

CIJ accepts results 'positively', says "people want us to do some course correction"

BHUBANESWAR, FEB 27 /-/ Taking the verdict of the Odisha panchayat polls "positively", chief minister and ruling BJD president Naveen Patnaik today said people want some course correction in the functioning of the party and the government.

"We accept the verdict of people with all humility and very positively. They (people) are generally happy with our performance but want us to do some course correction," Patnaik said a day after the results of the

Zilla Parishad polls held across the state in five phases were announced. Though the ruling party won 180 Zilla Parishad seats less than in the 2012 rural polls, the BJD president, reacting to the poll result for the first time, said, "I am grateful to the people for having faith in BJD and giving it absolute majority with 56 per cent of seats." The party's candidates have done well in most districts, but in some they performed less than what was expected, he said.

"People have given us a

golden opportunity for serious introspection; they want us to perform and deliver. I am thankful to the people of Odisha for such clarity in their verdict," he said, adding.

Odisha panchayat polls

ing BJD would review its performance "very seriously". Patnaik said he would make suitable correctives both in terms of government and organisational issues.

"We shall work harder, recom-

ment with the people to fulfill their expectations. I am confident that Biju Janata Dal will return to office again in 2019 with a thumping majority with the blessings of the people by virtue of our good work," he said. The chief minister congratulated the elected members of the panchayati raj institutions (PRI) and asked them to work hard by improving governance and strengthening the PRIs.

Patnaik also congratulated the people of Odisha for coming out in large numbers

and exercising their franchise freely and fearlessly during the polls.

BJD secured 473 zilla parishad seats followed by the BJP which had a haul of 297 seats. Congress was pushed to the third position with 60 seats. Among other parties, CPI(M) secured 27 seats, while the CPM, JMM and Ama Odisha Party got one seat each. Independent candidates won in 11 seats. Out of the total 853 Zilla Parishad zones in the state, the elections this time were held in 846.

SAARC conclave on legal issues held

PRASHANT ACHARYA

SILIGURI, FEB 27 /-/ A two-day SAARC Legal Conclave session concluded on Sunday evening at the Indian Institute of Legal Studies in Dagapur Siliguri. The issues discussed at the session were improved connectivity between SAARC countries, various international issues and legal education. Notable personalities from several fields were

also felicitated followed by a panel discussion - Legal Education and Practice - where a number of international issues were discussed.

The chief guest of the event was Supreme Court Justice, Pinaki Chandra Ghosh. Bombay High Court Chief Justice, Manjula Cellur, was also present. The event culminated with a colourful cultural programme showcased by students of IILS.

Lizard smuggler, buyers held

SILIGURI, FEB 27 /-/ The Bagdogra police on Sunday arrested three persons following a tip-off in connection with the smuggling of a rare species of lizard.

The arrested included a wildlife smuggler and two customers and they were nabbed near a petrol pump in lower Bagdogra. The lizard, measuring 16 inches and weighing 200 grams, was also recovered from the trio.

Police sources said Narayan Oraon of Chalsa had smuggled the animal from the Doora region to sell to potential customers Chandrakumar Chhetri and Bal Krishna. The price of the lizard is pegged at more than Rs 40 lakh in the grey market, they added.

The lizard has been handed over to the forest department. (EOIC)

Student death

SILIGURI, FEB 27 /-/ A school going student allegedly committed suicide on Sunday by hanging himself at his residence in the Samarnagar area of Siliguri. The Pradhan Nagar police took into custody the body of Biswajit Roy (19) from his house that falls under Ward 46 of the Siliguri Municipal Corporation upon being informed by his parents. Biswajit was a student of Class 12 at Margaret School in Siliguri. The body has been sent to the North Bengal Medical College and Hospital for a post-mortem. According to sources, the boy may have taken the extreme step unable to cope with examination pressure. (EOIC)

Humour flows in Assam House as Speaker says he does not have any dress code

GUWAHATI, FEB 27 /-/ Assam assembly today had its moments of humour when a member of the ruling coalition brought up the subject of clothes and dress code for members. Hitendra Nath Goswami's official dress code. As soon as the question hour was over, Bodoland Peoples Front's (BPF) MLA Kamalshankar Narzary asked the speaker about his dress code and pointed out some other members' dressing inside the house. "Is there any dress code for the speaker? If yes, then why do you not wear it?" asked Narzary, which made the entire House burst into laughter. Replying to the member's query with a smile, Goswami said: "There is no dress code for me. Today it is hot and so I am wearing only the shirt. I have left my coat." Goswami, who took charge on January 30 this year, usually comes to the assembly in formal trousers and shirt and sometimes wears the traditional Jambhar coat. He has also been seen presiding over the house in a formal coat and tie. "We see some members coming to the House wearing a T-shirt. What is this sir? Is this allowed," Narzary asked and again there was laughter. To this, Goswami replied: "We should dress well while coming to the House." (PTI)

