia, Nuagaon and Govindapur recognized as the anti-JSW bastion. The residents have been opposing the JSW steel projects, consequently, resentments were brewing against state ruling BJD government and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, so voters sidelined BJD candidate Tamil Pradhan and elected Congress candidate Pinaki Narayan Das, sources said.

However, BJP candidates contesting in ZP polls have been reported unsuccessful, one saffron candidate Dr. Sasanka Sekhar Sahani from Balikuda ZP zone 4 lost the elections against BJD contestants by 2787 votes. Moreover, BJP had won three ZP zones in the last 2017 polls, one in Raghunathpur and two in Kujanga blocks but this time party was unable to retain any.

The massive win is attributed to the groundwork the BJD, worked out for the past three months through manifold popular schemes launched by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Minister Raghunandan Das said that people have gladly accepted BJD due to the chief minister's able leadership who launched various assistance schemes including the distribution of smart health cards, financial assistance to house repairs, and a slew of development projects. BJD district president MLA Prashant Muduli extended thanks to chief minister Naveen Patnaik, congratulated all ZP winning candidates and all the party workers for their dedicated hard work.

J'spur Ex-scribe Pradipta Choudhury Passes away

JAGATSINGHPUR, March 11: Pradipta Choudhury a former senior scribe from Raghunathpur block passed away in his residence in Bhubaneswar after a prolonged illness at 73. Late Choudhury had been working with Odia daily Prajatantra in Raghunathpur block later leaving the profession in 2002 joined BJD. He was a close associate of the late Jagatsinghpur MLA Bishnu Das and served Party's secretary post for the Jagatsinghpur district. A score of politicians from different parties, scribes, lawyers, eminent citizens from Jagatsinghpur district have condoled the sad demise of Choudhury. Late Choudhury's mortal remains were brought to his village Kosala under Raghunathpur block and consigned to the funeral fire in the village crematorium on Saturday.

JSW donates an oxygen plant and machinery to DHH

JAGATSINGHPUR, March 11: Steelmajor JSW Company has donated an advanced oxygen plant and its accessories to the district headquarters hospital [DHH] here, to meet the requirement of patients necessitating oxygen.

The state-of-the-art oxygen plant and its machinery have cost Rs 42 Lakh, sponsored from JSW corporate social responsibility fund, and will capacity of 400 LPM [liters per minutes] and to cater 12 beds, patients admitted in intensive care units or pediatrics ward.

This is the second oxygen plant installed at DHH, earlier a central



government-sponsored 1,000-liter oxygen plant has been functioning in DHH since the outbreak of the second wave of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Responding request of the DHH authority and after consultation with the state government, the JSW foundation agreed to install the

second oxygen plant looking at the requirement of DHH, the commissioning of the plant had started in February 2022, and after the samples test the unit has become operational.

The JSW believe in industrialization including social service consistently for the benefit of the

people, in the peak second wave of Covid 19 many people died across the country causing scarcity of Oxygen requirement, considering the crisis likely to occur in the future we funded the oxygen plant and its machinery to DHH, Jagatsinghpur, informed Ranjan Nayak, COO, and spokesperson of JSW.

J'spur DM submits reports, as HC asks affidavit from persons disallowed at the Dhinkia public hearing.



JAGATSINGHPUR, March 11: The Jagatsinghpur collector cum district magistrate [DM] on Friday submitted the ground reports in Odisha high court [HC] on the public hearing held in proposed JSW project site Dhinkia village on March 5.

The collector furnished an affidavit in HC, supporting evidence,

documents and overall scenario of the public hearing informed that about 69 villagers had expressed their opinions at the public hearing from them 53 attending villagers and Dhinkia Sarpanch had denied no police atrocity occurred in Dhinkia village on January 14 during betel vine demolition for JSW project.

In turn, during the

hearing held in HC on Friday, one Omkardev Das has filed an affidavit stating about 12 villagers had been barred and disallowed from participating in the public hearing.

The HC bench headed by Hon'ble chief justice hearing the case directed those villagers who have denied speaking at the public hearing allowed liberty to file objections through the affidavit in HC before March 28, the PIL litigants lawyer Prashant Jena was instructed to collect these affidavits and place them before the court.

The Jagatsinghpur SP was directed to file details regarding police and villagers face-off incident

of Dhinkia village informing number of cases registered, and arrest carried out connecting the incident, later HC adjourned the matter till April 07.

Two PILs were filed in HC complaining about police excess and atrocity on January 14, during a betel vine clearing drive. Responding to the incident, HC had appointed a five-member lawyers committee to visit Dhinkia village and collect details. Meanwhile, the HC lawyer's panel had visited Dhinkia village on March 05 and met the villagers in a public hearing study the ground reality, later submitted a report in HC.

Passion to give free teaching for poor children

Saiprakash Mohanty
Baripada, 2 March:-
Saiprakash Mohanty, a 36-year-old of Raghunathpur, Ward No-22 in Baripada town of Mayurbhanj district, has emerged as a role model and inspiration for many persons for his selfless contribution to poor children.

A diploma holder who gave up his job in a private company in Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh in August 2008, Saiprakash has taken it to ensure there are no drop-outs in his locality.

"I have decided to give up my job and provide a free academy to children who are going to school to build up their career. I have seen many parents who have stopped sending their children to school and engaged them in jobs either due to poverty or due to failure to understand the importance of education. However, many poor children need extra tutoring and no one is their family or immediate neighbor to assist them. I have



decided to take up the responsibility and help these children," said Saiprakash.

Saiprakash set up an institution at Purnachandrapur, ward No-15 in 2008 in the name of 'Slum to School' and at least 20 children were freely studying at that time where there was no project school in the ward and children were engaged in welding shops.

When a family does not

get a square meal a day, how can it arrange for the children's education that shocked Saiprakash.

In Purnachandrapur, where more than 70 percent of people live below the poverty line, a person voluntarily provided a thatched house to Saiprakash to teach the children but such facility was not availed at Laxmiposi where classes were taken places in the

backyard or under trees at that time. Saiprakash contributes at least 8 hours for the children every six-day in a week.

When the children up to Class-V were to go to school and continue their study, then he shifted his institution to Indapahi village under Baripada block in 2014 where more than 50 poor children were studying there. The children are received into the academy up

to Class-VII.

Just after four years, Saiprakash shifted his institution to Laxmiposi 4 kilometers away from Indapahi where many children were not going to school. 50 children were accepted into the academy initially many children regularly came to the institution to get the facility.

"300 children were getting the free academics from the starting of the institution and I have given the basic education to the children. Once they improvised I encouraged them to go to school to continue the study," he said that the basic requirements like blackboard, chalk, tiffin, and house rent charges were arranged by donors. Some social workers and educated persons assist the fund Rs.4000 in the starting of the institution. When he had posted some activities of the children in the institution on social media platforms, a

couple from Denmark Safi and Ulrik contribute a sum of Rs. 15,000 to Rs.20, 000 per month for four years for the development of the institution. Another doctor Sukanti Das along with her three colleagues contributed Rs.3 lakh, and later Denmark's couple and the doctor contributed Rs.8 lakh in 2019 for the construction of a pucca house at Maharajpur. The construction work is underway.

Besides free education, the children are taught music, song, Yoga, and other activities to help them in the future. He had provided some remuneration to teachers who teach computer science and music from the fund.

Saiprakash said that apart from these activities for the children, he has started an awareness driver against witchcraft, child marriage, and cancer for the last year in Suliapada, Baripada, and Shamakhunta blocks in the district.

BJD infighting surfaced on selection of candidate for urban polls

Baripada, March 12: While the BJD has tried its best to capture chairman and councilors' posts in ensuing urban polls, infighting among the party workers started just after the selection of candidates for chairman and councilors over 28 wards.

The BJD party observer for Mayurbhanj Pranab Sankar Das declared the name of the candidate to contest for the Baripada municipality chairman post two days ago, since then the infighting has seemed among the party workers and aspirants.

Within a gap of two days, there two groups are formed. While a group wanted to support the selected candidates for both chairman post and ward councilors, another group did not want to support the selection of these candidates as their favorite candidates for chairman post and ward councilors were not to get the party ticket to contest for the municipality poll.

The party had given a ticket to Krushnananda Mohanty, a candidate to contest for the chairman post for the Baripada municipality poll, and the names of candidates for councilor posts for the 28 wards were declared at the last moment. The party had selected several new candidates.

However, many senior party workers were not found in the rally while the chairman and ward councilor candidates were going to file their nomination papers on Monday. Even some party workers were accompanied by ward councilor candidates who came to rallies separately.

Senior leader Subramaniam Mohanty said that there is some problem in the selection of candidates for the urban poll within a short period. Yet the workers are trying their best to win the candidates.

