



Hope new govt will reclaim "Shonar Bangla": Himanta B Sarma

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Suvendu Calls for Unity and Development After Taking Oath as Chief Minister

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Morning India

Suvendu's five cabinet colleagues embodying geographical, ethnic divide in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: As the head of the first BJP government in West Bengal, Suvendu Adhikari took oath as the Chief minister along with five other ministers at the iconic Brigade Parade Grounds here on Saturday, with representatives from the northern and southern regions of the state being inducted into the cabinet, but none from Kolkata.

Reflecting West Bengal's diverse ethnic fabric, the cabinet represented communities, including the Matuas and the Santhals.

A brief look at the background of the five members of Adhikari's council of ministers who were sworn-in reveals the importance of the senior-most among them is Dilip Ghosh: If the 2026 state elections put giant-killer Suvendu Adhikari at its centrestage, following his historic win over Mamata Banerjee in Bhabanipur, the polls also scripted a remarkable comeback for Dilip Ghosh, the former President of the BJP's West Bengal unit, cementing his role in a more measured second innings in state politics.

Easily one of the party's most recognisable and combative faces in Bengal, Dilip Ghosh played a pivotal role in transforming the saffron party from a fringe player into the principal challenger to the TMC.

A former RSS pracharak with a reputation for blunt, often controversial, remarks and a grassroots style of politics, Dilip Ghosh oversaw the BJP's dramatic organisational expansion in the state between 2015 and 2021.

The party's breakthrough came in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, when it won 18 of 42 seats in Bengal, an unprecedented surge that altered the state's political landscape. Dilip Ghosh was elected MP from Medinipur, consolidating his influence in the politically sensitive Janglemahal belt.

Yet in the years that followed, the once-dominant leader appeared to drift into a curious political limbo within the party, as internal equations in the Bengal BJP began to shift.

Differences with sections of the state leadership sharpened after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, when Dilip Ghosh publicly criticised organisational decisions under his successor Sukanta Majumdar.

Moved from his stronghold of Medinipur to Bardhaman-Durgapur during 2021 Assembly poll, he lost the seat and openly blamed "back-biting" within the party and flawed campaign management, remarks that exposed factional tensions in the state unit.

The strains became more visible when Dilip Ghosh attended the inauguration of the Jagannath temple in Digba with his newly wedded wife, where he was seen briefly exchanging greetings with then Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, an event that the Bengal BJP had officially boycotted. The episode drew criticism from sections of the state leadership.

Yet, setting aside those lingering tensions, Ghosh re-emerged in the BJP's political calculus, with his organisational experience and deep connect with grassroots workers once again seen as valuable assets as the party began preparations for the 2026 assembly battle, which it eventually won triumphantly.

But this time Dilip Ghosh won the Kharagpur Sadar seat by a huge margin, the base from where he once started his journey in electoral politics, humbling the TMC's sitting MLA Pradip Sarkar.

Similarly Agnimitra Paul, a leading fashion designer-turned-frontline state leader, Paul, emerged as one of the most prominent faces of the BJP's Bengal unit, characterised by her vocal role in opposition politics and active presence in the assembly.

An MLA from the state's coal mining heartland of Asansol Dakshin seat, Paul won the assembly segment first in 2021 by humbling TMC's Saayoni Ghosh, now a Lok Sabha MP, and then went on to retain it this time winning by a margin of over 40,000 votes.

She joined the BJP in March 2019, and quickly rose within the party ranks, holding posts of president of the state BJP Mahila Morcha, General Secretary of the party's Bengal unit and is currently serving as its Vice President.

Paul had unsuccessfully contested the 2022 Asansol Lok Sabha by-election, losing to actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha of TMC. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, she again contested from Medinipur seat but was defeated by TMC's actor-politician June Malia.

Since her joining the saffron party, Paul had been frequently raising issues related to governance and accountability of the TMC government and protesting the alleged large-scale corruption, violence against opposition supporters, infiltration and appeasement in demonstrations and on the floor of the House.

Before entering politics, Paul built a career as a fashion designer and

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Suvendu Adhikari takes oath as first BJP CM of West Bengal with five ministers

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ending a long political struggle, BJP legislature party leader Suvendu Adhikari took oath as the 9th Chief minister of West Bengal on Saturday, heading the first BJP government in the state creating history and marking a watershed moment that redrew the state's political landscape after decades of resistance to saffron politics.

Bengal Governor RN Ravi administered the oath of office and secrecy to Suvendu Adhikari at a grand and colourful ceremony at the iconic Brigade Parade Ground here at 11-30 a.m. in presence of a host of dignitaries from across the country including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence minister Rajnath Singh and several other Union ministers, Chief ministers of all 20 NDA-ruled states and senior BJP leaders, including cine star Mithun Chakraborty.

Apart from Suvendu Adhikari five other senior BJP leaders and newly elected MLAs from both North and South Bengal -comprising Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Khudiram Tudu and Nisith Pramanik - also took oath one after another after the new Chief minister to form a kitchen cabinet of the newly formed BJP government. However, the portfolios of none of the ministers was allocated so far.

Earlier in a do or die battle in the two phase elections in West Bengal, the BJP secured 207 seats in the 294-member Assembly, ending the Trinamool Congress' 15-year rule in the state after they could manage only 80 seats.

Suvendu Adhikari must have waited for this day his entire life, at least the political career part of it. Today, the BJP leader took oath as West Bengal Chief Minister after his party won the assembly election in this state for the first time in its tumultuous electoral history, from the hands of the communists to Mamata Banerjee's activism-essque style that lasted 15 years.

Suvendu Adhikari once served as an aide to Mamata Banerjee, the then



Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi congratulates Suvendu Adhikari after he was sworn in as the West Bengal Chief Minister during a ceremony held at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Saturday. PIC: Prabir Bhattacharya

Chief minister.

Fast forward to this very moment, Suvendu Adhikari has settled himself on the same critical seat once occupied by the same person who he played aide to.

It's quite likely that in the current context no other leader in Bengal has a more dramatic, almost stardom-like ascension than Suvendu Adhikari's story. Consider these, all in the former sense: aide to a defeated Chief minister, senior voter to the Trinamool Congress, hero to voters in Nandigram and Bhabanipur. Like the Roman general who returned for justice.

Incidentally, Suvendu Adhikari's rise in Bengal politics has been significant.

He was once a trusted lieutenant of Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo Mamata Banerjee, but had switched to the BJP before the 2021 assembly elections in the state.

Since then, he has been at the forefront of BJP's campaign against Mamata Banerjee.

In the 2021 polls, Suvendu Adhikari was challenged by Mamata Banerjee from his stronghold of Nandigram where the TMC supremo lost to her aide-turned-rival back then by over 1500 votes.

For the 2026 elections, the BJP leadership fielded Adhikari from two seats: Nandigram and Bhabanipur. The latter

is considered to be a bastion of Mamata Banerjee, but Suvendu Adhikari was able to defeat her for a second consecutive time by a margin of more than 15,000 votes.

According to the Election Commission of India (ECI), Suvendu Adhikari received 73,917 votes, against Mamata Banerjee who could manage only 58,812 votes.

