

Subrata Kr Mondal



**BALARAM
MULLICK
PREPARED
THIS CAKE
SANDESH
FOR THE
PRESIDENT
TO MARK HIS
SWEARING
IN ON
WEDNESDAY**

His mishti faves

A sweet tooth as famous as the man's political acumen

Satadru Ojha and Zinia Sen

Mishti kothay (Where are the sweets?) the slight, bespectacled man looks around and asks if he doesn't see a plate of sweets after a meal. Breakfast, lunch dinner... a bite of something sugary is a must. The man?

Pranab Mukherjee, the 13th President of India — and a Bengali at heart, as far as his plate and palate go.

Pranabbabu's love of all things sweet is as famous as his political acumen. And like no auspicious occasion in Bengal

is complete without mukh

mishti,

today —

the day

he'll be

sworn in

— we tell

you what

leaves a

sweet taste

in the

mouth of

our First

Citizen.

Ajay Patra, a close associate, says that though Pranabbabu is a frugal eater, he can't do without sweets after a meal. "We usually keep different sweets arranged on a plate, so that he can pick up what he wants after a meal. If the plate is not there, he'll always ask 'mishti kothay?'"

PRANABBABU HAS BEEN ADVISED TO CUT DOWN ON SUGAR, BUT HE REFUSES TO HAVE SUGAR-FREE SANDESH. HIS FAVOURITES? MIHIDANA, BONDE, CHITRAKOOT, BALUSAI

Patra adds that though the new President has been advised to cut down on his sugar intake, he simply refuses to have sugar-free sandesh. His favourites are the *kora mishti* varieties, which are fried and very sweet. "So he likes his *bonde*, *mihidana*, *balusai* and *chitrakoot*. He also loves *rabri* and home-made *malpoa*. We get sweets for him from shops like Ganguram, Mouchak, Chittaranjan and Dwarik," he says.

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