NABARD team visits Balasore to oversee the construction of embankments at Chandipur sea beach

Balasore, March 2: Three officials of a team headed by Sri CU Bhaskar the Chief General Manager of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) from Odisha Regional Office along with Taranisen Dhal, Chief Engineer of Subarnarekha Irrigation Project, Baripada, and Pravas Kumar Pradhan the Superintending Engineer of Balasore Irrigation Division and other staffs have visited the ongoing construction of two embankments (protection walls) at Chandipur sea beach recently. Pravas Kumar Pradhan the Superintending Engineer of Balasore Irrigation Division



said that the NABARD team visited Chandipur sea beach to oversee the ongoing construction of two embankments and the length of the two projects were 1.72-km. The cost of the two projects was around Rs.37 crore provided by the NABARD two years ago. He said that the object of the

projects is to protect cyclones, floods, forests, villages, land erosion, tourist office, farm activities besides the projects will be promoted as a tourist and marine drive in the future. The Chief General Manager CU Bhaskar and his team also expressed their appreciation for the ongoing projects.

CU Bhaskar, Chief General Manager replied to the media that the NABARD has assured to provide financial assistance for the development works of the State. The proposals given by the State government were received, and the due assistance will be provided, he added.

BJD Names Mayor Candidates For BMC, CMC & BeMC

Subash Singh, Sulochana Das and Sanghamitra Dalei have been named as the Mayor candidates of BJD for Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC), respectively.

Bhubaneswar, March 6: The ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Saturday announced names of the party's Mayor Candidates for three municipal corporations ahead of the Urban Local Bodies (ULB) polls in the State.

Subash Singh, Sulochana Das and Sanghamitra Dalei have been named as the Mayor candidates of BJD for Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), and Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC), respectively.

Singh, a noted trade union leader had joined BJD after working with people under the banner of CPI and CPI(M).

"I am happy that the Chief Minister considered me as a candidate for the Mayor



Sulochana Das, Subash Singh, Sanghamitra Dalei

post. I will work hard for the development of the millennium city of Cuttack," Singh said.

The CMC area is spread over three assembly segments.

Starting her political career from Congress, Sulochana Das had later joined BJD and also worked as the regional party's spokesperson.

"I would like to thank Party supremo, leader and workers for showing faith on me. The mayor post for Bhubaneswar is very

important as it is not only the capital city but also represents Odisha in every aspect. If I get support of Bhubaneswar residents, then with the help of BMC commissioner, workers and others will work to make the city number 1 and slum-free," Sulochana Das said.

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation is spread over three assembly segments.

Dalai started her political journey as a Congress candidate and later joined BJD

and become a corporator of BeMC.

"I thank chief minister Naveen Patnaik for posing trust on me. We will work together for the development of Berhampur city," Dalai said. The State Election Commission (SEC) had earlier announced elections to 106 ULBs and three Municipal Corporations on March 24 and counting on March 26.

The three Municipal Corporations will have a total of 168 wards and 1,407 booths. These include 67 wards and 705 booths in BMC, 59 wards and 452 booths in CMC, and 42 wards and 250 booths in BeMC.

Congress has already named former corporator Giribala Behera as the party's mayor candidate for the CMC and Madhimita Acharya for BMC.

Imfa Celebrates 51st National Safety Week

Therubali, March 10: (Jogeswar Das) The week-long 51st National Safety Week 2021 inaugurated on March 4, was concluded on March 10, 2022. Safety week was observed under the guidance of Sri.K.V.Rao, Vice-president & Executive In Charge Therubali, IMFA graced by Mr.Ranjit Kumar Nayak, Asst. Director Factories & Boilers, Rayagada Zone as chief guest. Sri Ramakrishna Tripathy Sr.Manager Safety, Mr.Madan Mohanty, and Mr.Rajendra Sahu have

assets for the company. He expressed gratitude to IMFA management for his focused approach to the safety management system. During this safety week celebrations training programs on different topics like electrical safety for crane operators & welders, road safety programs for vehicle operators, firefighting training by Mr.Kulamani Mishra, Fire Safety Expert for our Fire Fighting Crew, safety Meeting & Spot quiz competition had been



administered safety oaths in English, Odiya, and Hindi respectively to all staff and workmen. Mr.K.V.Rao addressed the gathering and emphasized reporting near-miss incidents so that it will help in improving the safety culture. As IMFA Therubali is in the proactive safety culture phase everyone's effort towards safety will lead to progress and achieve the target of Vision Zero. Chief Guest Mr.Ranjit Kumar Nayak addresses the august gathering and congratulates the efforts of the IMFA team in demonstrating safety in its work to protect self and community by following all rules and regulations formulated by the government. In this year's theme "Nurture young minds -develop safety culture" he emphasized developer new entrants with safety practices so that they can be future safety leaders for themselves, family, and

conducted for staff and workmen.

On this valedictory function, a mock drill was organized on Fire Safety. Sri. Swarup Kumar Jena, Deputy Director(B & F), Ranjit Kumar Nayak, Asst Director, (B & F) Sri.Sangram Hansda, Dist-Fire Officer and Sri.Tankadhar Nayak, ASI of Police, Therubali Outpost attended as guests. Mock Drill on Fire Fighting organized was participated by the workers and Employees. Sri Aswin Kumar Prusty, Sr.Manager Production briefed the gathering on vulnerability issues and workplaces and sought their cooperation to Zeroing the accident.

As like every year all the delegates appreciated our proper planning and execution of the drill. The Deputy Director, Boilers & Factories Rayagada, awarded the winning workmen in various competitions.

JSW bags first position in state-level ICT category

Bhubaneswar, March 4: Country's leading steel producer JSW bagged the first position in ICT category at the CII Odisha Annual Meeting organized in Bhubaneswar on March 4, 2022.

The state level award ceremony was hosted under Industry Carnival for Quality Circles, Industry Relations, Environment Safety & Health (ESH) and ICT categories. JSW clinched the prestigious award in ICT segment through digital intervention for best practices model. A stringent selection process for the category was held in 2021, wherein all leading industries in the mines and minerals segment participated.



COO of JSW Steel Ltd Ranjan Nayak congratulated the team for the achievement. "Government of Odisha through continuous hand holding has helped us to navigate the challenges and helped us achieve this milestone," said Nayak. During the pandemic, JSW worked relentlessly in its Odisha mines to integrate its entire despatch with IEMS, FOIS, BRP & Signet, the leading technologies mandated by the State Government. The goal was to optimize cost, Quality and Productivity. The company started mines operations in July 2020 and within a short span has led the digitalisation drive in the region. As a first mover in the country, JSW has established synergy with the government for digitalisation stack verification system. Tracking of vehicles via 100 per cent GPS installation and by geo fencing routes have reduced pilferages drastically. Digital intervention in Lab Information Management System (LIMS) for quality assurance has been deployed for process efficiency. "Leading solutions for Digital Logistic Management System (DLMS) has helped us to significantly reduce Turn around Time (TAT) and enhance despatch efficiency," said BK Das, Head, IT Division, JSW Steel Ltd, Odisha.

JSW celebrates the spirit of womanhood

Joda, March 8: Country's one of the largest steel producers JSW Steel Tuesday celebrated the International Women's Day with zeal and enthusiasm for their remarkable achievements in diverse spheres of life.

The leading steel producer organized a gala event to felicitate the women employees to encourage the spirit of womanhood.

JSW steel authorities like Ashesh Kumar Padhy, Head of Thermal, Srijit Mishra, Vice President - Human Resources, Biswaranjan Kumar Padhi, Vice President - Operations, Arun Rawat Head - Security (Mines) and employees were present during the Women's Day celebration.

Following this year's theme Break the Bias, the

dignitaries applauded all women employees for their contributions not only to the



company but also to the societies. It was pledged to make society a better, more equal place for all genders at the function.

Srijit Mishra said that company is keen to hire more women employees including from the local areas as well. He also mentioned that the female employees' strength is likely to go up multifold in coming days. Female employees also shared their experiences with the dignitaries and participants.

Win To Rule Or Rule To Win



Sirish C. Mohanty

We often come across a delicate question- whether we eat to live or do we live to eat? Both parts of the question are important. We can't ignore or take easy to anyone. Strikingly similar, for Naveen Patnaik to win an election to govern and rule to win; both are inseparable for him. It makes Naveen unique among the rest of the politicians of the country. Perhaps for him, that is the mantra of his continuous winning streak easily overcoming the roadblocks of anti incumbency.

We read in the Mahabharata that one day Guru Drona was taking a test of his students on archery. The great guru Drona placed a bird on a tree and asked his students to arrow one eye of the bird. While Duryodhana was aiming at the bird, Drona asked him- what he sees. Duryodhan answered- I see a bird sitting in a tree. It was Ashwathama in the next turn, he answered- I see a bird sitting on one of the branches of a

tree on the riverside. On Arjuna's turn, he answered- he only visualized the eye of the bird. Guru Drona adjudged Arjuna the best in the test. It applies to Naveen Patnaik; he sees only the target, nothing else, and no compromise.

Anti-incumbency is an unfamiliar word in Odisha politics. Be it rural body, municipal, assembly, or parliamentary elections, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal (BJD) wins hands down, with a mandate so huge that opponents sometimes appear to exist just for the sake of a healthy democratic set-up. In the recent panchayat polls, results for which were declared on February 26, the BJD won 766 of the 851 Zilla Parishad seats. The BJP and the Congress won 42 and 37 seats, respectively.

