

Assembly Elections Results LIVE

Four-one for BJP, including prize state UP; AAP sweeps Punjab

New Delhi (KCN): The BJP raced towards a second straight win in politically crucial Uttar Pradesh and dominated the score chart in three other states while the Aam Aadmi Party announced its national presence with a landslide victory in Punjab, its triumph redrawing India's political map and diminishing the Congress even further. The BJP was also ahead in Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa, according to trends and results on the Election Commission website. The Congress' epitaph was written on the electoral battlefield.

The party, now in power only in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, an all-time low, lost Punjab and was ahead in only two seats in Uttar Pradesh, notwithstanding the high-decibel campaign by the Gandhi siblings Rahul and Priyanka. But all eyes were on key electoral battleground Uttar Pradesh where the Yogi Adityanath-led government was pitching for a second consecutive term in power. This will be the first time in over three decades that a party will get re-elected for a second term in the state.

The BJP is heading for a victory in Manipur and retain power for the second successive term winning 28 seats and leading in four others so far in the election to the 60-member assembly. Congress will continue to fulfil duty as combative opposition in UP: Priyanka Gandhi. After it suffered a crushing defeat in the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, Congress general secretary in-charge of the state Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday said party workers and leaders worked hard but failed to convert that into votes, and asserted that the Congress would continue to fulfil its duty as a combative opposition. Punjab poll results signal 'endgame' for Congress: Ashwani Kumar. Former Congress leader Ashwani Kumar, who quit the party ahead of the Punjab Assembly polls, on Thursday said the state election results signal the "endgame" for the grand old party and the emergence of an alternative political narrative in the country. AAP headquarters comes to life: Workers celebrate 'Jeet Ki Holi', dance to Punjabi songs. While addressing AAP leaders and workers at the party headquarters, Kejriwal asked them to practice 'politics of love' and said coming days belong to India.

Poll results show people's support for BJP's pro-poor, pro-active governance: PM Narendra Modi. PM Narendra Modi said Uttar Pradesh has given many prime ministers but for the first time, it has reelected a chief minister after he had served a full term. Elated by poll results, BJP members raise 'Jai Shri Ram' slogan in Madhya Pradesh Assembly. Buoyed by the BJP's performance in the elections of four states, including Uttar Pradesh, some BJP MLAs on Thursday raised 'Jai Shri Ram' slogan in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly to express their happiness over the poll results.

With the BJP having put up an impressive show in four out of the five states that went to polls recently, Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb on Thursday asserted that people have reposed their faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot said the party accepts the mandate of assembly elections held in five states. Reacting to the election results of five states, the senior Congress leader also extended wished to all those who have won the elections.

Massive support for BJP in 4 states stamp of approval for PM Modi's schemes: JP Nadda. Crediting Narendra Modi for the BJP's victory in four assembly elections, BJP chief JP Nadda on Thursday said the people's massive support to the party shows their stamp of approval for the prime minister's schemes and policies. After the historic victory, leaders including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and JP Nadda along PM Modi will address the BJP workers at the party headquarters now. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath lauds Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the victory. CM Yogi Adityanath and other BJP leaders play holi, celebrate and greet party workers at the party office in Lucknow. BJP wins 20 seats, Congress wins 9 and leads on 2, Maharashtra Gomantak and AAP win 2 each, Goa Forward Party and Revolutionary Goans Party win 1 each & Independent 3. Official EC trends for Manipur Election shows BJP wins 15 seats and leads on 14, Congress wins 3 and leads on 1, Janata Dal (United) wins 5 and leads on 2. AAP wins 79 and leads on 13, Congress wins 13 and leads on 5, Shiromani Akali Dal leads on 3, BJP on 2 and BSP & Independent win 1 each.

For me, the results are very surprising. I cannot understand that after such massive inflation, if this was

the public's mandate, what is the definition of public welfare and social justice? I can't understand people saying 'BJP zindabaad' after this, says Congress leader Harish Rawat.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav wins by 60,000 votes in Karhal. SP's Kishan Dikshit leads by 2000 plus votes in Varanasi Dakshini after 18th round. The seat which houses the most prominent temples, including the Kashi Vishwanath Dham Corridor has been BJP's bastion since 1989. It's one of the five assembly segments of PM Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi. Meanwhile, sitting BJP MLA and UP minister Neelkanth Tiwari is facing high anti-incumbency on the seat.



Creating a record in India, BJP's Pankaj Singh win his Noida seat by a record margin of 1,79,500.

The victory in these states wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of our party workers. Bulldozer has become a symbol of uprooting mafias and criminals. We'll further implement PM Narendra Modi's welfare policies in Uttar Pradesh, says Union Minister Anurag Thakur on assembly election. AAP Chief Minister candidate from Dhuri, Bhagwant Mann wins with a margin of 58,206 votes. Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi has



lost the election from both the seats that he contested-Chamkaur Sahib and Bhadaur.

I will take oath as the CM in Bhagat Singh's village Khatkarkalan, not at the Raj Bhawan: AAP's Bhagwant Mann, at Sangrur. "No government office will have Chief Minister's photos, there will be pictures of Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Babasaheb Ambedkar," he added.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama loses from Khatima seat. Though ECU is yet to confirm this officially. Former CM Harish Rawat also loses from Lalkuwa state assembly constituency. In Chandauli, which is defence minister Rajnath Singh's district, BJP leads on three seats (Mughalsarai, Chakia and Saiyadraja), while SP leads in Sakaldaha. Close contest in Saiyadraja, where sitting BJP MLA and jailed mafioso Brijesh Singh's nephew Sushil Singh is locked in a fierce fight with SP's Manoj Singh.

AAP leading on 91 seats, Congress on 17 seats, SAD 6 seats, BJP 2 seats and other 1 seat. As per trends issued by the Election Commission of India of all 117 assembly seats of Punjab.

Former five-time Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal lost from Lambi while Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal lost from Jalalabad. Jeevan Jyot Kaur of AAP wins Amritsar (East) defeating political biggies like Punjab Congress President Navjot Singh Sidhu and senior SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia. Independent candidate Rana Inder Partap Singh wins from Sultanpur Lodhi. AAPCM candidate Bhagwant Mann and his mother Harpal Kaur share an emotional moment as they greet the party workers and supporters in Sangrur. Dhan Singh Rawat could be the new Chief Minister as defeat if incumbent Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama looks imminent, said sources from the BJP. In Mau district, SP and allies lead on

three seats, while the BJP leads only in Madhuvan seat. Jailed mafioso Mukhtar Ansari's skeet shooter son Abbas Ansari leading by 8,000 votes in Mau Sadar. In Jaunpur district, out of the nine seats, SP+ leads on 6 seats and BJP+ on 3 seats.

BJP and ally Apna Dal lead on all eight seats of Varanasi district. Close contest in Rohaniya between AD (S), while UP minister leads by around 7,000 votes in Varanasi South (also known as Kashi ki Ayodhya). In adjoining Ghazipur district, SP and allies lead on six out of seven seats, while BJP leads only on Ghazipur Sadar seat. The SBSP chief OP Rajbhar's lead, however, narrows down with every successive round in Jahoorabad. He is leading now by 2000 plus votes. In Uttarakhand, the BJP is leading on 48 seats, Congress on 19 seats. Counting on 70 state assembly seats on. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama trails by 4081 votes. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was heading for a landslide victory and leading by over 50,000 votes from Gorakhpur Urban seat on Thursday.

While Adityanath was watching the poll outcome from his official residence in Lucknow, his supporters at the Gorakhpur Math and also at the party office had already started celebrating his and the BJP's victory in the state. Pankaj Singh of BJP in Noida leads by a margin of 75,000 votes. Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi trails in Bhadaur (by 22,843 votes) and Chamkaur Sahib (by 2671 votes) as per official EC trends.

I feel the BJP cadre hasn't accepted me into the party. I look at it in that way. If he (Utpal Parrikar) can get so many votes, it's just because the cadre shifted

and after the counting and has withdrawn the blanket ban on victory procession."

While announcing the poll schedule for Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Goa and Punjab, the Election Commission had issued guidelines to regulate various aspects of elections, including victory processions amid the pandemic.

"During the period of elections as the COVID situation improved, the Commission gradually relaxed the norms concerning electioneering in consultation with the Union Health Ministry and state governments," the statement said.

The relaxation will be subject to existing instructions of state disaster management authorities and preventive measures imposed by concerned district authorities, it added.

The BJP parliamentary board, its apex organisational body, is likely to meet later on Thursday to review the party's performance in assembly polls in five



states as initial trends projected a thumping victory for the party in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to address party workers at the BJP headquarters in the evening, sources said.

As votes were counted for elections to five states on Thursday, early trends showed the BJP set for victory in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and was ahead in Manipur and Goa.

The Aam Aadmi Party appeared set for a landslide win in Punjab.

Top party leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and party president J P Nadda, will be attending the parliamentary board meeting, which is likely to be held after the results of assembly polls become more clear, they said.

With the BJP leaving its rivals comfortably behind in states like Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand in the initial rounds of vote counting, its leaders credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance model for the expected win and said "new history" is being created in UP.

Party general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi asserted that people have expressed their faith in the policies ushered in by Modi. Trivedi said the BJP will end up winning close to 300 seats and asserted that what is clear is that a new history is being created in Uttar Pradesh. It has never happened in India's largest and politically most important state that a chief minister is set to come back to power with a majority after serving a full term as the head of a government with full majority. Several BJP leaders also lauded Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for effectively implementing welfare policies and providing an efficient and clean governance.

Many party leaders simply tweeted "Jai Shri Ram" to hail the trends projecting a big win for the party which is also ahead in Goa and Manipur.

"The silent BJP voter gives the loudest message on poll day," BJP youth wing president Tejasvi Surya tweeted. The Election Commission website showed that the BJP is leading in nearly 250 seats in the 403-member assembly and around 44 in the 70-member Uttarakhand assembly.