Notably, Suvendu Adhikari has been a five-time MLA. He had first contested a West Bengal elections in 2001 from Mugberia, but lost by nearly 15,000 votes. He first got elected to the West Bengal assembly from Kanthi Dakshin in 2006. In 2016, he changed his seat

to Nandigram, though; which he was able to re-though; which he was able to retain in 2021. Finally in 2026, he contested from both Nandigram and Bhabanipur, and won both.

Other than this, Suvendu Adhikari has also been a two-time Lok Sabha member. He first got elected to the lower House from Tamluk in 2009. He was also able to retain this seat in the 2014 parliamentary elections.

Today is more than just Suvendu Adhikari's day. Today is also more than just a dream-comes-true day for the BJP. The attendance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and a host of top leaders

from across the country at the new Chief minister's oath-taking ceremony, tells how significant is this turn in Bengal's political destiny, irrespective of ideologies, winners and losers.

Adhikari's initial team has some big names, top five of whom took oath today, which is also the birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore, the composer of our National Anthem.

Governor RN Ravi - the former Intelligence Bureau officer with a vast experience in fighting insurgencies - administered the oath of office and secrecy to Suvendu Adhikari and five other ministers, a week after the BJP registered a landslide win against the party's arch rival the Trinamool Congress of Mamata Banerjee after 15 years.

The BJP appears to have worked hard to ensure representation of all major sections in Suvendu Adhikari's initial new team. As Dilip Ghosh belongs to Other Backward Classes (OBC), Agnimitra Paul is Kayast, Ashok Kirtania is Mathua, Khudiram Tudu belongs to a tribe and represents the community, while and Nisith Pramanik is a Rajbanshi from North Bengal.

Individually, these five leaders have been visible in the Bengal BJP for quite some time with their contributions to the party's overall health and the final push that propelled it to power.

Dilip Ghosh played a big role in expanding the BJP's ground network after 2014. Agnimitra Paul after joining the BJP in 2019 became one of BJP's most prominent women personalities in Bengal politics. Ashok Kirtania is known as a representative of the Matua voter base, which is extremely important to the BJP in Bengal's south. Khudiram Tudu represents the tribal-aided constituency Ranibandh in Bankura, and has been powering the BJP's outreach in western Bengal's tribal areas. Nisith Pramanik is known for his strong appeal to young voters and organisational influence among the majority North Bengal voters, who are the main powerhouse of the BJP for long.

PM Modi wishes Suvendu Adhikari a 'fruitful tenure', takes blessings of oldest Bengal BJP worker



Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, West Bengal Governor R.N. Ravi, along with West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari and five ministers of the state cabinet - Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Khudiram Tudu, and Nisith Pramanik on stage during the swearing-in ceremony at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Saturday.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Prime Minister Narendra Modi who flew down to Kolkata on Saturday morning only to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the first BJP government in the state, warmly hugged and congratulated Suvendu Adhikari on taking oath as the first BJP Chief minister of Bengal saying that he was deeply connected to the people and understood their aspirations.

As expected Suvendu Adhikari took the oath as the Chief minister at the iconic Brigade Parade Grounds in presence of PM Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the BJP's central leadership and as many as 20 Chief ministers of all NDA-ruled states.

In his message for Suvendu Adhikari,

PM Modi wished the first BJP chief minister of the state a "fruitful tenure".

After reaching Brigade Parade Grounds at around 11 a.m., the Prime minister, accompanied by Suvendu Adhikari and BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya, took a ride on an open jeep and waved at thousands of BJP workers and supporters who were present at the venue.

Five BJP leaders and now legislators - Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Nisith Pramanik and Khudiram Tudu - were also sworn-in as State Ministers along with Suvendu Adhikari after the BJP secured 207 seats in the 294-member Assembly, ending the Trinamool Congress' 15-year rule in the State.

The entire Brigade Parade Grounds was decked in saffron colours and a large number of artists from different districts performed to the tune of traditional drums, clad in colourful dresses.

After taking a ride on the open vehicle, PM Modi went to the stage and warmly greeted Makhantal Sarkar and presented him with a shawl and took his blessings.

At the age of 98, Makhantal Sarkar remains one of the early grassroots figures associated with the nationalist movement in post-Independence India.

In 1952, he was arrested in Kashmir while accompanying Syama Prasad Mookerjee during the movement to hoist the Indian Tricolour there. After the formation of the BJP in 1980, he became

the organisational coordinator for West Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, and Darjeeling districts. Within just one year, he helped enroll nearly 10,000 members.

From 1981 onward, he served continuously for seven years as district president, an exceptional achievement at a time when BJP leaders generally could not remain in the same organisational position for more than two years.

Earlier on Friday evening, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced Suvendu Adhikari's name as BJP's Legislative Party leader at the BJP's legislature party meeting. After that, Suvendu Adhikari went to Lok Bhavan as per the rules and staked his claim to form the new government before Governor R.N. Ravi.

Jhalmuri turns victory flavour at BJP ministers swearing-in ceremony in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: 'Jhalmuri', the quintessential Bengali street snack that became an unlikely symbol in the bitter TMC-BJP fight for over a month, found pride of place at the swearing-in ceremony of West Bengal's first BJP government at the iconic Brigade Parade Ground on Saturday.

The state BJP set up 20 jhalmuri stalls around the sprawling venue in central Kolkata, while several independent vendors were also seen doing brisk business along the periphery.

Scores of people attending the ceremony made a beeline for the stalls to savour the snack made of puffed rice, green chillies, and an assortment of spices.

"I am loving jhalmuri more today because of our heady victory in the election," said Manjari Basu, who came from Tollygunge, in Kolkata's southern quarters, to witness the swearing-in ceremony.

Manish Yadav from Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas, holding a paper packet of jhalmuri in hand, said the snack tasted sweet instead of spicy because of the BJP's momentous victory.

Ravi Prasad, a native from Sasaram in Bihar who has been staying in Bengal for the past over three decades and currently selling Jhalmuri, is ecstatic over the sudden rush of people for his Jhalmuri.

"I have earned more than Rs 600 with

in three hours of coming to the ground this morning. This is beyond my all expectations. I could have sold and earn more had I not emptied my stock within hours", he said with a broad smile on his face.

The humble snack hogged national limelight at the height of hustings during the recently concluded Assembly polls as Prime minister Narendra Modi made an unscheduled stop during his campaign in Jhargram on April 19 to savour jhalmuri from a non-descript roadside stall. He not only paid a Rs 10 note to the seller but was also seen sharing this popular snack with some local people who rushed to see him. Soon the entire episode became viral in the social media across

the country.

Since then, 'jhalmuri' became part of the political crossfire with TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee alleging that Modi's pit-stop at the shop was "all drama" and the Prime minister retorting that the rival party was feeling the heat of chillies after he had the snack.

While Modi had remarked that the BJP would hold victory celebrations on May 4 and distribute sweets as well as jhalmuri among people, the then chief minister, Mamata Banerjee, said that she would send the Prime minister bhelupuri, which is available in Delhi. However, her remarks has created a furore in the country, severely criticising the former Chief minister.

CM Suvendu Adhikari visits Jorasanko Thakurbari, before beginning official duties

MI News Service, Kolkata: Soon after taking oath as the 9th Chief minister of West Bengal Suvendu Adhikari on Saturday drove straight to Jorasanko Thakurbari, the ancestral home of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in north Kolkata and paid floral tributes to the universal poet on his birth anniversary, known as "Rabindra Jayanti", before formally beginning his official duties.