The BJP, which had won 297 seats in the last panchayat election, held in 2017, suffered a massive loss of base in Mayurbhanj, Malkangiri, and Kalahandi. The

Congress did better, retaining about 60 percent of the seats it had won the last time.

What's intriguing to many outside Odisha is the BJD's ability to keep anti-incumbency at bay despite two decades of government and maintain its winning streak. It's almost as if Naveen Patnaik and his party have found a permanent place in the hearts of people in Odisha. Thanking the people for the landslide panchayat poll win, Patnaik has said that it has strengthened his commitment to public service.

The youngest of three siblings, Naveen's life underwent a dramatic change with his father Biju Patnaik's death in 1997. He launched the BJD within months. As a young man, he was not much interested in politics but had a strong sense of social justice. Since becoming chief minister in 2000, he has pursued a model of governance firmly rooted in social

welfare.

To many in Odisha, the 75-year-old Naveen Patnaik is not just stating chief minister but a 'father figure'. In his fifth term as CM, the trust Patnaik has built is rock solid. People vouch for how his administration has stood like a shield, protecting them from devastating cyclones and other natural disasters.

The super-cyclone of 1999 had claimed 10,000 lives in Odisha. Patnaik came to power next year, and while cyclones have continued to lash Odisha, the fatalities have never touched double digits. The six cyclones barreling through the state in the past two and a half years have caused minimal loss of lives and livestock. The administration has repaired damaged property and infrastructure in a quick time. But all of this has required meticulous planning and preparedness. Odisha's disaster management prowess has earned global acclaim, including from the UN.

This apart, the BJD government has also stood out with its razor-sharp focus on alleviating poverty. The administration has rolled out a series of social welfare schemes, touching the lives of the 47 million populations one way or the other. There's a livelihood and income assurance for farmers, food security for the entire population, health

insurance of Rs 5 lakh per family and Rs 7 lakh for women members of the family, free education, and empowerment of women through economic and health initiatives.

The state government runs free clinics for eye care, gynecology, pediatrics, physiotherapy, psychiatric treatment, and dialysis. Legal assistance is provided to people at the panchayat level and senior citizens have been offered a scheme to undertake the pilgrimage. Through the pandemic, Odisha has doggedly pursued rehabilitation programs for migrant workers, setting up health camps and shelters for them, providing dry ration and cooked food, and even a monthly allowance.

The Odisha CM seems to be a rare politician who starts preparation for the next election immediately after winning one although he may have deviated a bit when it comes to the ideological front. As Arjuna aim's, Naveen Patnaik always aspires and prepares to win the next elections immediately after finishing one. To achieve that object, Naveen doesn't hesitate to compromise on the ideological front for he knows that winning is important to govern and to rule for the next win.

Sage advice

*Kaarpanya doshopahata svabhaavaha
Pricchaami tvaam dharmasammoodha chetaaha |
yachchreyaha syaan nishchitam broohi tan me
shishyas teham shaadhi maam tvaam prapannam | 71*

This error of cowardice has damaged my personality, and my deluded intellect cannot decide what is right or wrong. Tell me what is definitely appropriate. Guide me, I am your disciple and take refuge in you.

As the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, unleashed a brutal war against Ukraine, the Vaishnava Hindu theologian, Akhandadhi Das, cited the discourse between Krishna and Arjun and urged Boris Johnson and other NATO leaders to look to the Bhagavad Gita for wisdom. Das - formerly Martin Fleming from Belfast - was speaking on the "Thought for the Day" slot on BBC Radio.

"Although dating back several thousand years the context in which Hinduism's Bhagavad Gita was



first spoken, is strikingly similar," Das told listeners. "Set on a battlefield there, we find the military leader Arjun distraught, seeing the opposition so determined for war, with no regard for the inevitable loss of life and destruction of society. Arjun's heart is shattered, for he can discern no clear way forward," Das continued. "He turns to his friend and mentor Krishna, who explains,

'This is not the state of mind in which to make decisions or respond to such crisis.' Krishna offers an analysis of a dictator's mindset, arising from their pride and ego. Just as his opponent may be irrationally driven by fears and ambitions; so, Arjun's preoccupation with its own emotions might also cause him to respond feebly, or with even worse consequences. Krishna coaches Arjun, not just to return to his previous mental fortitude, but to adopt higher characteristics of wisdom."

Das concluded: "The ramifications of President Putin's action will ripple throughout Europe... NATO countries face enormous challenges in responding to this crisis. So I pray that their decisions may not compound the irrationality." In other words, should the west impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine - and risk escalating the conflict with Putin? Or take no further action, and thereby encourage a greater war?

'Punah Mushika Vabah'



Sirish C. Mohanty

formed tiger like that of a rodent. After a few days, the tiger got enraged with the treats of visitors and cropped up an idea to kill the saint so that the visitors would stop visiting the hermitage and the tiger would enjoy the luxury of a tiger-like living. Moments before the tiger sprang into action, the saint cursed him- 'Punah Mushika Vabah'. The tiger instantly transformed back to a mouse.

The purpose to pen the above parable is to narrate the chronicle of BJP in Odisha. Biju Patnaik during his days of power used to say- there will be no 'Mandal or Kamandal'; distinctly indicated his opposition to the entry of the saffron party or any other North Indian political outfit into the state. After the precipitate collapse of the Janata government, Biju Patnaik had his road map to develop Odisha. To the misfortune of the state, he lost astonishingly the 1995 election that changed the destiny of the state. Sub-



Bachelors breach borders

tered a thumping presence in the state as a junior partner of the state government by the blessing acceptance of the people of the state akin to the saint transforming the mouse into a cat.

The surprising debacle of the NDA in the 2004 general election had brought about a change in the mindset of the BJD that started to tilt towards the incumbent congress-led UPA government. The number-hungry Congress in the parliament treated once bête noire legacy-led BJD as an undeclared constituent of the UPA. The bond of the Congress and BJD grew strong and binding that the high command of the Congress in Delhi selects the chief of the state unit suitable to BJD's supreme Naveen Patnaik. Similarly, BJP leadership in Delhi repeated the same blunder. The process continued until the BJD dumped the BJP from the coalition just before the 2009 general elections. BJP alone fought the 2009 election and licked the dust, and the fate of the Congress was no different in Odisha.

The outcome of the 2014 general elections brought about a change of guards that brought BJP back to power in the centre while BJD continued its winning streak. Despite the Modi wave across the country, BJP could bag only one MP seat and 10 assembly seats from Odisha. Since the BJP was struggling with numbers to bring about reforms, BJD's 20 MP seats was not a

smattering number to ignore; BJP central leadership renewed its ties with the BJD back to pre-2004 relations. The SC-appointed inquiry on mining scams, CBI investigations on chit fund scams, and many more hanging swords for BJD were slowed down or stalled in reciprocation of support. The state unit of the saffron party continued to languish at the mercy of the covertly renewed political romancing of BJP and BJD at Delhi while acting out the political opposition in the state. It was not savoury to BJP's grass-root level workers and voters; consequently, BJP gradually began to lose the base in the state. 'Foe in the state and friend at the center' dodge of the BJP acted nourishing BJD to consolidate its grip.

However, with a series of encouraging developments across the country, the BJP leadership had a change in the mindset to tighten its grip on the state as a part of the program- 'look east'. The 2017 rural polls in Odisha were the opportunity to start with. BJP's electoral harvest from the 2017 rural polls was mind-blowing. The Confidence reached its zenith, and planning was afoot to counter BJD in the 2019 general elections.

However, the outcome of the 2019 elections in Odisha was also outstanding- the number of MPs was increased eight-fold from lone one to 8, the number of MLAs was doubled to 20. BJP made its first major inroads into Biju

Janata Dal's green bastion; the dichotomy of its surge was for all to see. It expectedly made gains in western districts. One woman defied the trend. Aparajita Sarangi, former



An effort to bury the hatchet

Odisha cadre bureaucrat who took voluntary retirement to join BJP, was the sole candidate of the party to stand tall even when heavyweights bit the dust from the region, falling to the Naveen magic. Her victory from Bhubaneswar Parliamentary Constituency was hard-earned and remarkable because she won from a constituency that has not only been a BJD bastion for years but also the seat of power, the State Capital. It was Aparajita's run against all of them. At Bargarh BJP's Suresh Pujari defeated the ruling party's veteran Prasanna Acharya. Pratap Sarangi and Biseswar Tudu joined the team of BJP MPs and the party resolved an optimistic strategy in the state to snatch power from the BJD. Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan took the lead to plan and execute the strategy.