If BJP forms the government and Yogi Adityanath becomes CM, history will be created in UP where no CM has returned to power for second consecutive term after successfully completing a five-year term. He is leading by 34,000 votes in Gorakhpur urban Keshav Maurya, a prominent backward caste leader in BJP, is facing tough fight from SP's Pallavi Patel who belongs to Apna Dal (Kamerawadi), the other faction of Apna Dal (S). Pallavi is the elder sister of Apna Dal (S) leader Anupriya Patel. Pallavi comes from Kurmi backward caste and is believed to be cashing in on the division of Kurmi votes in Sirathu. BJP leader Satpal Maharaj flies to Delhi to lobby for himself for the CM post as Chief Minister Dhama trails and likely to lose.

UP Deputy CM Keshav Maurya trails behind by over 2100 votes in Sirathu. Yogi Adityanath leads by over 30000 votes in Gorakhpur Urban.

BJP leads in all eight seats in Varanasi, parliamentary constituency of PM Narendra Modi.

Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal is trailing behind Jagroop CONTINUED ON: P-5

The Neelam Foundation celebrated International Women's Day

Rourkela (KCN): "Behind every successful woman is her-

heartedly trained and guided the women with theory as well as

cused on prioritizing their health and self care and Dr Daulat



self first "the saying comes true when there is Elevation, Emancipation and Empowerment in women . To further nurture it ,The Neelam Foundation stood up together with its team on this International Women's Day on 8th March 2022 , to applaud the sincere efforts of the teachers who had been contributing to the society by imparting values and education over the years amidst diversity. The Neelam Foundation felicitated all the lady teachers and staff of Koel Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir, Sector 20, with trophies and certificates. Focusing on the upliftment and empowerment of the rural women residing nearby ,The Neelam Foundation organized a workshop on the skill development of women by training them in tailoring. The instructor, Parvati Devi whole-

practical . The workshop was very lively as the trainees participated with much enthusiasm. The Chief Guest of the program was Prafulla Kumar Swain , Principal of Koel Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir ,who felicitated the instructor and the trainees with Memento and certificates. He elaborated on the various challenges of everyday life and means to combat it . " The role of a teacher is to shape the minds of the younger generation. Teachers contribute immensely in the development of a healthy and peaceful society was told by the Vice Chairperson of TNF , Gracy David . She also emphasized on encouraging and motivating each other in the journey of life while addressing the women .The Chief executive members Dr Amit Das ,Gynecologist,Laproscopey Surgeon and Infertility Specialist, fo-

Saraf, Orthopedic surgeon applauded the determination and dedication of the teachers who leave no stone unturned for achieving effective teaching -learning goals , while felicitating teachers . The executive members Rupesh Agarwal, Laxmi Abi, Sharda Dhal, Biswaranjan Maharana , Chandrama Das interacted with all the trainees to make them understand gender equality and the need of self -dependency.Abhilash Rout, Secretary of The Neelam Foundation, co ordinated the entire program and briefed by saying " women empowerment can be established by promoting women's sense of self worth ,their own choices and their right to influence social change for themselves and others ." International Women's Day program was presided by the Chairperson,

Pratima Sahoo, who herself believes that failure is important to identify the significance of success in our lives and to further sustain it . Unless we fail we can't stand . Life is a roller coaster ride , it's a mix bag of surprises compromising of failure and success both but then whatever we face, we have to strive forward for a better cause and this can be achieved when we overcome our shortcomings and our way of looking at things ,which often holds us back . Identifying and exploring our own hidden potential is the basic need, which can give us a thrust and a platform too. As we are in the age of " Gender equality for a sustainable tomorrow " we need to acknowledge the abilities within ourselves and let the fire keep burning to stand shoulder to shoulder . The more united and supportive we would be amongst each other, the more stronger would be our evolution. Along with this she believes, that a "successful woman has a man behind her " (and the vice-versa) may be in any form ,father ,brother, husband, friend, for which we should be really thankful to them . Sailesh Pati, the Chief Advisor of The Neelam Foundation, applauded and encouraged the ladies and the entire team who took upto acknowledge and commemorate the achievements of the women.

Poor Traffic Management envisage inconvenient to general public

Barbil (KCN): Irrespective of all companies including local leaders, the administration and even the general public has lost their sense of responsibility in a race to earn money. Hence Traffic problems and accidents have become commonplace in all parts of the Joda Barbil mining areas. Truckers are using two of the four lanes from Bhadrasahi to Kiriburu chowk of Barbie town as this place is assigned by the administration for their parking. Being the area close to

Barbil police station and adjacent to the office of Barbil police SDPO,the trucks parking on the road must not be foresight. Today's incident is a powerful example of this. Students from many villages, such as Uliburu and

such a way that no one can go to school as the bus does not appear to have arrived. Today, many children had examination and children could not attend the examination. Despite request of students and their guardian no one from plants take any action to streamline the traffic problem. The students and their guardians were outraged demonstrating strike in front of company gate. Villagers warned that lack of sense of social responsibility and their such reckless activities would cost the company in the future.



Soka Gakkai contributes 260,000 US Dollars to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency for Ukrainian Refugees

Kolkata (KCN): On donated ₹30m



Mar. 10, contributing (US\$260,000) to humanitarian assistance to Ukrainians forced to flee their homes. Soka Gakkai, United Nations Refugee Agency. As Buddhists, Soka Gakkai members are offering fervent prayers for the quickest possible end to the crisis in Ukraine and a return to peace and safety for all affected by violent conflict around the world. The Soka Gakkai is a global community-based Buddhist organization that promotes peace, culture and education centered on respect for the dignity of life. Its members study and put into practice the humanistic philosophy of Nichiren Buddhism

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Odisha college library association celebrated PR Day

Khordha(KCN): On the occasions of Panchayat Raj Divas Odisha College Li-

been revised. In view of the specific recommendations made by the central pay com-



mission for this particular class of post's it is essential in the interest of uniformity to fit in all the posts of librarians is one of the standard scales applicable to such post's. Librarians in different parts of Odisha were participated in this meeting. State Secretary Pradeep Sahoo Coordinated the programme. Librarian Garib Salma, Krushna Chandra Pradhan, Dinabandhu Parida, Debendra Mohanty, Dr. Mahendra Biswal, Siba Prasad Sahoo, Susanta Kumar Rout, Bijaya Dhal, Susmita Nayak, Arjuna Khatua among others were present.

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Young man arrested for harassing a minor girl

Barbil, March 11 (KCN) - 23-year-old



Amit Mundari of Saitan Hatting in Barbil Thakurani area

has been arrested on the basis of allegations made by a minor in the area. As per information the accused has been illicit physical relationship with the complainant .As a result, the minor became pregnant. Fearing public embarrassment, she asked Amit to marry, but Amit refused to marry and threatened to kill her. Based on the complain of the girl, Barbil police arrested Amit under POSCO act, Section 6 of IPC 376 (3) / 506 and forwarded him to court..

Women should be supported in every aspect of our lives- Jayanti Das

Rourkela (KCN): The Sagarika welfare

women about safety and empowerment.

women in every sphere. They praised

Women's Day' celebrations marks an occasion to celebrate the progress made towards achieving gender equity, equality and women's empowerment. The program was organised with Chief guest Harihar Routray, guest of honour Aarta Maharana, Aarati choudhry at sector 6, saralamandir of Rourkela. The president of Sagarika welfare trust Jayanti Das said that Women should be supported in every aspect of our lives. Government officials and administration and everyone should regularly help and support for empowerment, awareness, safety and security of women.



trust celebrated the International Women's Day on 8th March.As a part of the celebration for International Women's Day, they organized program and awarded

The women actively participated in the program. They raised awareness on safety and security of women. On the day, The focus of this program was supporting

the extraordinary acts of women and enable diverse audiences to stand together, as a united force, to advance gender equality around India. The 'International

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Kristen Stewart reveals she's engaged to Dylan Meyer after 2 years of dating

WASHINGTON(KCN): Ready for the next chapter! Actor Kristen Stewart and screenwriter Dylan Meyer are engaged. The 'Twilight' actor and the screenwriter put a ring on it after dating for nearly two years. Stewart shared the news of her engagement to Howard Stern on Tuesday's episode of SiriusXM's The Howard Stern Show, reported People magazine. "We're marrying, we're totally gonna do it," Stewart told Howard Stern. "I wanted to be proposed to, so I think I very distinctly carved out what I wanted and she nailed it. It was really cute, she did very well. We're marrying, it's happening," said the actor, who is gearing up for the release of 'Spencer'. She said Meyer "wasn't specific at

all" with her proposal, adding, "It's not a given that I would be the one. You know what I mean? With two girls, you never know like

emony in her and her fiancée's hometown. "I want to stay home. I want to be in L.A. so everyone can come, and ... I want it to be pretty chill. I

At the time, Meyer posted a black-and-white snap of herself and Stewart kissing to confirm their relationship, writing in the caption, "Find me

ing a 2019 interview. "The day that I met her, it was like all bets were off," she said, adding, "I met her years ago on a movie and I hadn't seen her

after Stewart split from model Stella Maxwell, whom she dated from 2016 to 2018 before the pair briefly reconciled in 2019. Stewart was previously in high-profile relationships with Michael Angarano and Robert Pattinson as well as musician St. Vincent and visual effects producer Alicia Cargile. It's no surprise Stewart met her future fiancée on the set of a film -- while Stewart has made a name for herself as an actor, Meyer works behind the scenes as a screenwriter. Her writing credits include Netflix's 'Moxie', the short 'Rock Bottom', TV series 'Miss 2059' and the film 'XOXO'. Meyer has also acted in a few projects, including a recent appearance alongside Stewart in the TV series 'Homemade'.



who's going to fulfill what weird f---ing gender role thing. We don't do that or think about it in those terms. She just grabbed that bowl and made it happen. It was f---ing so cute." Stewart's hopes for the wedding include a relaxed, intimate cer-

emony in her and her fiancée's hometown. "I want to stay home. I want to be in L.A. so everyone can come, and ... I want it to be pretty chill. I

under the covers hiding from the happiness police." While they started dating two years ago, Stewart and Meyer first met much earlier. The couple was initially introduced on the set of a film and reconnected six years later, the actor explained to Stern dur-

in six years, and then she rocked up at a friend's birthday party, and I was like, 'Where have you been, and how have I not known you?' She's been living in L.A. alongside my life somehow but not ever converging." Meyer and Stewart got together shortly

after Stewart split from model Stella Maxwell, whom she dated from 2016 to 2018 before the pair briefly reconciled in 2019. Stewart was previously in high-profile relationships with Michael Angarano and Robert Pattinson as well as musician St. Vincent and visual effects producer Alicia Cargile. It's no surprise Stewart met her future fiancée on the set of a film -- while Stewart has made a name for herself as an actor, Meyer works behind the scenes as a screenwriter. Her writing credits include Netflix's 'Moxie', the short 'Rock Bottom', TV series 'Miss 2059' and the film 'XOXO'. Meyer has also acted in a few projects, including a recent appearance alongside Stewart in the TV series 'Homemade'.