Dressed in a dhoti and saffron panjabi, Adhikari said he wanted to seek the blessings of Kaviguru before starting work as the Chief minister.

"My official work begins after paying tribute to Kaviguru," he said. Invoking Swami Vivekananda, Suvendu Adhikari cited the words of the monk "Charaiveti, Charaiveti" (keep going), as he called upon people to work towards building a new Bengal. He also wished for a new dawn for Bengal.

"Let us rebuild Bengal," he said, adding that "this was not the time for blame or criticism".

Suvendu Adhikari also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had wished for this day and described it as an important occasion for the state.

Before departing the new Chief minister also called on the Vice Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati university and reportedly discussed with him certain official matters.



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari participates in the oath-taking ceremony wearing a traditional Bengali-style dhoti and a saffron-coloured kurta.

BJP's ideology gained recognition in Bengal: says Nitin Gadkari

MI News Service, Nagpur / Kolkata: Union Surface Transport minister and senior BJP leader Nitin Gadkari on Saturday said the Bharatiya Janata Party's "spectacular" victory in West Bengal shows that the party's ideology has now gained recognition among people there, and the power change brought by them will pave the way for a speedy re-development of the eastern state.

The Minister of Road Transport and Highways said this just prior to his departure for Kolkata to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Suvendu Adhikari as West Bengal Chief Minister.

The BJP secured 207 seats in the 294-member West Bengal assembly in the recently-concluded elections, ending the Trinamool Congress (TMC)'s 15-year rule and scripting its most significant breakthrough in eastern India.

Suvendu Adhikari, who defeated TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee in the Bhabanipur assembly seat by over 15,000 votes on May 4, on Saturday took oath as the first BJP Chief minister of West Bengal, marking a watershed moment that redrew the state's political landscape after decades of resistance to saffron politics.

Before the TMC came to power in 2011, the Left Front, led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), ruled the state for 34 consecutive years.

Gadkari said, "BJP's spectacular victory in West Bengal for the first time is a tribute to Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee." "Mookerjee established the Bharatiya Jana Sangh under very adverse conditions, and today our ideology has gained recognition in Bengal. This brings immense joy to all our workers...The change brought by the people of Bengal will undoubtedly prove very useful for the state's development in future," the Union minister added.

ASUS Launches ExpertBook Ultra

MI News Service, Kolkata : ASUS announced the launch of ExpertBook Ultra, the absolute industry flagship, along with a significant expansion in the versatile ExpertBook P series portfolio for a truly Worry-free business experience. The ASUS ExpertBook Ultra is a Copilot+ PC designed to enable CXOs and Business Leaders to achieve True Focus and an Ultra State of Mind where Brilliance is Born, through an Ultra-Light design, Elite Cutting-Edge AI-Powered Performance, Vivid Display, Immersive Audio, All Day Battery, Ultimate typing experience, Segment Leading Military grade Durability, Enterprise-Grade Security, Super Premium Enterprise Grade Service Support, and Seamless Expandability.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi warmly greets and felicitates 98-year-old BJP veteran Makhnall Sarkar during the swearing-in ceremony of West Bengal's first BJP government in Kolkata on Saturday. Pic: Prabh Bhattacharya.

Emotional Shishir Adhikari Recalls Suvendu's Childhood After Oath Ceremony

MI News Service, East Medinipur: As Shuvendu Adhikari took oath as the ninth Chief Minister of West Bengal amid massive celebrations at Brigade Parade Ground on Saturday, an emotional and deeply personal narrative unfolded hundreds of kilometres away inside the Adhikari family residence in Purba Medinipur.



Shishir Adhikari said, narrating the story with visible emotion. The senior Adhikari described his son as someone shaped from childhood by the political and social values deeply rooted within the family. According to him, the newly sworn-in Chief Minister inherited not only the family's political instincts but also its understanding of restraint, timing and public connection. "The culture and philosophy of our family are within him. He understands how far to advance and when to step back," he remarked. Despite the historic nature of the occasion, Shishir Adhikari did not attend the swearing-in ceremony at Brigade Parade Ground. Asked about his absence, he said he had chosen to remain at home because of concerns surrounding the enormous crowd and possible security complications.

literary symbolism, Shishir Adhikari recalled an anecdote from 1971, claiming that then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had once expressed interest in taking the young Shuvendu away in a helicopter during a visit. He also referred to repeated efforts by a senior political figure, identified by him as "Barkat Saheb," who allegedly wanted to keep and educate the child. "The elder brother was darker in complexion, while Shuvendu was comparatively fair. But his mother would never let him leave the house,"

Celebrations Sweep Suvendu Adhikari's Ancestral Village Kurkuli After Swearing-In as Chief Minister

MI News Service, Kharagpur : Jubilant celebrations broke out in Kurkuli, the ancestral village of senior BJP leader and Legislator Shubhendu Adhikari, soon after he took oath as the Chief Minister of West Bengal. The village, located in Contai subdivision of Purba Medinipur district, witnessed scenes of festivity as BJP supporters and local residents gathered to celebrate the historic moment.



As news of the oath-taking ceremony spread, a wave of excitement swept across the village. Crowds began assembling on the streets from the morning itself. BJP workers distributed sweets among residents, burst firecrackers, and danced to the beats of drums and bands to mark the occasion. People of all age groups, from children to elderly villagers, were seen participating enthusiastically in the celebrations. Women also came out of their homes to express their happiness and prayed for the long life and successful tenure of the new Chief Minister. A huge crowd gathered near Adhikari's ancestral house, "Shantikunj," where supporters raised slogans in

praise of the new Chief Minister and the Bharatiya Janata Party. Several villagers described the moment as a matter of immense pride, saying that "the son of the village" had now reached the highest office in the state. Local BJP leader and councillor Sushil Das said, "Even small children have come out on the streets to celebrate the happiness of our Dada Shubhendu Adhikari becoming the Chief Minister. He has always remained closely connected with the people and regularly interacts with everyone. That is why such excitement and joy can be seen among the villagers." He further added that Adhikari has spent years working among the people and understands

BJP Leader Found Dead in Purulia Before CM's Oath Ceremony

MI News Service, Purulia: Tension and shock gripped Purulia on Saturday after the body of a local BJP leader was recovered under mysterious circumstances, hours before the swearing-in ceremony of the state's new Chief Minister at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata. The deceased, identified as 45-year-old Habulal Gop, was a Shakikendra Pramukh and booth-level organisational leader from the Beldi area under Arsha police station limits in Purulia district. According to family members and local sources, Habulal Gop had travelled to Kanali village under Mofussil police station area on Friday evening to attend a wedding ceremony. He was reportedly accompanied by his nephew, Giridhari Gop. However, later in the night, the leader could no longer be traced. Family members alleged that repeated attempts were made to contact him over phone, but the device remained unreachable throughout the night. Panic grew among relatives after he failed to return home. On Saturday morning, his body was recovered from Kanali village, several kilometres away from his residence, triggering widespread tension in the area.



Crowds throng the swearing-in ceremony of Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Saturday.

Nor'wester leaves Shantipur weaver devastated, loom shed destroyed

MI News Service, Nadia : A devastating nor'wester accompanied by heavy rain and lightning left a weaver from Shantipur staring at massive financial losses after his loom shed was severely damaged late on Wednesday night.