The sword of the mining

scam was hanging over the BJD government while the BJP government in the center was in a hurry for reforms in the mining sector without adequate homework. It was a golden chance for the Naveen-led BJD government to grab to bury the chronic problem of mining scam into the annales de l'histoire. As the mining auction came into force, the romance grew further and both started to sort out the thorns of their quest. The thorns were none, but the Union Minister Pratap Sarangi and the Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi who have spearheaded the onslaught, and embarrassed the Naveen-led government thick and fast. The Modi government has reshuffled the cabinet in July 2021, recalcitrant Pratap Sarangi was

dropped from the ministry, said to be an effort to silence him. Aggressive Aparajita too was cut to size. She was targeted by BJD in her constituency, and surprisingly BJP didn't stand by her to counter. Adding salt to the injury, during the Panchayat polls, Rly Minister Baisnav publicly advised the party to obey Dharmendra Pradhan as 'Bada Bhai' whose presence is seldom visible after 2019 except praising Naveen in the media at critical moments.

People of the state are no fools to overlook the Delhi romance; after all, they are the masters in a democracy. They have the right to curse a perfidious outfit strikingly similar to the saint cursed the idiot tiger 'Punah Mushika vabah'; the people of the state gave the verdict in the rural polls 22 to seal the fate of expanding BJP in Odisha.



Aparajita attacked with eggs

where a tiger chased him. The dog came running to the saint narrated his plight. The saint transformed the dog into a big tiger. The tiger started to live a fear-free life in the hermitage. Despite being transformed into a tiger, the mouse couldn't change his behavior of a rodent. Consequently, the visitors to the hermitage treated the trans-

sequently, Biju Babu couldn't palate the unexpected events and finally amid shock and surprise bid adieu to the mortal world in 1997. The Biju Janata Dal took birth on the ashes of a legend, joined hands with once 'Biju-opposed' saffron party, and that led to the formation of a coalition government in 1999. BJP regis-

Woman Stitches Gold Beads Worth Rs 18 lakh in Burqa, Caught at Hyderabad Airport

Hyderabad, March 1: Nowadays, gold and drug smugglers have gotten extra creative. Every now and then, we hear stories of how smugglers around the world adopt unique yet bizarre ways to transport narcotics and drugs from one place to another. Now, in a similar incident, customs officials at Shamshabad International Airport in Telangana's Hyderabad seized gold worth about Rs 18 lakh and weighing 350 grams, stitched on a burqa. The incident happened on February 26, when the woman who arrived



Woman Stitches Gold Beads Worth Rs 18 lakh in Burqa

from Dubai concealed the gold in the form of beads, coated with rhodium that were stitched on burqas.

Working on a credible tip-off, the custom officers

questioned the woman and checked her luggage. The woman was made to remove the burqa and small gold tablets were taken out from it. Official handle of

Hyderabad Customs shared a video of the extraction and wrote,

"On 27.02.22, Hyderabad Customs booked a case of smuggling of gold valued Rs.18.18 lakh weighing 350.00 grams against a passenger who arrived from Dubai by Flight No.FZ-439. Pax concealed gold in beads form which were stitched to burqas." A case has been registered against this passenger and further investigation is underway. Of late, several passengers flying from India to Gulf countries have been caught smuggling illegal items. 🇮🇳

Kerala tattoo artist Sujeesh held after multiple women allege sexual assault



Kocji, March 6: Sujeesh PS, a Kochi-based tattoo artist accused of sexually abusing multiple women, was arrested by the Kerala police on Saturday, February 5. Earlier in the day, the police had filed 2 First Information Reports (FIR) against Sujeesh, after six women approached the Commissioner of Police in this regard. Sujeesh, who was on

the run ever since the issue came out, was arrested by the Kochi city police team while he was trying to reach the office of an advocate on Saturday night.

The complaints had been filed at the Palarivottam and Cheranalloor station limits, under which two tattoo studios run by Sujeesh - called Inkfected - fell. The women's

Sujeesh, who was on the run ever since the issue came out, was arrested by a Kochi city police team on Saturday night.

lawyer told the media that the accused was booked under sections 354 (assault on woman with the intent to outrage modesty) and 376 (sexual assault) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) have been used. Via Kochi, a magazine that publishes city-based and cultural stories had assisted the woman in filing the complaint with the police.

Several women have accused Sujeesh of groping, molesting and sexually assaulting them when they went to get tattoos made by him. The issue was brought to the fore a week ago, when an 18-year-old woman

posted about the incident on Reddit. In the post, she accused Sujeesh of asking inappropriate questions and sexually assaulting her. The post was also shared widely on Instagram, and several women came out with similar allegations against Sujeesh.

Kochi city police commissioner, C Nagaraju while speaking to IANS said, "He was trying to evade the arrest, our team took him into custody and will be taking the statement of the survivors and their medical examination. He will be produced before a magistrate on Sunday itself." 🇮🇳

Former NSE chief Chitra Ramkrishna arrested in co-location case

Earlier, a special CBI court said that Ramkrishna introduced a non-existent person to mislead the investigators, showing prima facie connivance in the matter

New Delhi, March 7: The CBI arrested former NSE chief executive Chitra Ramkrishna late Sunday evening in connection with an ongoing probe in the NSE co-location matter. She was arrested in Delhi and will be produced before a local Court on Monday, ET reported. The agency will seek her custodial interrogation from a local Court.

The former National Stock Exchange (NSE) Chief Executive, accused of grave irregularities in the stock market including sharing privileged information with an outsider she dubbed a "Himalayan yogi", has been arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

A special court of the CBI earlier rejected the bail application of Ramkrishna.



The court said on Saturday that Ramkrishna introduced a non-existent person to mislead the investigators, showing prima facie connivance in the matter.

The court further said the allegations against the former NSE CEO are "grave and serious" and no grounds for

anticipatory bail have been established so far; the court was also critical of the Securities Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and the CBI for not acting on the matter sooner.

The capital markets regulator in its February 11 order alleged that Ramkrishna leaked sensitive information of India's biggest exchange to an unidentified person who she referred to as "Yogi". Judge Sanjeev Aggarwal noted that "It cannot be said prima facie

at this stage that the role" of Ramkrishna "is not under scanner".

"The very appointment of Anand Subramanian without following due process at very exorbitant salary, prima facie shows that all of them may have been acting in tandem with each other in carrying out or in furtherance of the objectives of the co-location scam."

The Sebi order also accused Ramkrishna of appointing Subramanian former group operating officer (GOO), in violation of the company's human resources

policies. The co-location scam pertains to certain entities being given unfair access to NSE servers between 2012 and 2014, allowing them a windfall. The court also rebuked the CBI for its handling of the case.

"CBI is most lackadaisical, to say the least as no action seems to have been taken against main beneficiaries of the present co-location scam and others for almost four full years, who seem to be enjoying merrily at the expense of common citizenry for the reasons best known," to the agency, it said. 🇮🇳

World's largest plane 'Mriya' destroyed by Russian strikes in Ukraine

The largest plane in the world -- Ukraine's Antonov-225 cargo plane -- was destroyed by Russian strikes outside Kyiv on the fourth day of Moscow's invasion, Ukraine's state-owned Ukroboronprom group said Sunday.

'Mriya' Ukraine' Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba tweeted Sunday.

"Russia may have destroyed our 'Mriya'. But they will never be able to destroy our dream of a strong, free and democratic European state. We shall prevail!", he



'This was the world's largest aircraft, AN-225 Mriya'

"The biggest plane in the world 'Mriya' (The Dream) was destroyed by Russian occupants on an airfield near Kyiv. We will rebuild the plane. We will fulfill our dream of a strong, free, and democratic Ukraine," tweeted Ukraine from their official Twitter handle, mourning the destruction of the aircraft.

Along with the tweet, Ukraine's handle posted a picture of the plane with a caption that read: "They burned the biggest plane but our Mriya will never perish."

Weapons manufacturer Ukroboronprom estimated that restoring the "Mriya" would cost over \$3 billion (2.7 billion euros) and could take over five years, news agency AFP reported.

"This was the world's largest aircraft, AN-225

added.

World's largest aircraft, AN-225 'Mriya'

The aircraft was unique to the world, at 84 meters long (276 feet) it could transport up to 250 tonnes (551,000 pounds) of cargo at a speed of up to 850 kilometres per hour (528 mph). It had been named "Mriya", which means "dream" in Ukrainian.

Initially built as part of the Soviet aeronautical program, the An-225 made its first flight in 1988.

After years of not flying after the fall of the Soviet Union, the only existing copy made a test flight in 2001 in Gostomel, about 20 kilometres from Kyiv. It has been operated by Ukraine's Antonov Airlines for cargo flights and was in high demand during the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. 🇮🇳

India looking to plug wheat export market void left by Russia, Ukraine



A prolonged Russia-Ukraine war could increase dependency of wheat

NEW DELHI, March 6: India is looking to write a new playbook to meet growing global demand for wheat, particularly from South Asian countries, as the Russia-Ukraine war has disrupted supplies of the grain from the region, according to two people aware of the development.

Russia and Ukraine account for nearly a quarter of global

wheat exports, and with the conflict between the two countries showing no signs of abating anytime soon, India can try and tap a sizeable portion of the world wheat trade.