On Shah Rukh Khan's birthday, Malaika Arora calls herself his forever 'fan girl'

MUMBAI(KCN): Superstar Shah Rukh

Arora also could not stop herself from

Malaika walked down the memory

Se..' (1998). In the caption, she

"23 years back was a fan girl n I continue

but also Inspiring. How you strive tirelessly to make everyday and every year better for people around you is beyond amazing. This year... this day is extra special, this day is extra sweet and I hope it always remains that way cos you deserve it all. Now and forever!!!! Happy birthday @iamsrk," she wrote. Malaika has also grooved with SRK in the song 'Kaal Dhamaal' from the film 'Kaal' (2005). She also made a guest appearance in SRK's song 'Deewangi Deewangi' from the film 'Om Shanti Om' (2007).



Khan's birthday is no less than a festival. His birthday is truly special for everyone. Like many, Malaika

showering King Khan with a heartfelt wish on his 56th birthday today. Taking to Instagram,

lane and shared a still with SRK from their hit song 'Chaiyya Chaiyya' from 'Dil

beautifully expressed her love for Shah Rukh and how she still adores him as a fan.

to be one. Seeing you through all these years and how you carry yourself has not just been a pleasure

Priyanka Chopra, Nick Jonas to announce 93rd Oscar nominations

Washington(KCN): It will be a couple's affair when the nominations for the 93rd annual Academy Awards are announced! Global star Priyanka Chopra and singer-actor Nick Jonas will announce the Oscar nominations on March 15.

The Academy took to Twitter and revealed that the power couple will announce the nominations in all 23 categories on Monday. The nominations will be announced in two parts via global live streaming. "Who's excited for #OscarNoms? Join @priyankachopra and @nickjonas here on Monday at 5:19am PDT. https://twitter.com/ievents/1369298773734682625," the tweet read. Priyanka and Nick also shared the news on social media in a video where the 'Mary Kom' actor ended up making a little gaffe. Sharing the video on Instagram, Priyanka used the latest TikTok trend. Priyanka began the video by saying, "Tell me we are announcing the Oscar nominations without telling me we are announcing Oscar nominations", a popular trend on Instagram reels and TikTok. Behind Priyanka, an unim-

pressed Nick lets her know that she has already told everyone that they are announcing the Oscar nominations.

"Hey @theacademy, any chance I can announce the Oscar nominations solo? Just kidding, love you @nickjonas! We are so excited



to be announcing the #OscarNoms on Monday, March 15th at 5:19AM PDT! Watch it live on youtube.com/Oscars," Priyanka wrote along the video posted on Instagram.

The nominations will be announced through a live global stream on the Academy's official website - Oscars.com and Oscars.org and also on the Academy's digital platforms - Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, reported

Variety. The Academy Awards are happening after a long delay this year. Usually scheduled for early February, the ceremony is slated to take place on April 25 this year, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The 93rd Oscars will be televised live on ABC.

The actual ceremony was also expected to be a virtual affair, with nominees joining in from their home through video feeds, much like what was seen during the Emmy Awards last year and the Golden Globe Awards more recently.

Films like Chloe Zhao's 'Nomadland', Aaron Sorkin's 'The Trial of the Chicago 7', and Emerald Fennell's 'Promising Young Woman' are expected to receive many nominations from the Academy. Priyanka's latest outing 'The White Tiger' is expected to score several nominations as well. On Tuesday, the film earned two BAFTA nods for Best Screenplay and Best Actor (Male) for Adarsh Gourav. Priyanka, who also starred in the movie, is one of the executive producers of the film.

Who dared to question the English mastery of the Vice-Chancellor of JNU and Cricketing Legend Kapil Dev?

A so-called progressive intelligentsia has emerged in our country, which believes that only those whose knowledge of English is of the likes of the characters in plays of Shakespeare are the ones truly educated and literate. Despite living in an India that is independent and free, they are unable to rid themselves of this slave mentality. It is also possible that they do not want to eradicate such stereotypes and dogma. Their recent target is Professor Shantisree Dhulipudi Pandit, the recently appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). Professor Shantisree is not only the current-date Vice-Chancellor of JNU, but she is also the first woman appointed as the Vice-Chancellor. Before her, no woman has held this position.

These supposed intellectuals and the victims of a similar neurotic mentality look down on all languages other than English, are claiming that Professor Shantisree does not have sufficient knowledge of the English language. While sharing one of her letters on social media, grammatical mistakes are being cited. Professor Shantisree has been a professor at the Savitribai Phule Pune University. The allegations levelled against her are crossing all limits of shamelessness. Those who dare to challenge the knowledge of a person who has been reading and teaching for decades should take a long look in the mirror and ask themselves if they adequately know any language?

Do most of them even know how to speak and write their mother tongue correctly? These social media heroes are questioning the mastery of Professor Shantisree, who has studied at California State University. Apart from this, she has done her BA in History and Social Psychology and MA in Political Science from

Presidency College, Madras. Not only this, but she has also done MPhil and Ph.D. in International Relations from JNU itself. Those who speak in favour of English should also know that Russian President Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, German, Japanese, and French heads of state communicate in their languages. The need to

R.K. Sinha

learn/speak English doesn't even arise. Then why is so much significance given to understanding English in our country? Will only citizens like Shashi Tharoor and Mani Shankar Aiyar be considered educated in India only because of their fluency in English, and everyone else will be treated as illiterate and uncultured? It is widely known that a section of our society remains overwhelmed by Shashi Tharoor's English. A prominent reason for this is that Shashi Tharoor has a diverse knowledge of English, and he is also a good writer, parliamentarian, and scholar of international affairs. These facts are non-disputable. However, many others have similar qualities. Since they do not speak English, they are not even considered scholars. One has to admit that society and media give additional limelight to Tharoor Sahib because he often speaks in English. People attempt taking selfies with him in huge numbers. They even consider Shashi Tharoor as their hero. He is the same Shashi

Tharoor that claimed to suffer when Prime Minister Narendra

Modi gave his statement in Hindi at some international conferences. Shashi Tharoor appeared unhappy with the speeches given in Hindi by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji at the World Economic Forum in Davos. He even criticized Sushma Swaraj when she addressed

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Tata Group, Natarajan Chandrasekaran, is said to prefer speaking in his mother tongue, Tamil, when he is not speaking in English. Chandrasekaran did his schooling in his mother tongue Tamil. This information is vital from the point of view that the student, who completed his education in the Tamil language, later achieved a high position in the corporate world. It is assumed that a strong command of the English language is a prerequisite in the corporate world. This propaganda is 100% false. Nowadays, from Mukesh Ambani to Sunil Bharti Mittal, several tycoons of the corporate world speak in Hindi in conferences and are listened to carefully and sincerely. Even when Kapil Dev made a bang in international cricket in 1982, many narrow-minded people mocked his English. In response, Kapil Dev Ji once gave them a befitting reply, saying that it would be better if they made the captain of the Indian team a man educated from Oxford University. We all know that no one can replace Kapil Dev Ji as a player. Last year, Neeraj Chopra became the nation's hero after bagging the gold medal at the Olympic Games. While the media were interviewing him, one reporter started in English, "I want to ask..." However, Neeraj Chopra stopped him midway and replied, "Brother, ask in Hindi... I will answer in Hindi." While appreciating and falling in love with a language is completely one's own choice to exercise, one must remember not to judge or question anyone else's knowledge of English. As diverse individuals hail from different backgrounds and have distinct priorities, the choice of language usage also differs.

(The writer is a senior editor, columnist, and former MP)

Women farmers and the market: Can nonprofits bridge the gap?

Manjari Foundation the nonprofit I head, has been working with women in rural areas across issues such as livelihoods, enterprises, gender, and education. Over the years we have seen these women adopt better practices that have increased yields on their crops and livestock, and also take on leadership roles in their communities.

However, during a women farmer producer interaction in 2016-17, when we asked them if the enhanced produce was translating into more income, the answer was no. This forced us to reflect on and rethink our approach. What was the point of intensive training and focus on inputs if they weren't resulting in prosperity for the women and their families? We realised that one of the ways to change this was to build linkages between the farmers' produce and the end-consumer market.

This was when we moved from being a production-oriented nonprofit to also building a market-led social enterprise. It's not an easy journey to make, and nonprofits who have attempted this haven't always succeeded; many of them are still struggling to find viable models. Over the last five years of building these women enterprises and a new brand—Katori—we have had several learnings, some of which I would like to share here.

The challenges of a market-led organisation

1. Building a brand
When we started promoting these women enterprises in 2016-17, we were still thinking as nonprofits do, believing that we could accomplish everything ourselves. The brand was initially called Apni Saheli, after the farmer producer group. Our packaging was amateur, and the decision makers for this business continued to be people with nonprofit and community development experience. This initiative did not work as we had imagined, and we realised that we needed to rethink the product.