The affected artisan, Kaushik Debnath (32), a resident of Rajput Para Barowari area under Ward No. 19 of Shantipur Municipality, lost the tin roof of his loom shed in the storm. Rainwater subsequently entered the workspace, damaging costly weaver stocks and three loom machines. According to local sources, weaving work for nearly 520 pieces of cloth was underway at the unit when the storm struck. The sudden squall disrupted the entire production process and caused losses estimated to be worth several lakhs of rupees. Kaushik, who solely depends on weaving to support his family comprising his elderly father, wife, son and daughter, said he is now uncertain about how to restart work. "This is our only source of livelihood. Everything got damaged within a few minutes,"

he said. Residents said the storm intensified suddenly during the night, ripping apart the tin roofing before heavy rain flooded the shed and soaked yarn bundles and weaving equipment. Local social worker Bibhas Ghosh visited the spot after learning about the incident. He said the matter would be brought to the attention of the municipality and local administration so that compensation or relief support could be arranged for the affected artisan. The incident has once again highlighted the vulnerability of traditional weavers in Shantipur, a town known for its rich handloom heritage, where many families remain dependent on small-scale weaving units for survival.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives on stage in the presence of West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari and other BJP leaders and dignitaries during the swearing-in ceremony at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Saturday.

Former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Photograph Removed from Midnapore Municipality After Change in Power, Confirms Chairman Soumen Khan

MI News Service, Kharagpur : Following the change of power in West Bengal, administrative and political changes are continuing across the state. In this context, a significant development has emerged at the Midnapore Municipality in West Medinipur district. The photograph of former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been removed from the municipal office and conference hall. The incident has triggered widespread discussions in political circles. According to sources, several photographs of eminent personalities, freedom fighters, and prominent political leaders were displayed in the office chamber of Midnapore Municipality Chairman Soumen Khan. Among them was a photograph of Mamata Banerjee, which had been displayed there for a long time. Her photograph was also present in the municipality's conference hall. However, after the formation of a new government in West Bengal under the leadership of the BJP, the municipal administration removed her photograph from both places. Sources stated that the step was taken keeping in mind administrative traditions and the prevailing political situation. However, the removal of the photograph has intensified political reactions in the area. Different political parties have expressed varying opinions on the issue. BJP supporters said that changes in administrative institutions are natural after the formation of a new gov-



ernment and described the move as a "beginning of a new era." On the other hand, supporters of the All India Trinamool Congress alleged that the decision was politically motivated and argued that respect for the former Chief Minister should have been maintained. Midnapore Municipality Chairman Soumen Khan confirmed the development, stating that Mamata Banerjee's photograph had indeed been removed from the municipal office and conference hall. According to him, the decision was taken in accordance with changing political circumstances and administrative arrangements. However, he denied that the move was linked to any political controversy. Following the incident, discussions among local residents in the Midnapore Municipality area have intensified. Social media platforms have also witnessed mixed reactions regarding the removal of the photograph. While some people described it as a normal administrative process after a change in government, others viewed it as an act of political retaliation. Political analysts believe that after the formation of the new government in West Bengal, similar changes may be seen in several government and administrative institutions in the coming days. Particularly in places where photographs or symbols associated with leaders of the previous government are displayed, changes in line with the new political environment are expected.

Bomb recovered from electric meter box in Krishnanagar ahead of swearing-in ceremony

MI News Service, Nadia : Tension spread across Sukantapalli area of Krishnanagar town in Nadia district on Saturday morning after a powerful crude bomb was recovered from the electric meter box of a residential house, coinciding with the swearing-in ceremony of the state's new government.



According to local sources, a resident of Daspara in Sukantapalli noticed a suspicious object inside the meter box while checking the electrical connection. On closer inspection, the object appeared to be a bomb, following which police were informed immediately.

A large contingent from Krishnanagar Kotwali police station rushed to the spot and cordoned off the area. Central forces also reached the locality considering the sensitivity of the situation. The bomb was carefully removed from the meter box and shifted to a safer location. Bomb squad officials were later called in to defuse the explosive. Police officials said an investigation has been initiated to determine who planted the bomb and the motive behind it. Investigators are examining whether the incident was linked to political tension, personal enmity or an attempt to trigger panic in the densely populated locality. CCTV footage from nearby areas is being scanned and local residents are being questioned. No arrests had been made till the filing of this report. The incident, occurring on the day of the new government's swearing-in ceremony, has raised fresh concerns over law and order in the district. Police, however, claimed the situation remained under control and additional patrolling had been deployed in the area to prevent any untoward incident.

Rabindranath Tagore's 165th Birth Anniversary Celebrated Across Hooghly

MI News Service, Hooghly : Every year, the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore is celebrated according to the Bengali calendar on the 25th day of the month of Boisakh, which generally falls on May 8 or 9 in the English calendar. This day is also known as "Pochishe Boishakh." This year, on May 9, the 165th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore was celebrated with great reverence and respect in Rishra of Hooghly district, along with the rest of the state.

In the morning, several leaders and supporters including Rishra Municipality Chairman Vijay Sagar Mishra, Vice Chairman Zahid Hasan Khan, councillors, and Trinamool Congress workers gathered at Rabindra Bhavan of Rishra Municipality. The statue of Rabindranath Tagore was beautifully decorated for the occasion. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, and others were seen offering floral tributes one after another as a mark of respect.

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) was a great Bengali poet, philosopher, writer, and educationist of the Indian subcontinent. In 1913, he received the Nobel Prize in Literature for his famous work "Gitanjali," becoming the first Asian to win a Nobel Prize.

Tagore composed the national anthems of both India and Bangladesh and was also the founder of Visva-Bharati University.

Birth and Name: He was born on May 7, 1861, in Calcutta (present-day Kolkata). His family surname was "Thakur," which later became popularly known as "Tagore." Great Honour: In 1913, he won the Nobel Prize for his world-famous literary work "Gitanjali." Multi-talented Personality: He was not only a poet but also a novelist, short story writer, dramatist, painter, and musician.

National Anthems: He wrote India's national anthem "Jana Gana Mana" and Bangladesh's national anthem "Amar Sonar Bangla." Educational Philosophy: He founded Visva-Bharati University at Santiniketan, a centre of learning that combined modern education with closeness to nature. Ideology: He was a great thinker who gave special importance to humanity, nature, and patriotism in his poetry and prose. Death: Rabindranath Tagore passed away on August 7, 1941, in Calcutta. Due to his immense literary contributions, Tagore is also respectfully remembered by the title "Gurudev."

Rabindranath Tagore's 165th Birth Anniversary Celebrated with Grandeur and Enthusiasm in West Medinipur and Jhargram Districts

MI News Service, Kharagpur : The 165th birth anniversary of world poet Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was celebrated with reverence, dignity, and cultural enthusiasm across West Medinipur and Jhargram districts. Special programmes were organised by various educational institutions, cultural organisations, social groups, and clubs throughout the districts.