Bihar govt presents Rs 1.60 lakh crore budget in Assembly

PATNA, FEB 27 /-/ The Bihar government today presented a Rs 1.60 lakh crore budget for 2017-18 with no proposals of any fresh tax. Presenting revenue surplus budget of Rs 14555.59 crore in the state assembly, finance minister Abdul Bari Siddiqui said: "We have presented a Budget expenditure of Rs 1,60,085.69 crore for 2017-18 which is Rs 15389.42 crore more than the current year's budget estimate of Rs 1,44,696.27 crore."

"We have not proposed any fresh taxes in the budget," Siddiqui told newsmen later after the budget presentation. The state's fiscal deficit has been estimated at Rs 18,112 crore, which is 2.87 per cent of the gross state domestic product (GSDP) estimated at Rs 632180.00 crore.

"We (the state government) have maintained fiscal prudence despite Centre's apathetic attitude towards Bihar with plenty of problems that plagued the state like de-monetisation, change in funding pattern of central schemes, state not getting special package or special category status," the minister said in his speech. Had the Centre accorded Bihar special category status and implemented special package as announced by the Centre, Bihar would have prospered, he said. The budget also mentioned the state government facing difficulties due to de-monetisation. "We never faced such a situation in our life when we had to face currency crunch for 100 days that adversely affected employment, income, expenditure and daily life of the people in the state. This happened because we have an economy run on 94 per cent cash."

MoS rail visits Metro Rly, stresses upon passenger's safety



KOLKATA, FEB 27 /-/ Rajen Gohain, minister of state for railways visited Metro Railway, Kolkata today and held a high level meeting at Metro Rail Bhavan with M C Chauhan, general manager and senior officers of Metro Railway.

Chauhan updated Gohain about the various developments including ongoing projects of Metro Railway. The minister laid emphasis on increasing earnings through non-fare revenue sources and advised to explore all possibilities to achieve the same.

He also advised Metro Railway to take effective measures to reduce the expenditure accordingly. He also spoke of installing more solar power plants at different Metro Stations, which will lead to reduction of Electricity Bill.

Bihar Assembly witnesses NDA protest over paper leak

PATNA, FEB 27 /-/ Bihar Assembly today witnessed vociferous protest by NDA members demanding CBI enquiry into the paper leak scam in clerical grade examination of Bihar State Service Commission (BSSC).

They were also demanding the sacking of ministers reported to have sent recommendation to the BSSC chairman in favour of their candidates. As the House sat for the day, Leader of Opposition Prem Kumar demanded suspension of the Question Hour to take up the urgent matter of the paper leak in BSSC exam. With the Speaker refusing to accept the plea citing that it was not in accordance with rules and it was not the right time for

raising it, BJP and its NDA allies trooped into the Well and demanded a CBI probe and the sacking of the ministers. The Question Hour continued despite slogan shouting by the opposition members. NDA members whose names were called out for raising questions did not do so and remained in the Well.

The Opposition protest intensified subsequently and before the House was adjourned till 2 pm, some members upturned Assembly reporters' table forcing the staff to vacate their seat and also flew order papers in the air. The protest gained momentum when chief minister Nitish Kumar arrived in the House. The Speaker urged the agitating members

Manipur Assembly polls

Ibobi hopes to raise margin from Thoubal, Sharmila vows to fight

THOUBAL, FEB 27 /-/ With Manipur going to the poll later this week, all eyes are on Thoubal constituency where the activist-turned-politician from Sharmila is contesting against three-time chief minister O Ibobi Singh.

Election will be held in the constituency on Feb 28, the second of the two-phase poll. Thoubal constituency, one of the 10 constituencies in Thoubal district, having an electorate of 27,728, has been a Congress bastion and is the backyard of Ibobi Singh, a two-time MLA from the seat since 2007.

Besides being the district which houses the Assembly constituency of the chief minister, the constituency has an unofficial tag of being a VIP district as well. According to residents and Congress leaders of the state, every household in Thoubal constituency has got a job from the Ibobi government, every household has all basic facilities like drinking water and power supply which even certain parts of Manipur do not

have. "During regular rfsking at various checkpoints, the state police handles a person with care if he says he is from Thoubal. In Thoubal, the fight is not about whether Singh wins or loses, the fight is to increase the 2012 margin," a district Congress leader asserted.