A prolonged war could increase dependency of wheat importing countries on large exporters such as India. A stronger dollar amid rising oil prices could also work in favour

of Indian exporters.

According to industry executives, India can easily meet the short-term jump in global wheat demand as it has surplus stocks this year. The country has more than 100 million tonnes of the staple in its granaries, with domestic output expected to touch a record 316 million tonnes in 2021-22.

India, traditionally, has not

been a significant exporter of wheat but over the last two years the country has managed ship out large quantities of non-basmati rice and wheat.

But while India has enough stockpiles to export wheat, Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda, pointed out that it lacks long-term policy which allows for smooth overseas sales of the commodity.

"It's a political issue about whether we should be exporting wheat or not. So, theoretically one can say that we always had the option of exporting wheat into the market, especially beyond what buffer stock norms mandated," Sabnavis said. According to government data, India's wheat exports during April-October surged 546% year-on-year to \$872 million. In terms volumes, exports jumped 527% on year to 3.2 during the period.

With the anticipated demand, people cited above said, India could end up exporting a record 7-8 million

tonne of wheat in FY22. It had sold 2.09 million tonne of the food grain in 2020-21. Among South Asian countries, the Philippines, which happens to buy a lot of Russian wheat, is looking at India to meet its demand. Although Asia Pacific countries do not directly import large quantities of food from Russia, the only exception is the Philippines, where wheat is the second-largest import from Russia, Moody's Analytics said in a note.

Queries emailed to ministries of Commerce and Industry, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Philippines embassy in New Delhi on Thursday remained unanswered till press time.

Experts say India will find itself in an advantageous position.

"The way the situation is panning out, the net food-importing countries will be pushed to the wall. For them importing from wherever it is available will be a priority. India is a large wheat exporter and

hence will find itself at an advantageous position," Dhar said.

India's primarily exports wheat to neighbouring countries, with Bangladesh accounting for the largest share - more than 54% in both volume and value terms in 2020-21.

In 2020-21, India entered new wheat markets such as Yemen, Afghanistan, Qatar and Indonesia.

India accounts for barely one per cent of global wheat exports. However, its share increased from 0.14% in 2016 to 0.54% in 2020. India is the second largest producer of wheat, accounting for 13.53% of world production. It produces around 107.59 million tonne of wheat annually, of which a major chunk goes for domestic consumption.

The current fiscal has already been strong in terms of cereals exports and if new orders pour in, India could end up exporting historic high levels of wheat this fiscal and in the first half of next year.

Why do Indian students choose Ukraine for medical studies?

Around 80,000 international students study in Ukraine with Indians making up about a quarter of the total foreign students

New Delhi, Mar 1: As fighting between Russian and Ukrainian forces entered the sixth day on Tuesday (March 1), around 14,000 Indians, including a large number of students, are still said to be stranded in the war-torn country.

While some are unable to move to western areas, which are less affected, others have reached borders but were not allowed to cross and were reportedly facing a shortage of food and water.

Since Vladimir Putin's Russia invaded Ukraine last week, thousands of Indian nationals are being brought back to the country from the crisis-hit region in the past few days.

According to data from Ukraine's Ministry of Education and Science, around

80,000 international students study in Ukraine with Indians making up about a quarter of the total foreign students.

Most of the Indian students in Ukraine are pursuing medical studies and one of the reasons for this is that the country is well-known for providing high-quality education. Ukraine reportedly ranks fourth in its continent for having the largest number of graduate and post-graduate specialisations in medicine.

Tuition fees

The tuition fees of private medical colleges in Ukraine are cheaper in comparison to colleges in India. 'With over 50 per cent of medical seats reserved for those who have the ability to pay a fee ranging from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1.5 crore for a five-year MBBS course and quotas in accordance with

affirmative policies in government colleges, the band of seats available for the not-so-rich and non-OBCs is very narrow.'

When Ukraine colleges can



give a medical degree for Rs 25 lakh to Indian students, that too for a six-year course, why can't Indian private medical colleges do the same?

Unlike, say in Japan, in

India the majority of investment in medical education comes from investors who have nothing to do with medical education or the health sector.

Their only concern is profits and dividends. So, once you look at medical education as a business proposition then fees will be charged with the intention of making profits,

not necessarily to create good doctors.

And sadly, our public policy is encouraging and incentivising such considerations and thought processes instead of the other way round.

This is so different from China or Ukraine or even capitalist countries like Norway and the United Kingdom where medical education is part of the university system where higher education is affordable and made accessible to all.

In Norway, medical education is not only free, but students are given scholarships to incentivise them to study.

We need to remember that medical education is tough and becoming a doctor is no cakewalk. It is an arduous task and requires long hours of study and motivation.

Recognised colleges

The Ukrainian colleges are even recognised by the World Health Council and the degrees are also valid in India as Indian Medical Council too recognises them. The Ukrainian medical degrees are also recognised by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, European Council of Medicine and General Medical Council of the United Kingdom, among others.

No entrance exam

Indian students choose Ukraine also because several famous medical schools don't take an entrance exam to provide a seat. Recently, Union parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi had also stated that about 90% of Indians who study medicine abroad fail to clear qualifying exams in India.

Suvendu Adhikari's absence at BJP meet raises eyebrows

Kolkata, March 6: The first meeting of the Bengal BJP on Saturday -after civic poll rout and the feud over its new state committee broke out last December - ended with more confusion as the leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari was absent and MPs Locket Chatterjee and Dilip Ghosh reported expressed displeasure at the party's state leadership during the three-hour closed-door session.

The state BJP convened this meeting to discuss the future course of the party at Calcutta's National Library. Around 100 state BJP leaders attended the session. However, even before the meeting started, a twitter



handle reportedly run by dissident BJP leaders took a dig at leaders.

"Today Amit Malviya, Amitava Chakraborty, Suvendu Adhikari, Arjun Singh, Sukanta Majumdar, Agnimitra Paul gangs of failure will teach the key of success (to) those Bengal BJP leader (who) won 18 Lok Sabha (seats) without

them," a tweet from the handle Save Bengal BJP read.

Others wondered why Suvendu, one of the most important faces of the party in Bengal, was absent.

A state BJP functionary said that dissident BJP leader Jay Prakash Majumdar had reportedly said that a group within the party is trying to downplay Suvendu. Hooghly

MP and one of the state unit's five general secretaries, Locket Chatterjee, reportedly said accusing Trinamul of violence - done by the saffron camp whenever they perform poorly in polls - won't yield much benefit.

"One has to accept weaknesses," she said. "There has been no violence in Purulia, Bishnupur and Bankura... Then why did we perform so badly there?" she asked.

Ghosh the state unit's decision to call for a sudden strike on February 28, to protest against alleged electoral malpractices during the civic polls. He reportedly said this is why the strike was a failure. "We are asking our workers to strengthen booth

level organisations. But do we have a system in place to do that?" Ghosh asked.

All these discussions, a source said, defeated the purpose of the meeting, which was convened to portray a united face of the party in Bengal. The past presidents like Rahul Sinha and Dilip Ghosh shared the stage with the current chief Sukanta Majumdar, the party's co-minder for the state Amit Malviya and the state general secretary (organisation) Amitava Chakraborty and the party's chief whip at the Assembly Manoj Tigga.

In the aftermath of the civic poll debacle, in which the BJP failed to wrest a single municipality, this effort was needed, a source said.

"The attempt just bombed as those at the helm were busy giving excuses or blaming others," a source in the party said.

He gave the example of Majumdar, the state president, who dwelt elaborately on his hypothesis that Trinamul goons carried out false voting for Left nominees to ensure that the BJP's vote percentage was lower than that of the Left.

"On the other hand, Amitabha-da went after the dissidents for their role during the polls... If those at the helm remain busy bickering and rolling out excuses, the situation will only worsen," the source added.

Mukul Arya, India's Palestine Envoy, Found Dead At Indian Mission



Foreign Minister S Jaishankar has expressed shock over the death of the diplomat. "Deeply shocked to learn about the passing away of India's Representative at Ramallah, Shri Mukul Arya," Mr Jaishankar tweeted.

New Delhi, March 7: Mukul Arya, India's representative to Palestine was found dead inside the Indian Mission in Ramallah on Sunday. It was not immediately known how Arya, a 2008-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, died.

Foreign Minister S Jaishankar has expressed shock over the death of the diplomat. "Deeply shocked to learn about the passing away of India's Representative at Ramallah, Shri Mukul Arya," Mr

Jaishankar tweeted.

"He was a bright and talented officer with so much before him. My heart goes out to his family and loved ones. Om Shanti," he said.

The top leadership of Palestine on Sunday expressed shock at the death of Mukul Arya at his workplace. The Palestinian foreign ministry said it received with "great astonishment and shock" the news of the death of Ambassador Arya.

"As soon as this painful news arrived, immediate instructions were issued from President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Muhammad Shtayyeh to all the security, police and public authorities, in addition to the Ministry of Health and Forensic Medicine, to immediately move to the

place of residence of the Indian ambassador to closely monitor the case of death," it said in a statement.