From the morning itself, several places witnessed Prabhat Pheris (morning processions), while floral tributes and garlands were offered to portraits of Gurudev in remembrance of his contributions. A large number of students, teachers, literature enthusiasts, artists, and local residents participated in programmes held in Kharagpur, Midnapore, Ghatat, Dantan, Jhargram, Gopiballavpur, and other areas. Many schools organised special discussions on Rabindranath Tagore's life, literature, music, and

contributions to social reform. Speakers at the events said that Gurudev was not only a poet but also a great philosopher, educationist, and humanitarian thinker whose works continue to inspire people even today. On the occasion, performances of Rabindra Sangeet, dance dramas, poetry recitations, and various cultural presentations captivated audiences. Children

and youths added charm to the celebrations by presenting songs and dances based on Tagore's creations. Drawing competitions and debate contests were also organised at several places, with enthusiastic participation from students. Programmes organised by social organisations and cultural forums focused on spreading Tagore's ideals related to education, humanity, and patriotism among the younger generation. Speakers stated that Gurudev's thoughts remain relevant in modern society and that his ideals continue to inspire the youth. Cultural events continued throughout the day across different parts of the districts. In the evening, several places also organised lamp-lighting ceremonies, collective Rabindra Sangeet performances, and cultural evenings. A strong sense of enthusiasm was visible among the people as they paid heartfelt tribute to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.

Sayanhe Rabi: A Timeless Tribute to Tagore Graces Kolkata with Melodic Poetic Brilliance and Graceful Kathak

MI News Service, Kolkata : On the eve of the 165th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, a grand cultural event titled "Sayanhe Rabi" was Organized at the ICCR Hall in Kolkata. Organized by Nandanik Manush Foundation, the evening paid a heartfelt tribute to Gurudev through literature, music, and dance.



The event was conceptualized by Rituraj Pramanik, beginning with presentations inspired by Tagore's literary and musical works. As eminent personalities of the city gathered on stage, the entire auditorium was left spellbound.

Renowned elocution artist Bratati Bandyopadhyay brought life to words with her powerful recitation, while melodious Rabindra Sangeet performances by Shrabani Sen and Shreya Guha Thakurta deeply moved the audience. This confluence of music and poetry beautifully revived Tagore's timeless

legacy. However, the highlight of the evening was the captivating performance by emerging Kathak dancer Rajeshwari Garain. A disciple of Padma Sri awardee Shovana Narayan, Rajeshwari mesmerized the audience with her graceful and powerful Kathak recital. Her energy, classical preci-

sion, and expressive storytelling filled the hall with resounding applause. Hailing from Beliaghata, Rajeshwari demonstrated that with dedication and proper guidance, any goal can be achieved. Notably, she balances her professional responsibilities alongside her passion for dance with remarkable ease. "Sayanhe Rabi" emerged not just as an event, but as a vibrant cultural celebration that provided a platform for both established artists and emerging talents. The evening added yet another memorable chapter to Kolkata's rich cultural heritage.



BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari taking the oath as the Chief Minister of West Bengal at a grand ceremony at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground on Saturday.



Senior BJP leader Dilip Ghosh takes oath as a minister in the West Bengal Government cabinet led by Suwendu Adhikari during the swearing-in ceremony held at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Saturday.



BJP leader Agnimitra Paul takes oath as a minister in the West Bengal government cabinet during the swearing-in ceremony held at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Saturday.



BJP MLA Ashok Kirtania sworn in as a minister in the West Bengal cabinet during the swearing-in ceremony held at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Saturday.



BJP MLA Khudiram Tudu taking oath as a minister in the state cabinet led by BJP Government during the swearing-in ceremony held at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Saturday.



BJP leader Nisith Pramanik takes oath as a minister in the West Bengal government cabinet during the swearing-in ceremony held at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Saturday.

Suwendu Calls for Unity and Development After Taking Oath as Chief Minister

MI News Service, Kolkata: After rising from the position of Leader of Opposition to becoming the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Suwendu Adhikari delivered his first public remarks with a strong message of responsibility, unity, and development. Shortly after taking oath, the newly appointed Chief Minister stated that he now considers himself the leader of all citizens, not just a section of the population. He emphasised that governance must rise above political divisions and focus entirely on the progress of the state.

Describing the occasion as historic for both West Bengal and the nation, he noted that the oath ceremony was held on Rabindra Jayanti in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's wishes.

Soon after the swearing-in ceremony, Adhikari visited Jorasanko Thakurbari on the occa-

sion of Rabindra Jayanti to pay tribute to Rabindranath Tagore. Speaking to the media there, he urged restraint in political discourse and appealed for a more constructive atmosphere in the state. He said he would not make any controversial statements and instead called for collective wisdom and goodwill among people across political lines. According to him, West Bengal has already suffered significant setbacks in education and culture, and there is a pressing need to rebuild these foundational pillars.

Adhikari said his government's priority would be the rebuilding of Bengal, claiming the state's education and cultural heritage had suffered serious decline. He stressed that, as Chief Minister, he represented every citizen of the state, irrespective of political affiliation.

The Chief Minister further appealed for a new beginning in the state's governance, urging everyone to come together for the reconstruction of Bengal. He stressed that this is not a time for political confrontation or mutual criticism, but a moment to move forward with determination. Quoting Swami Vivekananda, he remarked "Charaibeti, Charaibeti," highlighting the importance of continuous progress.

However, he also spoke about what he described as the present condition of West Bengal, saying the state had fallen behind in several areas and that his government now faced a major responsibility. "Bengal has suffered a lot. Education has declined. Culture has weakened. We will rebuild Bengal. We have a huge responsibility before us. This is not the time for political arguments or criticism

of one another. Those who want to continue such politics may do so, but we will focus on work.

Following his visit to Jorasanko Thakurbari, Adhikari proceeded to the PWD tent at the Maidan area where he held a high-level administrative meeting. According to sources, the Chief Secretary, along with senior officials from the state police administration, attended the meeting. Reports suggest that immediately after the swearing-in ceremony at Brigade Parade Ground, the Chief Minister had summoned the Chief Secretary for urgent discussions.

Overall, the day marked the beginning of a new administrative phase in West Bengal, with the Chief Minister signalling a shift towards governance-driven politics and an appeal for collective effort in rebuilding the state.

PM Modi Calls Bengal BJP Govt's Swearing-In on Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti a 'Special Coincidence'



Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes to Rabindranath Tagore on his birth anniversary ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of the new West Bengal government held at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Saturday.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday termed it a "special and meaningful coincidence" that

the swearing-in ceremony of West Bengal's first BJP-led government was held on Pochishhe Boishakh, the birth anniversary of Nobel

laureate Rabindranath Tagore. In a message shared on social media platform X, the Prime Minister said the occasion be-

came even more significant as tributes were paid to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore during the ceremony. He noted that Tagore's thoughts and writings have inspired generations and continue to guide the nation's progress and cultural consciousness.

The historic ceremony marked the beginning of BJP rule in West Bengal for the first time since Independence. Senior BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari took oath as the state's first BJP Chief Minister, bringing an end to the 15-year rule of the Trinamool Congress government.

Along with Adhikari, five BJP leaders — Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Kshudiram Tudu, and Nisith Pramanik — were sworn in as ministers in the newly formed cabinet.