We decided that our product packaging would carry the faces of the farmers we work with so that consumers can see the people behind the product. We started by looking for people with specific expertise whom we could bring on board. They needed to have the same vision and mission as Manjari—one of building a unique brand that embodied the spirit of 'by the women and of the women'.

In our initial meetings and discussions we all agreed that the word katori—which means bowl in Hindi and has a different ring to it—would be easy to remember and recall as a brand name. Red was picked as the brand colour because it represents energy. In the later stages of product development, we also decided that our product packaging would carry the faces of the farmers we work with so that consumers can see the people behind the product—the producers and owners of the brand. This was done to improve the traceability of the product.

We set up a private limited company called Katori Fresh Private India Limited (KFPIL) to market all the food products manufactured by the women enterprises promoted by Manjari Foundation. Manjari Foundation's women farmer producers and

sellers are at the core of Katori. Currently 5,200 women farmers are engaged with Manjari and registered in producer groups, enterprises, and cooperatives as shareholders. There are six production units in Dholpur, Chittorgarh, Ajmer, Baran, and Bhilwara in Rajasthan, which convert the farm produce—dairy, honey, mustard, spices, pulses, ginger, and garlic—into finished products. The production units are registered as farmer producer companies (FPCs) so the financial benefits go to the women. The FPCs in turn are shareholders in KFPIL. Thus, women farmers are shareholders at all levels from the FPC to the umbrella private limited company.

Initially we invested some of our personal money to do a proof of concept for Katori, following which KFPIL was registered with an incubator that lent it some funds. However, this did not yield the desired results.

2. Hiring for the market
Early on in our journey we understood that we could not run Katori the way we ran our nonprofit, Manjari Foundation. The skills, capabilities, risk orientation, and mindsets required to run a market-led enterprise are different from those required to work closely with communities. We needed people who knew how to manage quality, set prices, build marketing campaigns, work with FMCG distribution channels, and so on.

Manjari Foundation's core group does not interfere with the business aspect of Katori. These are two separate entities with different leadership at all levels. Our role at the nonprofit is only to make sure that the consumer brand does not diverge from the ethos of working for the women farmers.

A red chilli and other spices such as turmeric powder and ginger powder on wooden spoons. Flicker-women farmers social enterprise

Understanding the different trends in different cities and towns helps us plan our production better | Picture courtesy: Flickr

The 30-odd people's marketing and sales team in Delhi that works with Katori Fresh is entirely market-oriented; they comprehend and speak the language of sales and marketing. They also help the production units understand consumer behaviour and demands. Because of them we now know that Rajasthan overall has more demand for pickle and, within the state, Chittorgarh consumes cow ghee; Delhi on the other hand consumes fresh paneer, traditionally made ghee, and raw honey. Different cities and towns demonstrate different trends, and understanding these from the Katori team helps us plan our production better at our women enterprises.

3. Finding and managing unlikely partnerships
For nonprofits used to raising institutional grant money, finding funds that would support a market-led initiative isn't easy. We are however beginning to see interest from the more progressive CSR teams who see value in supporting programmes that can become financially sustainable.

Companies fund Manjari through their CSR for market development activities, hiring people with marketing and sales experience, and enhancing the

production capabilities of the women-run production units. However, given how CSR works, even though they might commit to funding for three-five years, the actual budgets are allocated year-on-year, which makes planning for and sustained investment in market development difficult. And there are pitfalls we have to be mindful of, especially when working with new corporate partners.

Corporate funders often think that since they give so much money, it should be easy for us to build a new brand under their name. However, our objective is to help farmers and to create a market for women farmers instead of creating new brands. The objective for building a brand is to reach the market and increase women's incomes. We are not brand-building people, and it is important to communicate this to corporate funders. However, CSR money is a valuable resource we can tap into and make accessible to the farmers, so we need to balance the pulls and pushes of these relationships.

Learning to do business as nonprofits
Today, Katori is a one-stop food products aggregation platform for women farmers. Our distribution network is spread across villages and cities in North India—from rural kirana stores in Rajasthan to supermarkets in Delhi and Mumbai and e-commerce platforms such as Amazon and Flipkart. Producing large quantities is important but it is also necessary to understand the demands of the market. Katori caters to rural women workers and entrepreneurs, and being part of the consumer market has helped us increase incomes for women significantly. The women who sell Katori products in rural India—our business sakhis—make INR 10,000-12,000 a month from sales. The women who work in the production units on an hourly basis make INR 3,000-5,000 a month from their labour, depending on the number of hours they work.

However, this change from producer to market-facing, from sub-par incomes to sustainable livelihoods for women, from hyperlocal to national, did not happen overnight. Here are some lessons we would like to share with producer-led nonprofits looking to enter the market:

1. The market demands patience
Brand building is a long process. It requires investment of time and money at various levels. An organisation has to find the right marketing team, partners, and sources of finance. And even with all this, brand recognition takes time. Nonprofits must understand that a brand cannot be built in a day. They have to convince themselves and their funders about the value of doing this, and know that this is a brand they want to invest in for the long term. Despite the offtake of its products in the market, KFPIL has not reached break-even volumes. The time frame for operational profitability has also been stretched because of the pandemic and repeated lockdowns in the last two years.

2. Looking beyond production and supply
FPCs are currently more focused on production. They need to start thinking about demand

and process requirements of the market. Producing large quantities is important but it is also necessary to understand the demands of the market; only focusing on supply is not enough.

To do this, FPCs need to open themselves to market expertise and work with an entirely new set of people who have those skills and understand consumer behaviour. Value addition is what will bring extra money for the farmers. Without this—by just selling khaad-beej (fertiliser and seeds)—it will be difficult to sustain farmer producer organisations.

3. Being part of a platform for producer collectives
Most of the FPCs in our country tend to be small and local. It is hard for them to build marketing capabilities on their own and negotiate with different parts of the agricultural and marketing value chain. It might therefore make sense for them to get on to one or multiple platforms at the state or national level and acquire the benefit of aggregation and collectivisation. This is not a new concept and has been successfully demonstrated by Amul, Fabindia and now, to some extent, by Katori.

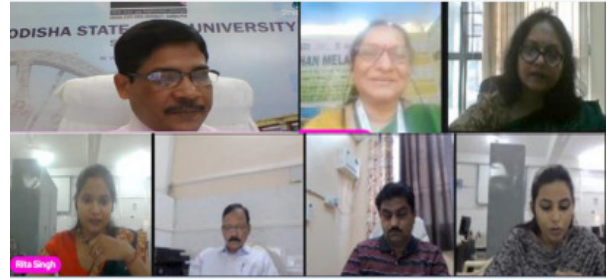
4. Grant money is not enough
Nonprofits cannot bank on grants for market development. For Katori, we had to bootstrap the fund—invest our own money. We explored and tapped into funds available for start-ups and MSMEs—a very different set of funders than the ones we are used to in our sector. This gave rise to its own set of challenges.

While there is an increasing interest from corporates, and CSR support can be an important source, a nonprofit will have to explore a combination of sources—many of them new and unfamiliar. This will help us bring in and pay for 'business' people—those who sell to consumers, manage marketing value chains, and build campaigns. We will also have to compensate these market experts more than we pay our colleagues in the nonprofits because the pay scales are different for this kind of expertise. We need them because they know the business, consumer behaviour and their demands, and business value chains better than us nonprofit leaders. In terms of the capabilities, expertise, and financing required, the shift for nonprofits seeking to move away from being production-oriented is substantial. However, above all, the organisations require a significant change in mindset. Only when the leadership makes this leap can it successfully transition to being a market-led enterprise that adds tremendous value to its women producers. This is the ninth article in a 14-part series that seeks to highlight lessons and insights on building resilient livelihoods.

The Author is a executive director of Manjari Foundation. He has been a working committee member in rural development departments, livestock departments, and dairy departments in Rajasthan. He has founded and mentored several women's institutions and enterprises—including Katori Fresh and Upaya—that cater to women farmers and craft makers across the hinterlands of Rajasthan and Bundelkhand.

Odisha State Open University organizes Webinar on the occasion of International Women's Day, 2022 on the theme BreakTheBias

Sambalpur(KCN): Odisha State Open University organized a webinar on "Increasing Violence against Women vis-à-vis Empowerment of Women for an Equal Future" on the occasion of International Women's Day, 2022. The address by the Chief Patron and the Chief-Guest of the event, Prof. (Dr.) Arka Kumar Das Mohapatra, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, OSOU was indeed very informative, insightful and enlightening. He emphasized how educating girls shall contribute to promoting gender equality. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor spoke about the empowerment of women in the field of education, politics, economic



participation, and opportunity and further threw light on the cross-country data in terms of the gender gap in these fields. Subsequently, esteemed Registrar, Prof. (Dr.) Manas Ranjan Pujari spoke about the recent changes in the policies and proactiveness of the Government machinery and he also highlighted the qualitative aspects of gender budgeting in recent times. The Controller of Finance Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarangi also spoke on the idea of gender being the fulcrum of good governance in the years to come in India. Guest of Honour for the event, Mrs. Minati Bindhani, General Secretary, Women, and Child Welfare Society, Cuttack, enlightened the gathering by referring that Women are not able to come forward because of the patriarchal society. Every woman should think about how to come forward and take initiative in every field to build their own identity and to improve their skills. Dr. Tanushree Purohit, the Esteemed Speaker in her address highlighted how the aspirations of a girl child is not given enough encouragement. Education in the right direction can give a way forward for the stability in their dreams and prepare them as future leaders. Time Immemorial Society has been discussing gender equality, gender parity, and equal growth and over the years there have been changes in the societal, organizational perspective but somewhere, women are still waging an invisible war to break the boundary and reach the top. In spite of all these, women have taken gradual steps to break the established norms and fulfil their dreams. The webinar was coordinated by Ms. Rita Singh, Academic Consultant, OSOU. The meeting ended with a formal vote of thanks by Ms. Shagufta Sahin, Academic Consultant, OSOU.