It further added that "all parties are fully prepared to do what is required of them in such difficult and emergency circumstances." "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants expresses its deep sadness, loss and pain at the death of Ambassador Arya," it said.

The ministry said it is in touch with India's external affairs ministry to complete the arrangements for transporting the body of Arya.

It said Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki extended his heartfelt condolences to his Indian counterpart Jaishankar, and through him to the Indian government as well as to Arya's family.

Arya had served in the Indian embassies in Kabul, Moscow as well as at the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi. He also served at India's Permanent Delegation to the UNESCO in Paris. Arya studied economics at the Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University before joining the Indian Foreign Service.

Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray skips PM Modi's Metro inauguration in Pune

While the Shiv Sena cited no reason officially for Thackeray skipping the event, party leaders said that the chief minister wants to send out a strong message to the prime minister against the alleged harassment of Sena and MVA leaders by the Centre.

Pune, March 7: WHILE PRIME Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Pune city on Sunday to inaugurate the 12-km stretch of the Pune Metro, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray decided to stay away from the mega event. Sena's mouthpiece, Saamna, has also completely blacked out the event as it made no mention of the PM slated to inaugurate the Metro rail service.

While the Shiv Sena cited no reason for his skipping the event, party leaders said the CM wants to send out a strong message to the PM that "whatever his government is doing against Sena and MVA leaders, he has not liked it."

PM Modi inaugurated the Pune Metro stretches on two corridors at 11.30 am on Sunday. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and Urban Development Department Minister Eknath Shinde, who is a Sena leader, attended the inauguration ceremony.

When asked about the CM staying away from the event, Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut



said, "The CM skipped the event, but sent our minister Eknath Shinde. In the absence of the CM, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar represented the government."

When asked whether the CM had travel restrictions post his surgery last year, Raut said, "I don't know whether this was the reason. I am not the government spokesperson. This is something which the government should clarify."

Sena leaders claimed the CM did not want to share the dais with PM Modi since his government is targeting the party leaders through investigating agencies. "When Sena leaders are being harassed brazenly by the Modi government through agencies like ED, the CM sharing the dais with the PM is like giving sanctity to the Centre's

actions. The CM wants to express his anger at whatever the Modi government is doing," a senior Sena leader close to Thackeray said.

Another Sena leader said, "The Modi government's relations with all non-BJP governments are deteriorating by the day. For this, no one else can be blamed than the Prime Minister himself. He is leading a government that is targeting opposition leaders through the central agencies. The CM has done the right thing by skipping the event."

While the Sena mouthpiece, Saamana, carried a full front-page advertisement released by the BJP about the inauguration of the event, the newspaper, however, did not carry a word about it in its news column.

Probe ordered after flight ferrying Mamata runs into turbulence



According to sources, the chief minister "hurt her back during the turbulence

and has been advised rest by her doctors."


Kolkata, March 5: The West Bengal government on Friday ordered a probe after a chartered flight ferrying Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from Lucknow to Kolkata ran into major air turbulence.

According to sources, the chief minister "hurt her back during the turbulence and has been advised rest by her doctors." Sources at the Netaji

Subhash Bose International Airport in Kolkata the pilot managed to land the aircraft safely at the airport. The TMC supremo was flying back to Kolkata after winding up her visit to Uttar Pradesh to campaign for the Samajwadi Party (SP) when a sudden drop in altitude owing to turbulence threw her off her seat causing her to hurt her back.

The aircraft was hired by


the state government last year for the CM's visits to different states.

According to sources in the administration, the home department has ordered a probe into the incident and an explanation from the pilot and the chartered flight company why the aircraft faced turbulence as the weather on the route from Lucknow to Kolkata was mostly clear. 

Suffered for placing trust in minorities, says Mayawati

LUCKNOW, March 11: BSP chief Mayawati said on Friday in her first reaction after her party's election debacle that Muslim consolidation behind SP was a key trigger for the shift of other communities towards BJP



and the reason why her core vote bank got split. Admitting BSP had hit its lowest point with just one seat in its kitty and a less than 13% vote share, she said the future held promise for her party as nothing could be worse than the current poll result. Stating that she suffered for placing her trust in the minority community, Mayawati said this was a big lesson for BSP, one that would bring about a strategy change while moving ahead. If Muslim and Dalit votes would have come together in UP, UP would have witnessed a different result. 

4 Benarasi street foods that you should not miss and best places to hog on them

Varanasi is known for its spiritual radiance, but it is also a hub of delicious and unique street food and milk products, some of which are only available during the winter. A trip to Banaras is not complete unless one savours the Food is an indispensable culinary delights of the city. part of Varanasi culture.

Kachori Sabzi



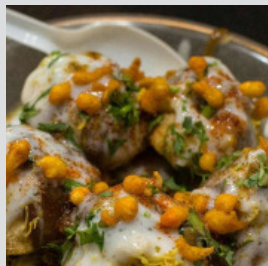
Ram Bhandar, Thatheri Bazaar and Kachori Gali, Varanasi

In Benaras, the most popular breakfast option is kachori sabzi. When visiting, one must forego the usual bread and omelette in favour of the rounded, fluffy

Kachoris served with hot sabzi. Kachoris are of two types: Badi Kachori and Choti Kachori. While Badi Kachori is filled with a spicy lentil mixture called Dal Ki Pithi, Choti Kachori is filled with a spicy mashed potato mixture. The flavorful Kachoris are accompanied by a tangy and aromatic sauce.

Chena Dahi Vada

Chena Dahi Vada is a delectable variation on traditional lentil bhallas. Chena Dahi Vada looks similar to Rasmalai and is typically served with sweet yoghurt sprinkled with a dash of Masala made of jeera and black salt. The coriander garnish adds a refreshing touch. It is a delicious dish to share with friends and family.



Deena Chat Bhandar, Dashashwamedha ghat, Varanasi

Thandai and Lassi

Varanasi is a city that produces a lot of milk and curd, so you'll find them in a lot of their dishes. Thandai is a seasonal fruit puree served in a kulhad with rabri and flavoured with rose essence, ice cream, dry fruits, and nuts. Condiments such as fennel seeds, magaztari seeds, pepper, vetiver seeds, cardamom, and saffron add depth and freshness to the flavours. In addition, lassi is available from early morning until late at night at almost every other street vendor.




Blue Lassi, Varanasi

Malaiyyo

Malaiyyo is a well-kept secret of Varanasi. Makhan Malaiyyo, also known as Nimish, is a popular winter street dessert inspired by Persian cuisine. Saffron and cardamom flavour the milk froth, which is garnished with pistachios and almonds. This creamy froth, served in kulhads, will literally melt in your mouth.

Hundreds of thousands of foreign tourists visit the city each year, and its cuisine is a fusion of the new and the old, the modern and the traditional.

Here we bring you 4 popular street snacks from Benaras and the best places where you can have them if you ever visit the city. These scrumptious street snacks will leave you with lasting food memories, and you must try them. 

From Page-1

Day after BJP's victory...

Modi held a similar roadshow in Surat where he sounded the poll bugle for Gujarat assembly elections that were held in December 2017. That year, he was credited for personally pulling the BJP past the majority mark in the state assembly and beating back a strong challenge from the Congress, which won 77 of the 182 assembly seats, it is the best showing in over two decades.

This time, the Congress looks more listless after having witnessed several desertions and internal dissensions. The BJP virtually changed its entire government in the state last year after ground feedback of anti-incumbency.

Gujarat's politics has remained bipolar for decades, with the Congress and BJP seen as the only real contenders even though the BJP has remained at the helm since 1998. This year, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which won a landslide victory in Punjab assembly elections, will be hoping to make inroads in Gujarat.

Despite its impressive record and strong social coalition in place, the BJP is not taking things for granted and signaled as much by the PM's meet with 400-odd party workers. "Met fellow @BJP4Gujarat leaders and Karyakartas at the state BJP HQ. Discussed how our party organization can serve the people even more effectively and contribute towards national

development," he tweeted after the meeting.

"PM Modi is a charismatic leader and his latest visit to Gujarat has been to draw the masses ahead of the elections. His address to the Panchayat representatives was an emotional appeal where he reached out to them with a list of initiatives. The Congress in Gujarat needs to rebuild itself which is difficult but not impossible. As far as AAP is concerned, they are yet to emerge as a formidable force in Gujarat," said Vidyut Joshi, a political analyst and former vice-chancellor of Bhavnagar University.

In its first major win in civic polls, 27 AAP candidates were elected to the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) in February 2021. While BJP retained power, AAP became the opposition party.

Ukraine ready...

leader Vladimir Putin on Saturday, a German government spokesperson said.

"The conversation is part of ongoing international efforts to end the war in Ukraine," the spokesperson said in a statement.

Scholz had earlier spoken to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy about the situation in Ukraine, according to the statement. The spokesperson added that nothing more could be revealed about their call.