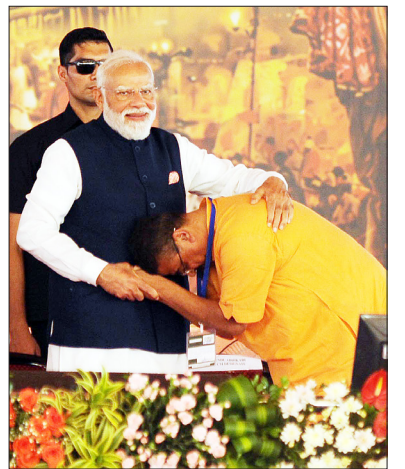
The grand event was attended by several top BJP leaders from across the country, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP national president JP Nadda, and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

CM Suwendu Holds First Administrative Meeting, Orders Continuity of Public Services

MI News Service, Kolkata: The newly formed BJP government in West Bengal has announced a major administrative shift, stating that the state secretariat and cabinet operations will eventually move from Nabanna to the historic Mahakaran building in central Kolkata. However, despite the announcement, the first cabinet meeting under Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari is set to take place at Nabanna next Friday.

Soon after taking oath at Brigade Parade Ground on Saturday, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari visited the Assembly and held an important meeting with the Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, and Director General of Police. During the discussions, several administrative decisions were reportedly taken, including the schedule for the first cabinet meeting and arrangements related to governance transition.

According to sources, the Chief Minister instructed senior officials to ensure that all ongoing government schemes continue without



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari takes blessings from Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi after being sworn in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal during a swearing-in ceremony held at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Saturday.

interruption. He reportedly emphasised that public services and welfare programmes must not suffer during the administrative transition and directed officials to maintain smooth functioning across all departments.

Although the BJP government has announced plans to run the state secretariat from Mahakaran, renovation and restoration work has already begun at the historic administrative building. Officials believe it may take some time before the structure becomes fully operational for day-to-day governance. Until then, parts of the Assembly complex and Nabanna will continue to be used for official activities. Preparations have already begun at the Assembly premises for the new administration. Portions of the building have reportedly been redesigned and illuminated with saffron lighting. A new ramp has also been constructed outside the Chief Minister's chamber. Suwendu Adhikari visited the chamber shortly after taking oath, and his official nameplate as Chief Minister has already been installed.

BCC Welcomes Suwendu Adhikari Govt, Expresses Hope for Industrial Growth

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Bharat Chamber of Commerce has welcomed the swearing-in of Suwendu Adhikari as the Chief Minister of West Bengal, describing the occasion as the beginning of a new chapter for the state marked by development, stability, and economic progress. In an official statement issued by Chamber President Naresh Pachisia, the organisation congratulated the new Chief Minister and expressed optimism about Bengal's future under the new administration. According to the statement, the election mandate reflects the aspirations of millions of people seeking transparent governance, industrial revival, employment generation, and social harmony. The Chamber praised Adhikari's role in strengthening the BJP across Bengal under challenging circumstances and highlighted his organisational abilities and commitment. It also expressed hope that improved coordination between the state government and the Centre would help accelerate developmental schemes and administrative efficiency. The Chamber further stated that it is eager to work closely with the new government on issues such as investment promotion, border security, MSME development, infrastructure expansion, and trade facilitation. In a separate letter addressed to the Chief Minister, Bharat Chamber of Commerce reiterated its commitment to supporting Bengal's economic progress and urged the state to fully utilise the benefits of the Central government's "Purvodaya" initiative aimed at boosting development across eastern India, including Bengal.

Tapas Roy Named Protem Speaker of Bengal Assembly



Senior BJP leader Tapas Roy has been appointed as the Protem Speaker of the newly constituted West Bengal Assembly following the formation of the BJP government in the state. Governor RN Ravi is scheduled to administer the oath of office to Roy on Tuesday.

currently being discussed in political circles.

The announcement came shortly after the swearing-in ceremony of the new BJP government held on Saturday at Kolkata's historic Brigade Parade Ground. BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari took oath as the Chief Minister of West Bengal, marking the beginning of the party's first government in the state since Independence.

Along with the Chief Minister, five ministers — Agnimitra Paul, Dilip Ghosh, Nisith Pramanik, Ashok Kirtania, and Khudiram Tudu — also took oath. Sources indicated that the remaining members of the cabinet are expected to be sworn in next week. As per Assembly procedure, Tapas Roy will administer the oath to newly elected MLAs. The oath-taking ceremony for members of the 18th West Bengal Legislative Assembly is expected to take place on May 13 and 14.

According to sources, BJP MLAs Shankar Ghosh from Siliguri and Jagannath Chattopadhyay from Suri will assist Tapas Roy in carrying out the responsibilities of the Protem Speaker during the initial Assembly proceedings. However, suspense continues over who will eventually be appointed as the permanent Speaker of the Assembly, with several names

Biman Bose Urges New BJP Govt to Fulfil Promises and Maintain Social Harmony

MI News Service, Kolkata: Following the BJP's historic victory in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections and the swearing-in of Suwendu Adhikari as Chief Minister, Left Front chairman Biman Bose extended a cautious message to the new government, urging it to fulfil its electoral promises and work in the interest of all sections of society.

The BJP officially formed the government in West Bengal for the first time after Independence, with Suwendu Adhikari taking oath at a grand ceremony held at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Saturday. While several top BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Ra-

jath Singh, and chief ministers from BJP-ruled states attended the event, leaders from opposition parties were largely absent.

No representative from the Left Front was seen at the swearing-in ceremony. However, Biman Bose addressed the political development from outside the venue while attending Rabindra Jayanti celebrations at Jorasanko Thakurbari. The veteran Left leader had visited the historic site to pay tribute to Rabindranath Tagore on his birth anniversary.

Speaking to the media after the programme, Biman Bose said that the day of the swearing-in was not appropriate for political confrontation or strong reactions.

Central Forces Deployed Outside Mamata's Kalighat Residence Amid Post-Election Tension

MI News Service, Kolkata: Central security forces were deployed outside Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee's residence in Kalighat, Kolkata, following heightened political tension after the swearing-in of Suwendu Adhikari as the ninth Chief Minister of West Bengal. The development came after BJP supporters gathered outside her residence and raised slogans, prompting authorities to step in to restore order and ensure law

and order in the area. According to local sources, soon after the formation of the new BJP-led government, a group of party workers and supporters arrived near Mamata Banerjee's residence on Saturday morning. They raised "Jai Shri Ram" slogans and attempted to stage demonstrations close to the main gate. Some overenthusiastic supporters reportedly continued sloganeering despite police presence, leading to a tense sit-

uation outside the high-security zone. Police personnel initially tried to disperse the crowd and prevent escalation. However, as the situation intensified, central forces were deployed outside the residence as an additional security measure. Officials stated that the step was taken purely to maintain law and order and prevent any further disturbance in the area. The situation is now reported to be under control, with

security personnel restricting entry of any protestors near the residence.

It is noteworthy that after the declaration of the Assembly election results, security barricades outside Mamata Banerjee's residence had been reduced, although her Z-plus category security cover as a former Chief Minister remained intact. Similar adjustments were also made at the residence of Trinamool leader Abhishek Banerjee.

Mamata Calls for Opposition Unity Amid Political Turmoil in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: Former West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee has issued a strong political message following the formation of the first BJP government in the state. Speaking at a public event, she called upon all opposition parties in Bengal to unite against the BJP, urging them to come together and form a joint platform without hesitation or fear.

Mamata stated that she has no ego in matters of political alliance and is open to working with any party willing to oppose the BJP. She specifically appealed to left parties as well, saying that a broader alliance is necessary to resist what she described as ongoing oppression in the state. According to her, the BJP has now become the primary political adversary in Bengal, and all anti-BJP forces must unite to protect democratic values.