Ahead of polls to block chairman post, BJP accuses BJD of intimidation

BHUBANESWAR: Amid preparations for election to the post of chairman in panchayat samitis, the BJP on Wednesday charged the ruling BJD with resorting to intimidation of samiti members and

making a search to rescue kidnapped elected members of the BJD. The local police was working on the complaints that some of the BJD elected members have been kidnapped and kept in the houses of



sarpanchs owing allegiance to the saffron party. Accusing police of terrorising the BJP-supported sarpanchs and panchayat samiti members, State BJP general secretary Lekhashree Samantsinghar told media persons that eight elected representatives of Astarang block in Puri district are under threat of arrest for allegedly kidnapping BJD samiti members. As the BJP is set to elect one of its candidates as block chairman in Astaranga, the BJD is making all possible efforts to stop it. The local police led by IIC of Astaranga police station have allegedly raided the houses of the BJP-supported samiti members by breaking open locks. "When we contacted the Superintendent of Police of Puri district, he replied that the police was

some BJP-supported members," Samantsinghar said. She said similar reports have started arriving from other districts where the BJD with the help of the local administration are making efforts to win post of chairman. The BJP leader further alleged that the police is threatening members elected with her party to extend support to BJD candidate for the post of block chairman failing which they would be booked under National Security Act (NSA). In such case they would not get bail for six months. Condemning in uncertain terms to such hooliganism of the ruling party, Samantsinghar said her party had sought immediate intervention of the SEC and requested the Commission to take action against the Astaranga police.

Four-one for BJP, including prize state UP; AAP sweeps Punjab

Continued from page-1

Singh Gill of AAP in Bathinda (Urban). In Lakhimpur Kheri district which has eight assembly segments, BJP is leading over 7 and SP on one. It seems that the much pronounced anger against the BJP due to the farmers' killing and the role of Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni's son Ashish Mishra being the main accused, has not impacted the BJP performance to the extent it was expected. Swami Prasad Maurya trailing Samajwadi Party candidate and high profile BJP turn coat Swami Prasad Maurya trails by 16,000 votes in Fazilnagar. The Samajwadi Party on Thursday said initial trends in Uttar Pradesh were "not authentic" and asked its workers to stay put at local assembly election offices till the counting of votes ends. The Akhilesh Yadav-led SP claimed the initial trends, which showed the BJP leading in majority of the 403 seats in the state, were only to "create a perception" that the saffron party was winning. "These trends are not authentic, a perception is being made that BJP is winning, so that the morale of the workers can be broken and results manipulated dishonestly after 3 PM. It is an appeal to the workers to stay put at the spot till the last results!" the Samajwadi Party's media cell tweeted in Hindi. Punjab has given chance to Kejriwal's model of governance. Today, his model of governance has been established at the national level. This is the victory of the 'Aam Aadmi' (common man). We had fielded candidates in Goa, Uttarakhand and UP, but somewhere the focus was on Punjab. Gradually people in these states will also start to believe in our party.

The BJP leads by 2112 votes. There is a belief/myth related to this seat. Whoever wins this seat forms government in the state. Yogi Adityanath leads by 26,000 votes in Gorakhpur Urban, Satish Mahana of BJP leading by 16000 in Maharajpur in Kanpur. AAP's chief ministerial face Bhagwant Mann is leading from Dhuri seat by a margin of 4,387 votes leading over his nearest rival and Congress candidate Dalvir Singh Goldy. Punjab Sports Minister Pargat Singh trailing from Jalandhar Cantt, AAP candidate Surinder Singh Sodhi leading.

Celebrations break outside the residence of AAP's CM candidate Bhagwant Mann in Sangrur as the party crosses the majority mark in Punjab. Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Channi has arrived at his official residence in Chandigarh and is likely to meet the Governor to submit his resignation as the Aam Aadmi Party crossed the halfway mark in Punjab. Punjab Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami leading by 73 votes now. Senior Samajwadi Party leader Mohd Azam Khan is leading in Uttar Pradesh's Mohd constituency by about 4000 votes, according to poll trends. After the initial round of counting, Azam got 5,090 votes while his BJP rival Akash Saxena got 1,006 votes, according to the EC. SP candidate Khan is presently lodged in Sitapur jail in connection with a number of cases lodged against him in Rampur district. BJP leads on all three Noida seats, reports our correspondent Namita Bajpai. Mafia don-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari's son Abbas Ansari trails on Mau Sadar. Five-term former Punjab chief minister and SAD leader Parkash Singh Badal was trailing from his home turf Lambi seat by 1,416 votes, according to initial poll trends, AAP candidate Gurmeet Singh Khudian was leading from the seat. As initial poll trends, two-time former Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh is trailing in his pocket Aam Aadmi Party candidate Ajit Pal Singh Kohli was leading. Akhilesh Yadav leads by 9816 votes in Karhal. BJP leading in 225 seats of 349 trends received so far. SP leading on 111, BSP on 6 and Congress on 5. Former cop, ex-Kanpur Commissioner Asim Arun leads in Kannauj. The BJP deserters seem to have mixed fortune with the saffron brigade taking early leads in the initial trends of Uttar Pradesh Assembly poll results. While Swami Prasad Maurya, contesting on SP ticket from his Fazilnagar seat in Kushinagar district of eastern UP, is trailing behind while Dhara Singh Saini, another BJP turncoat in the fray from Nakur seat in Saharanpur in the west is also trailing his rival Mukesh Chaudhury of the BJP. AAP leading on 88 seats, Congress on 15 seats, SAD 8 seats, BJP 4 seats and other 2 seats: As per trends issued by Election Commission of India of all 117 assembly seats of Punjab.

BJP leading in 225 seats of 349 trends received so far. SP leading on 111, BSP on 6 and Congress on 5. Yogi Adityanath leads by 12,000 votes in Gorakhpur Urban. Shivpal Singh Yadav, who has been given ticket by Samajwadi Party, trails from Jaswantnagar Assembly constituency, as per EC trends. AAP's chief ministerial face Bhagwant Mann is leading from Punjab's Dhuri seat by a margin of 4,387 votes on Thursday, according to early poll trends. Mann is leading over his nearest rival and Congress candidate Dalvir Singh Goldy. Counting of votes for 117 assembly seats in Punjab is underway. Punjab CM trailing at both the seats Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi is trailing behind in both assembly segments of Badaur and Chamkaur Sahib, reports our correspondent Harpreet Bajwa. Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal is trailing behind the AAP candidate in Punjab's Jalalabad constituency on Thursday, according to initial poll trends. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate Jagdeep Kamboj is leading by a margin of 827 votes in the constituency in Fazilka district. Counting of votes for 117 assembly seats in Punjab is underway. Yogi Adityanath, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav leading in their respective Gorakhpur Urban and Karhal. BJP seems to approach more than an absolute majority with 222 seats of the 323 trends received so far. SP is leading on 8 seats, BSP on 5, Congress on 6 and others 2. AAP leading on 83 seats, Congress on 18 seats, SAD 8 seats, BJP 3 seats and other 2 seats: As per trends issued by Election Commission of India. BJP's Pushkar Singh Dhami and Congress's Harish Rawat trailing from Khatima and Lalkuwa constituency, respectively, as per EC.

AAP crosses majority mark in Punjab, in early trends; CM Channi, Captain Amarinder Singh, Navjot Sidhu trailing. Bharatiya Janata Party's Aditi Singh leading in Rae Bareilly Assembly constituency, as per Election Commission. Early leads in Punjab show that the Aam Aadmi Party is way ahead of others. Former CM Parkash Singh Badal trailing from Lambi Jeevan Jyot Kaur of AAP leading from Amritsar (East) the hot seat as both Navjot Singh Sidhu of Congress and Bikram Majithia of SAD trailing. BJP's Sarita Arya leading from coveted Nainital state assembly constituency. Manipur CM N Biren Singh leads by around 2500 votes over his Congress rival in Heingang seat after round 1 of counting. Two-time Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh is trailing in his pocket borough Patiala Urban seat by 3,575 votes on Thursday, according to initial poll trends. Aam Aadmi Party candidate Ajit Pal Singh Kohli was leading from the Patiala Urban seat. Counting of votes for 117 assembly seats in Punjab is underway. The BJP was leading in 110 seats as against 95 of its nearest rival Samajwadi Party in the initial rounds of counting of votes in Uttar Pradesh. Among those leading included Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from Gorakhpur, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav from Karhal, Shivpal Yadav from Jaswant Nagar, and Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya from Sirathu. Counting of votes for the 403 assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh began on Thursday morning with three-layer security in place and cameras installed at all counting centres. In the initial rounds, postal ballots were counted. According to early trends available from 215 constituencies, the BJP was leading in 110 and the SP in 95 seats. The BSP and the Congress were leading in five and four seats, respectively. Jansatta Dal candidate Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Raja Bhaiya was ahead in Kunda seat. All the exit polls have predicted a BJP win in the state. According to the official figure of EC available for 82 seats, the BJP is leading in 48, while the SP is leading in 24, Apna Dal in four and the RLD and the Congress were ahead in two each. The BJP was leading in 110 seats as against 95 of its nearest rival Samajwadi Party in the initial rounds of counting of votes in Uttar Pradesh. Among those leading included Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from Gorakhpur, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav from Karhal, Shivpal Yadav from Jaswant Nagar, and Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya from Sirathu. Counting of votes for the 403 assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh began on Thursday morning with three-layer security in place and cameras installed at all counting centres. In the initial rounds, postal ballots were counted. According to early trends available from 215 constituencies, the BJP was leading in 110 and the SP in 95 seats. The BSP and the Congress were leading in five and four seats, respectively. Jansatta Dal candidate Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Raja Bhaiya was ahead in Kunda seat. All the exit polls have predicted a BJP win in the state. According to the official figure of EC available for 82 seats, the BJP is leading in 48, while the SP is leading in 24, Apna Dal in four and the RLD and the Congress were ahead in two each. The BJP was leading in 110 seats and the Congress in seven. The Janata Dal (United) was ahead in three seats and the National People's Party in two constituencies. As per the official figure of the Election Commission, the BJP was ahead in six seats, the Congress in one and the JD(U) in two. In PM Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi, out of the eight seats, BJP leading in North, Cantt and ally Apna Dal (S) in Rohaniya, while UP minister Neelkanth Tiwari very close behind SP's Kishan Dikshit in Varanasi South. (All initial trends). Congress's Ajay Rai (who lost two LS polls to PM Modi in Varanasi) was leading in Pindra after counting of postal ballots. In 2017, BJP had won all 8 seats. Five-term Punjab chief minister and SAD leader Parkash Singh Badal was trailing from his home turf Lambi seat by 1,416 votes, according to initial poll trends. AAP candidate Gurmeet Singh Khudian was leading from the seat. Counting of votes for 117 assembly seats in Punjab is underway. BJP's Vishwajit Rane leading in Valpoi Assembly constituency, in early trends, as per Election Commission. CM and BJP candidate from Sanquelim, Pramod Sawant trailing by 400 votes, Congress leading here. The BJP was leading in four seats while the Congress in three in Uttarakhand on Thursday, according to early trends available. Counting of votes for the 70 assembly seats in the state is underway. According to data available on the Election Commission website at 9.20 am for seven seats, the BJP was slightly ahead of its main rival Congress. The polling was held in the state on February 14 with more than 65 per cent of the electorate casting their votes. The ruling BJP is seeking a second consecutive term in office this time, something which has never happened in the state's 21-year history. Routed in the 2017 assembly polls with a tally of 11 seats against the BJP's 57, Congress is trying to stage a comeback. Prominent candidates who contested the polls are Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, his cabinet colleagues Satpal Maharaj, Bansidhar Bhagat, Subodh Uniyal, Arvind Pandey, Dhan Singh Rawat and Rekha Arya, besides state BJP president Madan Kaushik. Important Congress leaders whose fate will be decided include former chief minister Harish Rawat, former minister Yashpal Arya, state Congress president Ganesh Godiyal and Leader of Opposition in the fourth assembly Pritam Singh. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami leading in Khatima constituency. The BJP was leading in 88 seats as against 37 of its nearest rival Samajwadi Party in the initial rounds of counting of votes in Uttar Pradesh. Counting of votes for the 403 assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh began on Thursday morn-