The Kremlin said Putin informed the two leaders about the state of negotiations between Moscow and Kyiv and responded to their concerns about the humanitarian situation in Ukraine. The three leaders have agreed to keep in contact, the Kremlin added.

22 injured...

323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 325 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt), 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty), 333 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt to deter public servant from his duty) and 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty).

According to police officials, eight persons, including two policemen, have sustained grievous injuries and are now under treatment. Banapur police station inspector-in-charge Rashmi Ranjan Sahoo was also injured when he attempted to stop the speeding vehicle of Jagdev.

Meanwhile, BJP state general secretary Prithviraj Harishchandan has demanded immediate arrest of the MLA. Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Niranjan Patnaik tweeted: "This is how BJD treats the common man of Odisha. I am at a loss of words to condemn such a deplorable, inhuman act." The BJD, too, has condemned the incident and asked for strongest action against the accused as per law.

The two-time MLA from Chilika has been termed as a "perpetual offender" by the Opposition. In September last year, he was suspended from the BJD for allegedly assaulting a local BJP leader. In August 2020, he had allegedly misbehaved with a junior engineer working with the Chilika Development Authority. In 2016, he had allegedly attacked a woman tehsildar by throwing a kerosene lantern at her. In July, he had thrashed BJP activists for showing black flags to a BJD leader in Boudh.

Yogi Adityanath, the Sadhu who defied the precedence in UP



Yogi Adityanath (born Ajay Singh Bisht; 5 June 1972) is an Indian Hindu monk and politician serving as the 22nd and current Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, in office since 19 March 2017.

He was appointed as the Chief Minister on 26 March 2017 after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the 2017 State Assembly elections, in which he was a prominent campaigner. He has been the Member of Parliament from the Gorakhpur constituency, Uttar Pradesh, for five consecutive terms since 1998.

Adityanath is also the mahant or head priest of the Gorakhnath Math, a temple in Gorakhpur, a position he has held since the death of his spiritual "father", Mahant Avaidyanath, in September 2014. He is also the founder of Hindu Yuva Vahini, a Hindu nationalist organisation. He has an image of a Hindutva nationalist and a right-wing populist.

Early life and education

Yogi Adityanath was born as Ajay Singh Bisht on

5 June 1972 in the village of Panchur, in Pauri Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh (now in Uttarakhand). His late father, Anand Singh Bisht, was a forest ranger. He was the second born in the family, among four brothers and three sisters. He completed his bachelor's degree in Mathematics from the Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal niversity in Uttarakhand.

He left his home around the 1990s to join the Ayodhya Ram temple movement. Around that time, he also became a disciple of Mahant Avaidyanath, the chief of the Gorakhnath Math. While based in Gorakhpur after his initiation, Adityanath has often visited his ancestral village, establishing a school there in 1998.

Adityanath was promoted to the rank of Mahant or high priest of the Gorakhnath Math after the death of Aavaidyanath on 12 September 2014. He was made Peethadhiswar (Head Seer) of the Math amid traditional rituals of the Nath sect a few days later.

Early political career

Christophe Jaffrelot states that Yogi Adityanath belongs to a specific tradition of Hindutva politics in Uttar Pradesh that can be traced back to the Mahant Digvijay Nath, who led the capture of the Babri Masjid in Ajodhya for Hindus on 22 December 1949. Both Digvijay Nath and his successor Avaidyanath belonged to the Hindu Mahasabha and were elected to the Parliament on that party's ticket. After the BJP and the Sangh Parivar joined the Ayodhya movement in the 1980s, the two strands of Hindu nationalism came together. Avaidyanath switched to the BJP in 1991, but nevertheless maintained significant autonomy. Four years after Adityanath was designated Avaidyanath's successor, he was elected to the Lower House of the Indian Parliament (the Lok Sabha).

After his first electoral win, Adityanath started his own youth organisation Hindu Yuva Vahini, which came to be known for its activities in the eastern Uttar Pradesh and was instrumental in Adityanath's meteoric rise. There have been recurrent tensions between Adityanath and the BJP leadership over the allocation of election tickets. However, the BJP has not let the tensions mount because Adityanath has served as a star campaigner for the party.

In 2006, he took up links between Nepali Maoists and Indian Leftist parties as a key campaign issue and encouraged Madhesi leaders to oppose Maoism in Nepal. In 2008, his convoy was reportedly attacked while en route to

Azamgarh for an anti-terrorism rally. The attack left one person dead and at least six persons injured.

Member of Parliament

Adityanath was the youngest member of the 12th Lok Sabha at 26. He was elected to the Parliament from Gorakhpur for five consecutive terms (in 1998, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014 elections).

Adityanath's attendance in Lok Sabha was 77% and he has asked 284 questions, participated in 56 debates and introduced three private member Bills in the 16th Lok Sabha.

Narendra Modi, Yogi Adityanath, Mohan

dictate terms to the BJP. When his voice was not heard, he revolted by fielding candidates against the official BJP candidates. The most prominent example was the fielding of Radha Mohan Das Agarwal from Gorakhpur on a Hindu Mahasabha ticket in 2002, who then defeated BJP Cabinet minister, Shiv Pratap Shukla by a wide margin. In 2007, Adityanath threatened to field 70 candidates for the state assembly against the BJP candidates. But he reached a compromise in the end. In 2009 Parliamentary elections, Adityanath was rumoured to have campaigned against the BJP candidates.

issued a commitment to pursue the Hindutva goals despite the BJP's claimed "abandonment" of them.

In March 2010, Adityanath was one of the several BJP MPs who defied the party whip on the Women's Reservation Bill in the Parliament.

In 2018, he campaigned for BJP candidate Pratap Puri Maharaj for Rajasthan state assembly election.

Law and Order

Adityanath ordered the forming of quasi-vigilante anti-"romeo" squads. He imposed a blanket ban on cow-smuggling and a stay on UPPSC civil service exam results, exams and interviews until further order. He




Bhagwat and Nrityagopal Das unveiling the plaque to lay the foundation stone of Ram Mandir, in Ayodhya

Relations with the BJP

Adityanath has had strained relations with the BJP for more than a decade. He often derided and undermined the BJP, criticising its dilution of the Hindutva ideology. Having established his own independent power base in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, with the support of the Hindu Yuva Vahini and the Gorakhnath Math, he felt confident to be able to

Despite his periodic revolts, Yogi Adityanath has been kept in good humour by the RSS and the BJP leaders. Deputy Prime Minister L. K. Advani, RSS chief Rajendra Singh and the VHP chief Ashok Singhal have visited him in Gorakhpur. During 22-24 December 2006, Adityanath organised a three-day Virat Hindu Mahasammelan at Gorakhpur at the same time as the BJP National Executive Meet in Lucknow. Despite the conflict, several RSS and VHP leaders attended the Mahasammelan, which

imposed a ban on the vices of tobacco, paan and gutka in government offices across the state, and compelled officials to pledge to devote 100 hours every year for the Swachh Bharat Mission. More than 100 "black sheep" policemen were suspended by the Uttar Pradesh police.

Since 2017 chief minister Adityanath had ordered the closing of many slaughterhouses. As a direct consequence, the tanneries that sourced raw leather from the slaughterhouses were impacted. 

ULB Election in Keonjhar: eyes are on the mineral-rich Joda



From left- Dr Jagdish Sahoo(BJD), Karunakar Patra(Con), Shushant Bebartha(BJP) and RK Das (Ind)

Independent candidates will have significant role. Personal rapport with voters will count much better.

Keonjhar, March 14 : (Rajendra K Sahu) Along with election for the other districts in the state, Chairman of 5 urban bodies (1. Keonjhar Garh, 2. Joda, 3. Barbil, 4. Anandapur, and 5. Champua NAC of Keonjhar district is going to be held on 22nd March 2022

but all eyes are on the outcome of mining dominated Joda Municipality which will pave the way for controlling the mining activities of the area directly or indirectly by the person in power.

While all the major political parties; BJD, BJP, and Congress have fielded their candidates, significantly, the main fight appears to be bipolar,

between BJD and Independent candidate.

Several local BJD leaders like Shushant Kumar Barik, Secretary, Joda Truck owners Association, R.K.Das, Ex-Chairman, Rabi Das, and S.K. Bal were on the race for the post of Chairman, but, ending all speculation, at last, well-known retired physician Dr.Jagdish Prasad Sahoo proved fortunate to be

selected, and filed nomination as the BJD's official candidate.

Similarly, Shushanta Kumar Bebartha (Tiki) and Karunakar Patra (Ex-Chairman) have filed their nomination for the BJP and Congress party respectively.

R.K.Das, Ex-Chairman and S.K.Bala, Ex-Councillor both dissident BJD and Suresh Kumar Jena, Ex-Vice Chairman have filed as Independent candidates.

The total number of voters of Joda Municipality that is consisting of 14 wards is 19,000. Earlier, it was required to get the support of 8 councilors to become Chairman, but now as per the new amendments the Chairman is to be directly elected by the voters; which means the voter has to cast two

votes one for the chairman and the other for the councilors.