She further alleged that people in Bengal are facing atrocities and that several political groups are being targeted. She accused the ruling dispensation of creating an



Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee paid tribute to Rabindranath Tagore, on the occasion of Rabindra Jayanti, at Kalighat in Kolkata on Saturday.

atmosphere of fear and instability, claiming that administrative systems, including police functioning, have been weakened. Mamata also said that after the election results, security arrangements were reduced and communication systems were affected. However, she asserted that the struggle will continue and that her party workers are facing political violence.

On the other hand, while Su-

wendu Adhikari took oath as Chief Minister at the Brigade Parade Ground on Saturday amid a grand BJP ceremony, Mamata Banerjee was engaged in preparations at her Kalighat residence to observe Rabindra Jayanti. This marked her first major public engagement after the electoral defeat of her party.

On the occasion of Rabindra Jayanti, Mamata Banerjee paid tribute to Rabindranath Tagore

re through a message posted on her social media handle. She described the day as a celebration of Bengal's language, culture, and heritage, calling it a symbolic rebirth of literary and cultural pride. She praised Tagore as a visionary thinker whose philosophy continues to guide everyday life.

In her message, she emphasised that Tagore's teachings highlight unity over division and promote harmony beyond narrow nationalism. She quoted the poet, urging people to awaken their hearts and move toward the sacred shores of humanity. Mamata also expressed hope that Tagore's ideals of creativity, humanity, and universal consciousness would continue to inspire people across the world.

Through both her political statements and cultural tribute, Mamata Banerjee projected a message of resistance on one hand and cultural unity on the other, setting the tone for her role as the leader of the opposition in the evolving political landscape of West Bengal.

Abhishek Raises Questions Over Election Process

MI News Service, Kolkata: A historic political shift unfolded in West Bengal on Saturday as the Bharatiya Janata Party formed its first government in the state since Independence. Suwendu Adhikari took oath as the first BJP Chief Minister of West Bengal at a grand ceremony held at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata. Along with him, senior BJP leaders Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Khudiram Tudu, Nisith Pramanik, and Ashok Kirtania also took oath as ministers in the new cabinet.

Soon after the swearing-in ceremony, Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee shared a lengthy statement on social media, raising serious concerns over the electoral process and post-poll violence in the state.

In his statement, Abhishek claimed that the Trinamool Congress fought under extremely difficult circumstances and alleged that nearly 30 lakh genuine voters had been removed from the electoral



process in West Bengal. He also referred to alleged irregularities related to EVM handling, movement of machines, counting procedures, and inconsistencies in control unit data.

Abhishek Banerjee reiterated his demand for the release of CCTV footage from counting centres and transparent counting of VVPAT slips to ensure that the truth comes before the public and doubts surrounding the election are addressed openly.

He also expressed concern over reports of post-poll violence, attacks on party offices, intimidation of Trinamool workers, and threats directed at supporters. He alleged that several party workers were targeted and forced to leave their homes due to fear and insecurity. Calling the situation unacceptable in a democratic society, Abhishek said no political worker should ever be forced to choose between personal safety and political ideology.

Hope new govt will reclaim "Shonar Bangla": Himanta B Sarma

MI News Service, Guwahati / Kolkata : Newly re-elected Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma congratulated Suwendu Adhikari on Saturday on being sworn in as the first BJP CM of West Bengal, and said that 'Anga, Banga, Kalinga and Pragjyotish' are now governed by a party that is "deeply rooted in preserving Sanatani values".



Anga, Banga, Kalinga and Pragjyotish refer to the historical eastern Indian geographical arc comprising modern-day Bihar, Bengal, Odisha and Assam.

All these states are now ruled by the BJP. Sarma maintained that the Suwendu Adhikari government will work to reclaim the true essence of "Shonar Bangla" (golden Bengal).

hikari's leadership would surely help restore the spirit of "Shonar Bangla soon", he reiterated.

After attending the swearing-in ceremony in Kolkata, Sarma said the political development

marked a historic moment for eastern India.

In a message posted on social media, he extended his best wishes to Suwendu Adhikari and described the occasion as the beginning of a new chapter in Ben-

gal's political journey.

Sarma also congratulated newly inducted ministers, including Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Kshudiram Tudu and Nisith Pramanik, saying they had become part of a significant political milestone.

Referring to the historical eastern region comprising Anga, Banga, Kalinga and Pragjyotish—associated with present-day Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha and Assam—Sarma said these regions are now governed by administrations committed to preserving Sanatani traditions and cultural values.

He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the new Bengal government would work from day one to strengthen border security, protect the state's cultural identity and attract development and invest-

ment.

Sarma also paid tribute to BJP workers in Bengal, saying the formation of the government was recognition of their years of dedication and sacrifice.

The Assam leader, who campaigned extensively for the BJP during the West Bengal assembly elections, said the political shift in the region represented not just an electoral victory but the beginning of a broader civilisational and developmental chapter for eastern India.

Incidentally, under his own leadership the BJP is going to form its government for the third consecutive term in Assam on May 12, which will also be attended by several National and regional leaders of the BJP. Sarma's government also won as many as 99 seats in the 126 member Assam Assembly on April 9 elections.

TVK supremo Vijay to take oath as Tamil Nadu CM on Sunday

MI News Service, Chennai: The political uncertainty that prevailed in Tamil Nadu over the last few days finally came to an end on Saturday (May 9, 2026) evening when Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president and leader of the single largest party C. Joseph Vijay called on Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at Lok Bhavan in Chennai, staking claim to form the government with the support of 120 MLAs-elect in the 234-member House. Mr. Vijay is set to take oath as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on Sunday (May 10, 2026) at 3 p.m.

This was the fourth time Mr. Vijay had met the Governor in a period of four days. On Saturday (May 9, 2026), Mr. Vijay met the Governor after the VCK and IUML extended unconditional support to TVK. Mr. Vijay was accompanied by leaders from the Congress, VCK, CPI(M), CPI and IUML during his meeting with the Governor.

TVK workers and supporters burst firecrackers outside the TVK headquarters in Chennai to celebrate as the party is set to form the government in Tamil Nadu.

Earlier on Saturday the VCK declared unconditional support to Vijay-led TVK to form the government in Tamil Nadu. Shortly after VCK's decision to back Vijay, another DMK ally, the IUML also extended support to TVK. IUML has two MLAs. With the two small parties' support, the numbers in favour of TVK rose to 120, two more than the simple majority mark of 118 in the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly.



VCK leader Vanni Arasu, also the legislature party leader has addressed a letter to Governor Arlekar declaring support to TVK. "Victory" said Arjuna and thanked the Congress, Left parties and the VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan MP for supporting his party and expressed confidence that TVK founder-chief Vijay would become the Chief Minister.

VCK sources said the party, as of now, will extend outside support to Vijay in his bid to form TVK's maiden government.

VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan earlier was set to make the announcement, but with a set of conditions, the important among them being the continuation of welfare schemes introduced during the DMK government.

Among the conditions, VCK has prioritised the continuation of two commissions: one set up by the DMK government to recommend a law to prevent honour killings, and another formed to consider reservations in promotions in government jobs.

India conducts second tests of MIRV-equipped Agni-5 missile

MI News Service, New Delhi: India successfully flight-tested an advanced variant of the Agni-5 ballistic missile equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle (MIRV) technology, off the coast of Odisha, the defence ministry said on Saturday.