ing with a three-layer security in place and cameras installed at all counting centres. In the initial rounds, postal ballots were counted. According to early trends available from 134 constituencies, the BJP was leading in 88 and the SP in 37 seats. The BSP and the Congress were leading in four seats each. The Jansatta Dal was ahead in one seat. All the exit polls have predicted a BJP win in the state. According to the official figure of EC available for two seats, the BJP is leading on both. Two prominent BJP rebels, Laxmikant Parsekar and Utpal Parrikar, were leading against their rivals in the counting of postal ballots in Goa on Thursday, an official said. Former chief minister Parsekar contested the Assembly election, held on February 14, from Mandrem Assembly seat as an Independent candidate, while Utpal Parrikar, the son of former CM Manohar Parrikar, contested from Panaji seat against BJP candidate Atanasio Monserrate. In the counting of postal ballots before the opening of EVMs, both Parrikar and Parsekar were ahead of their rivals, the official said. The counting is underway since 8 am at a centre each in Panaji and Margao. Parsekar on Wednesday said he was confident of winning the election, but refused to say anything about whether he would support the BJP. He contested the election as an independent after the BJP denied him ticket and fielded sitting MLA Dayanand Sopte instead from Mandrem. Former Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Harish Rawat leading in Lalkuan constituency at Uttarakhand. CEC on 'One Nation, One Election' concept One Nation One Election is a good suggestion but this needs a change in the Constitution. The Election Commission is fully geared up and is capable of holding all the elections simultaneously. We are ready to hold elections only once in five years. 08:20 Mar 10 Latest scenes from Punjab. There is no question of EVM tampering. EVMs are continuously used since 2004, in 2019 we have started using VVPAT at every polling booth. EVMs are sealed in the presence of political party agents. The questions raised on an EVM in Varanasi was meant for training purpose. The ADM's mistake was that he did not inform political parties about the movement of EVMs for training purposes as per the standard operating procedure. When questions were raised by some parties, we showed them no. displayed on that EVM. It didn't match with EVMs that were sealed & kept in the strong room for counting. They were satisfied after this. No EVM on which votes are cast can be taken out from the strong room. During the ban on election rallies due to the Omicron wave, EC took MCC violations seriously. Around 2,270 FIRs were filed for violation of COVID norms as well as MCC violations in all 5 states. Every political party is the same for EC. 31,000 new polling booths were created for the Assembly polls. We created 1,900 polling booths that were run by women & large women participation was seen due to this. In 4 out of 5 states, the percentage of female voters were higher than that of male voters. 'Know your candidate' App was a successful initiative by EC. Supreme Court had decided that people with criminal backgrounds should be known to the voters. So, we created this app & out of 6,900 candidates, more than 1,600 were with a criminal background. There is no question of EVM tampering. EVMs are continuously used since 2004, in 2019 we have started using VVPAT at every polling booth. EVMs are sealed in the presence of political party agents: Sushil Chandra, Chief Election Commissioner. "I am confident about the victory of the Congress party in Uttarakhand. Everything will be clear in the next 2-3 hours. I have faith in the people of the state. I believe Congress will get close to 48 seats," said the former Uttarakhand CM. Counting begins. Counting of votes begin for Assembly elections in five States including Uttar Pradesh. 07:48 Mar 10 Our fight has just begun: Priyanka Gandhi to Congress workers in Uttar Pradesh. On the eve of counting of votes for the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday urged the party workers to be ready for keeping up their struggle for people's cause, saying "our fight has just begun" and "we have to move forward with new energy". On the eve of the counting of votes, former Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh on Wednesday excluded confidence that the people of Punjab will deliver a positive verdict in favour of his party's alliance with the BJP and SAD (Sanyukt). In a tweet from its official Twitter account, the SP claimed that the car carrying 10,000 plain ballot papers was trying to enter a strong room in Azamgarh after switching off its headlights. BJP, Congress leaders rush to Goa, hold talks with smaller parties. To avoid a repeat of 2017 — when a large group of Congress legislators defected to the BJP despite the party emerging as the single largest — the Congress has rushed a team headed by P Chidambaram, D K Shivakumar, Satish Jarkiholi, Dinesh Gundurao and Sunil Kedar to Goa to keep its flock together. The strong rooms have just been opened in the presence of candidates and observers. Postal ballots will be taken to the counting halls through a dedicated corridor of security personnel. Counting for South Goa will be done at Damodar College. Equal attention will be on Punjab too, where the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP has been predicted to cause the major upset by removing the incumbent Congress from power. All the 117 assembly seats in the state are facing multi-cornered contests this time around. While some exit polls have predicted an AAP victory, some have also given forecast of a hung assembly. If the BJP retains power in UP, it will be the first time a party is getting re-elected in the state for a second term in over three decades. In 2017, BJP had won 312 seats on its own while NDA's figure was 325. The SP had won 47, BSP 19 and the Congress had won seven seats, two less than Apna Dal (S) at nine. The BJP went to the polls this time with Apna Dal (Sonel) and NISHAD party while Akhilesh Yadav had formed a rainbow coalition with RLD and a string of regional parties, including Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP).

JSW Installs Oxygen Plant NINL signs Tata pact

Jagatsinghpur(KCN): Country's one of leading steel makers JSW Steel, contributed an advanced

The company invested over Rs 42 lakh from its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund

break, the Central Government had already established a 1,000-liter oxygen plant here at the

consultation with JSW for installing a critical care plant for the benefit of highly oxygen dependent patients in view of the patient load. So, the JSW installed the second plant.

Chakradhar Jena, District Programme Manager (DPM) Jagatsinghpur, National Health Mission (NHM) said that the out patient load of the facility on an average is about 700 per day and the existing 190 beds for inpatient care are filled to the strength. In such a situation, this intervention by JSW to cater to the paediatric unit is a welcome gesture, he said. According to the report, many Covid-19 patients had died due to oxygen shortage during the peak of the second wave of the pandemic. Meanwhile, the two oxygen plants are expected to be beneficial for patient care here.

Jagatsinghpur DHH, which is connected to 56 beds of the medicine department, sources said. "We are currently conducting a thorough need assessment to identify critical needs areas at the plant site and trying our best to address them," said Prasanta Biswal, Head Odisha CSR, JSW Foundation. Later, the State Government and District Administration had a

New Delhi:: Moving towards closing stage for privatization of the Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL), the JV partners of NINL have signed a share purchase agreement (SPA) with Tata Steel Long Products. "SPA signed today by JV partners of NINL with Tata Steel Long Products. The disinvestment transaction now moves to the closing stage," Department of Investment

since March 30, 2020.