Looking at the outcome and trend in the Panchayat elections, it is natural to hope that BJD will do better in the Joda Municipality. But here, things are not moving in the normal direction; the problem lies with the infighting in the over-crowded BJD.

While Dr. Jagdish Sahoo is the official candidate of BJD, R.K.Das, the former Chairman contests as an independent candidate. Das was known as one of the pioneering members of BJD in the mining area of Keonjhar. Sri Das claims to have dethroned the Congress from Joda, and he further claims his developmental works during his short span of office for 2 and a half years are way ahead of that of 50 years of Congress

incumbency.

He claims to be a member of the old guard of the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD. Unprecedented mischievous machinations in the party have deprived him of his right to get the party ticket as the candidate for the Chairman of the Municipality. Contrastingly, Dr.Sahoo is just fresh to the politics, but is confident of a victory in the election with the party symbol and his rapport with local people during his last thirty years of service as a government doctor and is optimistic about the blessings of the people of the town.

However, local elections are mostly fought using on personal relation of the candidates with voters rather than support of the party he belongs to.

BJD's Subash Singh Richest Among Cuttack Mayor Candidates

Bhubaneswar: Senior Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader and party's nominee for the Mayor post of Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), Subash Singh, has emerged as the richest among the three major party candidates

investment bonds worth around Rs 76,76,689. While his spouse's bank balance, insurance cover, and investment bonds are valued at Rs 45,85,045. His immovable assets are worth Rs 77,19,096. He owes a bank loan of around

cover, and investment bonds worth Rs 20,92,031. She has immovable assets worth Rs 75,00,000 and her husband owns properties worth Rs 95,00,000.

BJP candidate Sritam Das comes third on the list with total property worth around Rs 1 crore. It includes bank deposits, insurance cover, and investment bonds valued at Rs 33,66,785; bank deposits, insurance cover, and investment bonds of wife worth Rs 13,68,784; and bank deposits and investment bonds of dependent worth Rs 6,54,987.

Sritam has immovable properties worth Rs 41,90,000, and the properties in his wife's name are worth Rs 4,85,000. As per the declaration, Sritam owes a bank loan of Rs 44,50,000.



contesting for the post.

In his affidavit filed with nomination papers, Subash has mentioned that he owns a total property worth around Rs 2 crore. He has bank deposits, insurance cover, and

Rs 5,96,476.

Congress candidate Giribala Behera has claimed to own a total property worth around Rs 1.9 crore. It includes cash in hand and bank deposits (of her and husband), insurance

Biju Janata Dal's BMC Mayoral Candidate Sulochana Das Richest



Bhubaneswar: Among the 12 candidates who have filed nominations for the post of Mayor in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Biju Janata Dal's (BJD's) candidate Sulochana Das is the richest.

As per the affidavit submitted by Das, the combined value of assets possessed by her and her spouse Prafulla Das is worth Rs 1, 82, 60,338. While her assets have been valued at Rs 26,32,816, her husband Prafulla Das's assets have been valued at Rs 61,27,522.

The aforementioned assets include bank deposits, deposits with LIC, Post

Office, etc.

She has no landed property in her name. However, her spouse Prafulla Das has a flat in his name at Nandadevi VIP Enclave estimated to be valued at Rs 85 lakh. While she owns an Activa scooter in her name, her spouse possesses a Renault Duster car.

On the other hand, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Suniti Mund is also a crorepati as revealed from the affidavit submitted by her.

Mund has declared the value of her assets at Rs 1,80,26,71. While she has deposits worth Rs 12,02,671 in various banks, Post offices

and bonds, the estimated value of a flat at Sidhi Binayak Residency in Jharpada has been declared as Rs 60 lakh.

She has declared the estimated value of landed property in her name at Gopinathpur mouza at Rs 18 lakh. She has stated to possess a Maruti Suzuki car. Similarly, Congress candidate Madhusmita Acharya is the poorest among the three. She has declared the value of assets in her possession at Rs 13, 13,606. She has deposits worth Rs 12, 31,506 in her name. On the other hand, her spouse Jitendra Panda has Rs 82,100 bank deposit in his name.

Chaman Bahaar



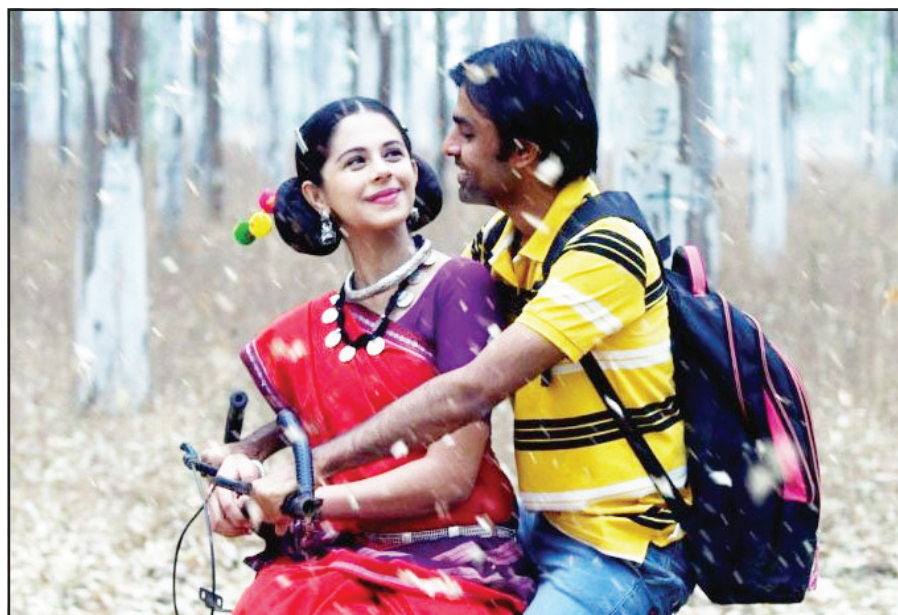
CAST Jitendra Kumar, Ritika Badiani, Alam Khan
DIRECTION Apurva Dhar Badgayan
GENRE Comedy
DURATION 1 hours 51 minutes
Critic's Rating 3.0/5
Heartbreak with a dash of comedy

written and directed the film, has kept a realistic hold on the proceedings. The film doesn't have a Bollywood treatment, where the girl and the boy overcome class differences and run away together. Don't expect a David Dhawan formula here. He doesn't suddenly become the hero and makes the girl go gaga over him. The romance takes place in Billu's imagination. He's a simple, semi-literate paan vendor, who does get a serious bout of infatuation but nothing happens beyond that. He employs divide and rule tactics to get rid of the opposition but that's his naivete at play here. He hasn't yet grown up to the realities of life but learns

of the film.

The director hails from Bilaspur and the film has been shot in Chhattisgarh. The setting is just right and the use of real locations lends it an air of authenticity. The small-

of a small-town guy in his various comedy shows. He totally looked the part in his hit series Panchayat and aced the look here as well. In Panchayat, he played an educated young man forced by



a lot through his experience of falling in one-sided love. He gets physically sick when he finally understands that Rinku is leagues above him. It's a sobering moment for him and easily the best scene

town stalker behaviour has been captured correctly. On the minus side, we don't get to see Rinku's reaction to the constant fleet of stalkers she has been attracting. She seems to be oblivious to it all. We don't even catch a glimpse of her feelings when she unwittingly becomes the focus of malicious gossip. We aren't shown what her parents must be going through and all this that leaves a glaring gap in the story. The film is a tad slow, especially in the beginning. It takes a while to get going but keeps you engaged after the initial hiccups.

Jeetendra Kumar has sort of perfected the role

circumstances to become an administrative assistant to a sarpanch. Here, the lack of education is the main cause of angst. He's forced to open a small shop as he has no other means to support himself. The actor takes us through denial, heartbreak and acceptance of his lot in life. Jeetendra essays the role with the natural finesse he's known for. The film's screenplay lacks the flair we have come to expect from his projects. Despite the flaws, the film does offer you a fresh take on unrequited love. The director should be lauded for not going for a Bollywood ending.



Chaman Bahaar is the story of Billu (Jeetendra Kumar), whose father and grandfather have been forest guards. He too wanted to carry on the tradition but an encounter with a bear scarred him for life. He decides to open a paan shop but to his misfortune, the road where the shop is situated starts seeing less traffic as the district headquarter gets shifted. But his fortune changes when the family of a high-ranking government officer comes and stays in the bungalow opposite his shop. They have a teenage daughter Rinku (Ritika Badlani) and soon all the young men in town develop the hots for her. A rivalry plays out between the son of a local politician Shiladitya Tiwari (Alam Khan) and a rich businessman Ashu Bhaiya (Ashwani Kumar)

-- which is milked to the hilt by Somu (Bhuvan Arora) and Chhotu (Dherendra Kumar Tiwari), two slackers who survive by fooling people. After a while, Billu doesn't like the fact that young men keep coming to his shop in order to catch a glimpse of Rinku as he too has fallen for her. Apurva Dhar Badgaiyann, who has both

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