Ibobi Singh had won the seat by a margin of more than 16,000 votes by defeating his nearest BJP rival in 2012. Thoubal shares its border with as many as five other districts and the general sentiment in the air is that the chief minister is not only inebriate in Thoubal constituency but also in the rest of the nine seats in the district. Apart from the candidates of TMC, BJP and an independent, the constituency will also witness from Sharmila debuting in electoral politics as a candidate of her newly formed party Peoples' Resurgence and Justice Alliance (PRJA). On being asked to react on Ibobi Singh contesting from his seat, Ibobi Singh said, "Everyone has the right to contest. My best wishes are with her."

Sharmila refuses security escort provided by state

IMPHAL, FEB 27 /-/ From Sharmila Chanu today refused to accept the security escort provided to her by the state authorities under the direction of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Sharmila told news agency PTI that she has no enmity with anyone and has "nothing to fear about." The former iconic human rights figure said she does not rights to accept the security escort provided by the state, being surrounded by armed forces and wants to be with the people. On the other

hand, additional chief secretary J Suresh Babu said: "The state authorities are doing their part as the ECI has directed them to provide security to Sharmila as she travels alone almost all the time." "Security has been provided to Sharmila for her own safety," he told the news agency. Meanwhile, Erendro, convenor of Sharmila's party People's Resurgence and Justice Alliance (PRJA) said six personnel from the state armed forces were provided for her

CHANGE OF NAME

I. SUSHMI GHOSE D/O LATE SAMARENDRA NATH GHOSE, ALIAS SAMARENDRA NATH GHOSH, ALIAS MANTU GHOSE, R/O C/A/C, CHITLA HAT ROAD, P O + P S - A L I P O R E I, KOLKATA-700027, /WO SANDEEP MUKHERJEE, I HAVE BEEN DIVORCE (MAT SUIT NO. 1461/14) ON 18/3/2015 AS PER DECREE, IN THE COURT OF LD. DISTRICT JUDGE AT ALIPORE, ON 10/20/2017 VIDE AFFIDAVIT BEFORE 1ST CLASS JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT ALIPORE COURT, DECLARE THAT NOW I AM ESTABLISHED AGAIN IN MY PREVIOUS NAME AND SURNAME AS SUSHMI GHOSE INSTEAD OF SUSHMI MUKHERJEE IN ALL DOCUMENTS.

Change of Name

I. MD. FARUQUE ANSARI SON OF AZIZUL KHATOON RESIDENT OF 77B/26/8, GARDEN REACH, B.N.R., PS-WEST PORT, KOLKATA-700043, SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS MD. FARUQUE ANSARI SON OF AZIZAN KHATOON VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC KOLKATA ON 21/12/2017.

THE ECHO OF INDIA DOES NOT STAND LIABLE FOR ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTENTS OF ANY AND ALL ADVERTISEMENTS CARRIED IN THE PUBLICATION.

Cong questions CM's silence over PM's 'anti-Odisha' remarks, BJD seeks apology from Modi

BHUBANESWAR, FEB 27 /-/ Odisha Assembly today witnessed a protest against Narendra Modi's alleged "anti-Odisha" remark with Congress questioning chief minister Naveen Patnaik's silence on the issue and ruling BJD demanding an apology from the Prime Minister.

Modi's remark on Odisha's poverty at an election rally in Uttar Pradesh continued to rock the Assembly for the second day with Leader of Opposition Narasingha Mishra of Congress raising the matter during Zero Hour. "This House should condemn Prime Minister's remark. How could the Prime Minister not know about Odisha's poverty though BJP was in coalition government with BJD in the state and Modi has been in office for three years," Mishra said. Raising question on Patnaik's silence on Modi's "anti-Odisha" remark, Mishra said "the chief minister has not uttered a single word so far even as his party members are creating ruckus in the Assembly. I do not understand Patnaik's silence."

Blaming both the BJD and the BJP for the prevailing

poverty in Odisha, Mishra said "the NDA government led by BJP has stopped several welfare schemes meant for poor people of Odisha. What prompted you to stop schemes like BRGF (backward region grant fund), IAP (integrated action plan) and others." Claiming that Modi's remark has severely hurt the people of the State, Mishra said the Prime Minister had no right to insult Odisha at a public meeting in Uttar Pradesh. "He (PM) was trading with poverty and miseries of Odisha. This is unfortunate and condemnable," Mishra said, adding that the intention of Modi was nothing but to humiliate the people of Odisha. Congress chief Tarapurad Bahinipati said many people from the Kalahandi, Balangir, Koraput (KBR) region migrated elsewhere after the Centre stopped several welfare schemes.

The NDA government had also changed the fund sharing pattern between the Centre and the state on different schemes. "A resolution should be passed in the Assembly condemning the Prime Minister's statement," he said.



Former Bihar Chief Minister and IAM(S) chief Jitan Ram Manjhi interacting with mediapersons during ongoing Budget Session of Bihar Assembly in Patna.