The company has huge debt and liabilities exceeding Rs 6,600 crores as on 31.3.2021, including huge overdues of promoters (Rs 4,116 crore), Banks (Rs 1,741 crore), other creditors and employees. The company has negative net worth of Rs. 3,487 crore and accumulated losses of Rs. 4,228 crore as of 31.3.2021.



oxygen plant and machinery to adequately cover the needs of people at Jagatsinghpur. The oxygen plant has been installed at the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) amid the third wave of Covid-19 outbreak. "At JSW we believe in inclusive industrialization and we are consistently taking people along with us" said Ranjan Nayak, COO & spokesperson of JSW.

through JSW Foundation to install the state-of-the-art advanced machinery. This plant's capacity is 400 LPM (liters per minute) of oxygen and it will cater to the 12 beds in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in the hospital and other high dependence units from the paediatrics department. This is the second oxygen plant in the facility. Considering high oxygen demand during the out-



For privatization of the NINL, Expressions of Interest (EoI) were invited on January 25, 2021. Multiple EoIs were received by the due date of March 29, 2021. In response, three bids were received by the due date.

and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said in a tweet on Thursday. Tata Steel Long Products emerged as the highest bidder with Rs 12,100 crore for the acquisition of the 93.71 per cent equity stake of NINL. NINL is a joint venture of 4 CPSEs, namely MMT, NMDC, BHEL, MECON and two Odisha Government PSUs, namely OMC and IPICOL. The State Government companies OMC & IPICOL having a total stake of 32.47% were also part of the decision-making at every stage. NINL has an integrated steel plant with a capacity of 1.1 MT, at Kalinganagar, Odisha. The company has been running in huge losses and the plant has been closed

Thereafter, the financial bids were opened for the three qualified bidders, M/s Jindal Steel & Power Limited and Nalwa Steel and Power Ltd, M/s JSW Steel Limited and TSLP. Among the three players, TSLP emerged as H-1 bidder, whose bid has been accepted by the AM. Letter of Intent (LoI) is being issued to TSLP inviting them to sign the SPA. At this stage, 10% of the bid amount shall be paid by the successful bidder into the Escrow account. On the closure date, shares will be transferred to the strategic buyer and the balance amount will be received to be utilized in the manner prescribed in the waterfall agreement October 27, 2021 signed amongst the selling shareholders.

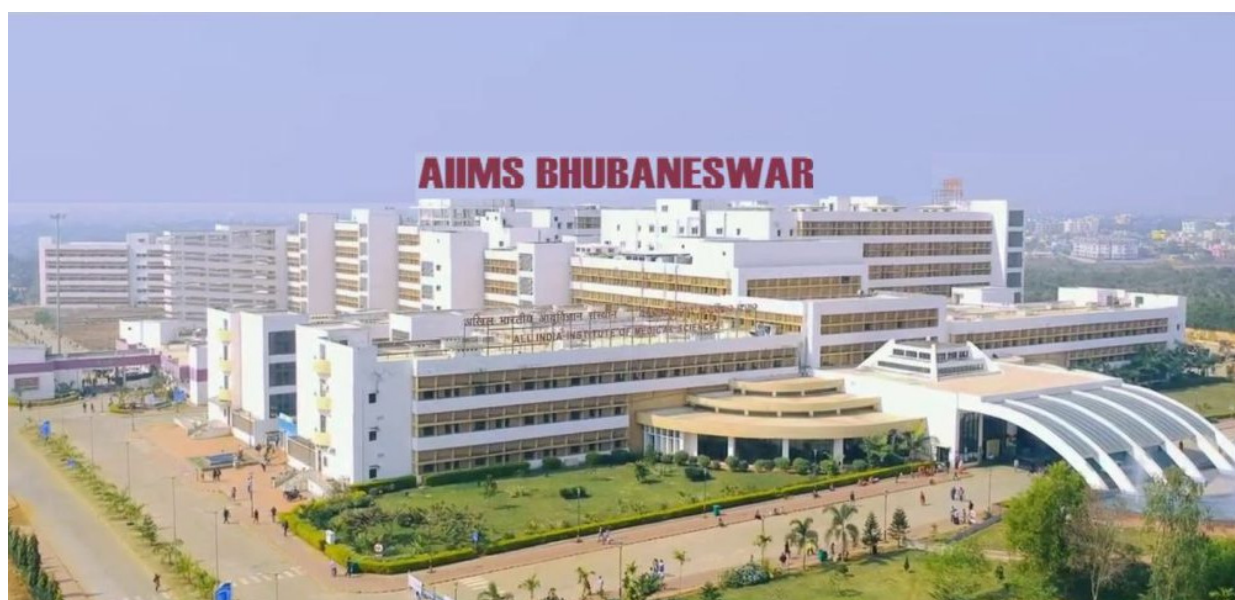
Kidney Transplant In AIIMS Soon

Bhubaneswar: All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar is going to start the renal transplant programme very soon.

transplant to serve people, said Mohanty. Speaking on the occasion, Head and Assistant Professor of Nephrology Department Sandip Kumar

20 per cent and they are called as CKD hot spots, said Panda. It may be noted that the current global kidney disease burden is near about 10 per cent of the popu-

case of problems are simple measures to be followed for safeguarding the kidney, said experts present on the WKD at AIIMS Bhubaneswar today.



The national institute is at the doorstep to get the necessary permission from the State Government. After getting the required permission the much-needed renal transplant programme will be commenced, said AIIMS Bhubaneswar Medical Superintendent (MS) SN Mohanty on the occasion of World Kidney Day (WKD) here today. Many kidney failure patients from Odisha as well as from neighbouring States will be benefited from this service. AIIMS Bhubaneswar has developed the required infrastructure for renal

Panda informed that A I I M S Bhubaneswar has been providing dialysis service since 2019. Also, kidney patients are getting plasma pheresis, CRRT, renal biopsy services here. Odisha is witnessing steady rise in chronic kidney disease. In Odisha though the exact data is not clear, various studies show the prevalence of chronic kidney disease (CKD) is around 10-14 per cent which is more than the national average, he said. Moreover, there are some areas in our state where the prevalence of kidney disease is near about

lation and India is no exception. At present in India more than 100 million people are suffering from kidney disease. In the current scenario Worldwide Diabetes Mellitus is the leading cause of renal failure followed by hypertension. But in recent years more and more young non-diabetic and non-hypertensive patients are developing kidney disease. Controlling blood pressure, controlling diabetes, drinking enough water, avoiding smoking, avoiding unnecessary medications and undergoing early medical check-up in

Among others, Additional Professor of General Medicine Anupam Dey, Assistant Prof of Urology Manoj Das, Associate Professor of Paediatrics Amit Satapathy, Assistant Prof of Medicine Debanand, Assistant Professor of Nephrology Priti Meena spoke on the occasion. WKD has been celebrated since 2006 on the second Thursday of March to create and spread awareness regarding kidney disease among public and health care workers. This year it is observed today with the theme 'bridge the knowledge gap to better kidney care'.




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BJP gets majority in Manipur, decides to dump ally NPP

GUWAHATI: The BJP will maintain "coalition dharma" in Manipur despite being comfortably placed to form the government on its own. By winning 32 of the state's 60 seats, the BJP became the second party after the Congress to get the majority in an Assembly election since 1950 when Manipur became a state of the Indian Union. The Congress had bagged 42 seats



in 2012.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh said in no uncertain terms that the BJP would align with like-minded parties, alluding to "coalition dharma". The party has decided to dump the National People's Party (NPP) with which it had a torrid time in the past two years. "I don't think the NPP will be with us," Singh told journalists. During election campaigning, BJP stalwart and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma had also stated the NPP would not be a part of the next BJP-headed government.

The NPP, which was born in Manipur but raised in Meghalaya where it heads a coalition government, helped the BJP to form a coalition government in Manipur in 2017 when the latter had won 21 seats as against the Congress' 28 and was cobbling up numbers.

Their relationship strained in due course so much that all four NPP MLAs had walked out of the government until making a return days later following the intervention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Poll results show people's support for BJP's pro-poor, pro-active governance: PM Narendra Modi

It appears that the BJP will continue its alliance with the Naga People's Front (NPF) which is a component of the state's coalition government. The BJP's other options could be Janata Dal (United) and Kuki People's Alliance which was floated in January this year.

In the run up-to the two-phase polls, there was little doubt the BJP will emerge as the single

largest party. A depleted and therefore, weakened Congress made the BJP's task easy.

The BJP's advantage was that it is the ruling party at the Centre. It has been a tradition in most states of the Northeast that people vote largely in favour of that party that is in power at the Centre.

Secondly, the Congress considerably lost its ground in the state after half of its 28 MLAs had embraced the BJP over the past five years. It lacked fresh blood and relied heavily on the seasoned former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh as it went to polls.

The BJP's various developmental initiatives and welfare schemes also paid off. The party's biggest achievement, perhaps, was that it had managed to rid the state of bandhs and blockades which were so common during the previous Congress government. The BJP established peace and bridged the gap between the Imphal Valley and the tribal-majority hills.

Talking about the BJP's success, senior journalist Brozendra Ningomba said the party could capitalise on its achievements, including welfare and development schemes. He said the CM had all along tried to maintain a very close relationship with the people.

There are two particular days every month when he meets people of the Imphal Valley and the hills. He listens to their grievances and tries to solve them, Ningomba said.

"I think it was Singh's wave, not BJP's wave. It is not that the BJP government could do everything but its performance was better than that of the previous Congress government," he said. He also said that the Congress suffered as most of its winnable candidates had defected to the BJP.

The Congress also failed to woo voters. Rahul Gandhi had visited the state once for campaigning but the party's other star campaigners stayed away. Also, people were, possibly, not enthusiastic about the Congress as it failed in most places in recent years, Ningomba added.

Congress leader Meghachandra said the party could not fare well as the BJP had allegedly used money and muscle powers.

"We had repeatedly complained to the Election Commission. The All India Congress Committee had also petitioned it but no action was taken," Meghachandra said.

LIC gets market regulator SEBI's approval for IPO



MUMBAI: The market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the initial public offering proposal of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), sources said on

Wednesday.

The SEBI's approval came 22 days after the government-run LIC filed a draft paper for the IPO.

LIC had filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the market

regulator SEBI on February 12.

Sources said the SEBI has issued the observation letter to the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the IPO. This is one of the fastest approvals given by the market regulator

for an IPO.

As per the DRHP, up to 31,62,49,885 (31.62 crore) equity shares will be on offer through the offer for sale (OFS), representing 5 per cent of the equity stake of Life Insurance Corporation of India.

Investors' wealth jumps over Rs 10.83 lakh crore in three days

NEW DELHI: Equity investors have become richer by over Rs 10.83 lakh crore as stocks extended their rising streak for the third consecutive session on Thursday. The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex soared 817.06 points or 1.50 per cent to close at 55,464.39. In three days, the benchmark has gained 2,621.64 points. Tracking the ongoing rally in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies jumped by Rs 10,83,103.27 crore in three sessions to stand at Rs 2,51,93,934.31 crore. "Markets today were driven majorly by election results across various states. Today post markets Russia-Ukraine are to hold talks which will have major effect on markets tomorrow," said Rahul Sharma from Equity 99. From the 30-share Sensex pack, Hindustan Unilever Limited, Tata Steel, SBI, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Nestle and Maruti Suzuki India were the biggest gainers on Thursday, jumping up to 5.17 per cent.

In contrast, Tech Mahindra, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Tata Consultancy Services were the lag-

gards. "Indian bourses started off with huge gains amid a volatile trading session as participants had their eyes on state election results. The trend...(shows) BJP as clear winners in 4 out of 5 state elections. All the sectoral indices ended in the green," said Harsh Parekh, Technical Analyst, Bonanza Portfolio. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap and midcap indices jumped up to 1.18 per cent. All BSE sectoral indices settled in the green, with FMCG, realty, metal and bank emerging as the lead gainers. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 5.11 per cent to USD 116.8 a barrel. "Markets inched higher for the third successive session and gained over 1.5 per cent, tracking favourable cues. Positive global sentiment led to the gap-up opening in the benchmark. As the day progressed, sentiments were boosted as the state elections outcome so far indicated a clear majority to the BJP in 4 states out of 5, showing political stability," according to Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Punjab polls: CM Charanjit Singh Channi, over half of his ministers lose



CHANDIGARH: Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and over half of his ministers have lost from the seats they were contesting as the AAP stormed to power in Punjab on Thursday with an overwhelming majority.

The Aam Aadmi Party scripted history by winning 92 of the 117 assembly seats while the ruling Congress suffered a severe drubbing.

Channi, who contested from Chamkaur Sahib in

Rupnagar district and Bhadour in Barnala, lost from both the seats to AAP candidates. Channi was the sitting MLA from Chamkaur Sahib. He had succeeded Amarinder Singh after his unceremonious exit as the chief minister in September last year.

While minister O P Soni was defeated by AAP's Ajay Gupta from Amritsar Central, Raj Kumar Verka lost to AAP's Jasbir Singh Sandhu from Amritsar West.

Manpreet Singh Badal suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of AAP's Jagroop Gill from Bathinda Urban seat.

From Sangrur, Vijay Inder Singla lost to AAP's Narinder Kaur Bharaj while Bharat Bhushan Ashu lost to AAP's Gurpreet Bassi Gogi from Ludhiana West.

Randeep Singh Nabha and Gurkirat Singh Kotli lost from Amloh and Khanna seats while Razia Sultana was de-

feated by AAP's Mohammed Jamilur-Rahman from Malerkotla.

Sangat Singh Gilzian was defeated by AAP's Jasvir Singh Raja Gill from Urmur seat.

However, seven Congress ministers managed to win.

They are Rana Gurjeet Singh, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Aruna Chaudhary, Pargat Singh, Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria and Amrinder Singh Raja Warring.

'Bulldozer baba': Mighty Yogi Adityanath's new sobriquet

LUCKNOW: As the counting of votes in Uttar Pradesh elections began Thursday morning, a meme in Hindi

the current elections due to his frequent reference of the heavy machine which his dispensation deployed to

Outside the BJP office in the state capital of Lucknow, some excited supporters were spotted riding on a bull-

porters hit the streets with bulldozer, raising slogans in favour of Adityanath.

Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma



started doing the rounds on social media -- "A massive road accident in Uttar Pradesh as a bulldozer decimates an oncoming speeding bicycle."

By the evening, the politically loaded meme -- which conveyed that the Samajwadi Party (bicycle being its polls symbol) has been routed by the might of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath (or "bulldozer baba") -- went viral on social media.

Adityanath, who is generally referred to as "Maharaj ji", earned this new sobriquet of "bulldozer baba" during

raze the ill-gotten property of criminals and mafias in the state.

As the election results and trends showed a clear BJP majority in Uttar Pradesh, party supporters in several parts of the state joined victory celebrations with bulldozers.

In Lucknow, Varanasi and Adityanath's own Gorakhpur, enthusiastic party supporters were seen taking out victory processions on bulldozers and chanting slogan "bulldozer baba zindabad (long live bulldozer baba)" in praise of Adityanath.

dozer with saffron flags to celebrate the party's victory in the elections.

Sumant Kashyap, an ardent BJP supporter, had fixed a toy bulldozer on his headgear.

In Gorakhpur, from where Adityanath was in fray, supporters took out a victory procession with a fleet of bulldozers with BJP flags affixed on them to express their happiness.

They were shouting slogans like "bulldozer baba zindabad" and "goonj raha hai ek hi naam bulldozer baba Jai Shri Ram." Similarly in Varanasi, BJP sup-

said in a statement that people have set off a "bulldozer of votes" over staunch dynasts, casteism, criminalisation and regionalism of the opponents.

Adityanath gets 'baba' reference in his name as he is the head of Gorakhnath temple in Gorakhpur. He invoked bulldozer in his several election speeches, saying these heavy machines have gone for "maintenance" during the polls and would again roll out after the party returns to power.

In some rallies, bulldozers were seen parked at the venue of Adityanath public meetings in different places.

CWC 2022: Combinations, tactics hurt Mithali & Co against White Ferns

CHENNAI: The first surprise came at the toss when India skipper Mithali Raj said

pulled the trigger soon. Shafali's last five scores read 0, 0,

12 ODI innings, the 18-year-old had been involved in six 40-plus opening partner-

Bhatia, Smriti and Deepti Sharma as the top three. Now, often when

runs in five overs. And the pressure got to them as Smriti hit one straight to the

they persisted with Deepti, another southpaw, allowing the White Ferns to tighten the screws. Brought in as first change, Lea Tahuhu went around the wicket right away and struck Deepti's pads, beating her for pace. Mithali walked in at No 4, but India had already gone into a shell.

When Yastika got out to Tahuhu, India were hovering at 50 for three in 19.1 overs. But none of it happened by chance. New Zealand had done their homework and were executing their plans to perfection. Tahuhu said as much after the match. "Obviously weplayed India in one T20I and five ODIs leading into the series, so we had a bit of information about that. So, there's always a lot of

work going on behind the scenes, especially with the likes of Sophie (Devine), Suzie (Bates) and Amy (Satterthwaite), sort of, put their three wise heads together and then come up with some plans for us," she said.

It's not just the batting order that was bewildering. Against Amelia Kerr, who's largely known for her googly rather than leg-spinner, Indian batters played for deliveries that turned away from them, losing three wickets to her. With the ball, too, some of the tactics like keeping Deepti for the last 15 or not bringing Pooja Vastrakar earlier failed to make sense as Amelia and Amy were milking the other bowlers. With just a day to go ahead of their next

match against West Indies, the Indian think-tank would want to take a hard look at their selections and game plan, especially playing three lefties at top against a team that has three top offies in Anisa Mohammad, Hayley Matthews and Stafanie Taylor.

All said and done, India need not panic as they have won one out of two and still have five games to go. They would want to keep the morale up and turn things around quickly.

Brief scores: New Zealand 260/9 in 50 ovs (Amy Satterthwaite 75; Vastrakar 4/31) bt India 198 all out in 46.4 ovs (Harmanpreet Kaur 71; Lea Tahuhu 3/17)



that Yastika Bhatia would replace Shafali Verma, their first-choice opener. It seemed like a panicked move. Even though Shafali was averaging just 16 across her last six ODIs, and went without scoring against Pakistan in the first game of the tournament, it looked like the team management

DNB, 9, 0 (including two unofficial games) and her ODI average is 21.66, but she has hardly batted with her partner Smriti Mandhana (four times) in 2022. With Shafali what stands out is the fact that India have often got off to a brisk start in the powerplay whenever she has played. To put things into context, in

ships. ALSO READ: Women's World Cup: Harmanpreet's 71 in vain as clinical New Zealand trump India by 62 runs While the change was at least understandable to an extent, the bigger shock that played into New Zealand's hands was the fact that they stacked up Yastika

teams bring on off-spin early in the innings against Smriti, Shafali used to take them on to disturb their plans. On Thursday, however, both Yastika and Smriti struggled to get going against Frances Mackay. With Jess Kerr keeping it tight from the other end, India managed to score just ten

cover fielder. At this point, having seen what had happened, it would have made sense for Mithali Raj to come at three, but

The Heritage Academy organised Fresher's Cup 2022

Kolkata (KCN): From 2nd to 4th

the Dean, Department of Media

several knockout matches amongst the

year and BBA 3rd year.



March 2022, The Heritage Academy,

Science, Prof. Dr. Madhupa Bakshi and

teams of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd year of the BBA, BCA and BMS

The 3rd year team of the BBA department became the champions and the 1st year team was declared the Runner up.

The winner and the runner up team were awarded with a trophy. Overall, it was a great experience for the students and the tournament was a grand success by the combined efforts of the students, faculty and support staff. The



Kolkata hosted the Fresher's Cup 2022, a football tournament and gave an opportunity to the students to showcase their talent. Students from all the departments participated in this tournament with great enthusiasm. The occasion was graced by the Principal, Prof. Dr. Gour Banerjee,

the head of the Sports department, Dr. Sunil Singh along with the other members of faculty. The Principal and the Dean, addressed the players before the tournament and inspired them to show their talent in the true spirit of sportsmanship. On the first day of the event, there were

departments of the Academy. The teams that survived the knockout rounds, then played some spectacular matches. On the second day. The last day of the tournament witnessed the semi-finals followed by the finals. The final match was between the team of BBA 1st




organising team headed by Sachin Mishra and Aditya Mehrotra of BBA 3rd year did a great job on their part and managed the event beautifully. The memories made will surely remain embedded in the memories of the students for a lifetime.

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