Only a handful of countries, including the United States, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom, possess operational MIRV capability.

"The missile was flight-tested with multiple payloads targeted at different locations spatially distributed over a large geographical area in the Indian Ocean Region. The telemetry and tracking was carried out by multiple ground and ship-based stations," the statement said.

It added that the systems tracked the entire missile trajectory from lift-off till the impact of all payloads and that all mission objectives were met during the trial.

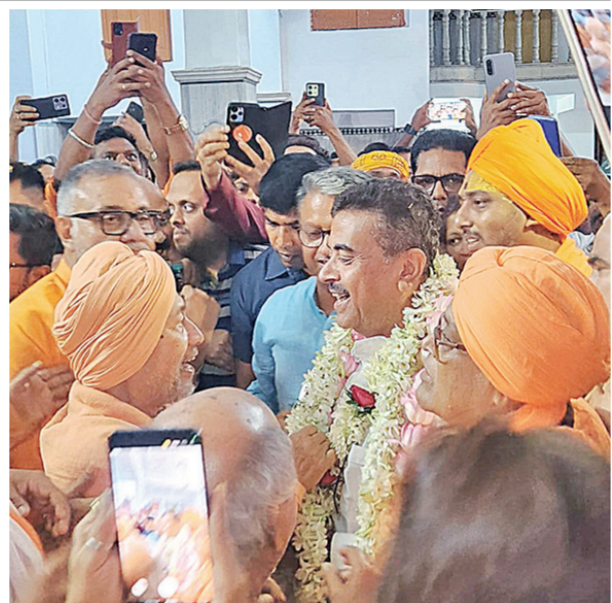
"With this successful trial, India once again demonstrated the capability to target multiple strategic targets using a single missile system," it said.

Sources said a significant technical advance in the Agni-5 Mk2 is the replacement of the earlier maraging steel first-stage casing with a lighter carbon composite filament-wound structure, currently India's largest composite missile casing. The lighter structure improves payload efficiency and reduces overall missile weight.

The Agni-5 has an officially declared strike range of over 5,000 km, putting targets deep into the Eurasian landmass including northern China within reach.

This is the second known test of the Agni-5 Mk2, also referred to as 'Divyasthra', an advanced MIRV-capable iteration of the Agni-5, which was first tested in March 2024. The missile is yet to undergo further validation trials before formal induction into the Strategic Forces Command.

MIRV technology allows a single ballistic missile to carry multiple nuclear warheads, each capable of striking a different target independently. Beyond expanding the range of targets that can be engaged in a single launch, MIRV capability also complicates adversary missile-defence systems, significantly enhancing the credibility of nuclear deterrence.



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari visited and offered his obeisance at the Bharat Sevashram Sangha, founded by revered Acharya Sriam Swami Pranavanandaji Maharaj, in Ballygunge, Kolkata, on Saturday.

CBI secures extradition of gangster Abhay Rana from Portugal

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has secured the extradition of a fugitive wanted by Haryana Police from Portugal, in an operation coordinated with the foreign and home ministries, the agency said on Saturday.

Abhay alias Abhay Rana, who was wanted in multiple criminal cases in Haryana involving extortion, criminal intimidation, attempt to murder and running an organised crime syndicate, arrived at New Delhi's Indra Gandhi International Airport on Saturday after being handed over by Portuguese authorities.

The central probing agency said that they had found that Abhay and his associates threatened local businessmen through social media platforms, including WhatsApp calls, demanding ransom. Those who refused were physically assaulted by syndicate members, the CBI said.

A chargesheet has been filed against the ac-



cused before a competent court. An escort team from Haryana Police travelled to Portugal, where the fugitive was handed over to them before being brought back to India.

The extradition followed the publication of an Interpol Red Notice at the request of Haryana Police through the CBI, which serves as India's National Central Bureau for Interpol. Portuguese authorities traced and arrested the accused before approving the extradition request after completing the legal process.

The CBI said over 160 wanted criminals have been brought back to India in recent years through Interpol coordination channels.

Mamata Explodes: 'Even My Internet Was Cut Off'

MI News Service Kolkata: Former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday launched a blistering attack on the BJP and central forces, alleging harassment, intimidation and deliberate isolation in the aftermath of the Assembly election results.



Speaking at a Rabindra Jayanti programme at her Kalighat residence, the Trinamool Congress supremo claimed that her security cover had been withdrawn and even communication services at her residence were disrupted after the election outcome. "They removed all our security personnel from the very night they won," Mamata Banerjee alleged before party workers and supporters. "The other day I noticed that no messages were coming in, no calls were reaching me. Then I discovered that even my internet connection had been disconnected. They could have informed me earlier. I do not want anyone's mercy or forgiveness. We have fought our

battle." Her remarks come amid escalating political tensions in Bengal following the bitterly contested Assembly polls and allegations of violence and intimidation from both camps. Mamata Banerjee also reiterated serious accusations against the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), claiming central forces acted in a partisan manner during the counting process. Referring to incidents on counting day, she alleged that she was physically assaulted and obstructed while attempting to enter the counting centre. "I was leading by nearly 32,000 votes. Then the BJP candidate entered the count-

ing centre with more than 200 central force personnel and began threatening people," she claimed. "They stopped me while I was going to the counting centre. I was hit with sticks on my stomach and back. I was humiliated and thrown out. At that time, the CCTV cameras were switched off." In one of her sharpest attacks yet on the central forces, the former Chief Minister said, "CRPF is not acting like a force of soldiers, but like a force of goons. People are being killed." The BJP has not officially responded to Banerjee's latest allegations. However, party leaders in recent days have dismissed Trinamool's claims of intimidation as "politically motivated" and accused the former ruling party of attempting to divert attention from its electoral setback. The statements from the Trinamool chief are expected to further intensify the political confrontation in Bengal, where post-poll tensions continue to simmer across several districts.

₹2-Crore Canal Crumbles Under MLA's Hammer Blow in Gujarat

MI News Service, Ahmedabad: A dramatic on-site inspection by a Gujarat MLA has triggered a major political and administrative storm after an under-construction irrigation canal worth nearly ₹2 crore allegedly crumbled under a single hammer blow, exposing what villagers claim was massive corruption and use of substandard materials.

The incident took place in Kheda district, where local farmers had long demanded an irrigation canal to support agricultural activities in the region. Following repeated appeals, funds amounting to nearly ₹2 crore were sanctioned for the construction of a four-kilometre-long canal project. However, even before the work was completed, serious allegations began surfacing from villagers and farmers, who accused contractors of using poor-quality construction materials and compromising structural integrity for financial gain. Acting on the complaints, the local MLA visited the site for a surprise inspection. In scenes that quickly drew widespread attention, the legislator personally took up a hammer to test the strength of the canal's concrete structure. What followed stunned officials and residents alike. With a single strike, a portion of the canal wall reportedly cracked and crumbled instantly, raising serious questions about the quality of the construction work and possible large-scale irregularities in the project. Eyewitnesses said the MLA appeared visibly shocked after witnessing the collapse. He immediately sought a detailed report from the local administration and informed senior authorities about the alleged irregularities. The state government subsequently ordered demolition of the disputed canal structure, while officials initiated a deeper inquiry into the execution of the project, the role of contractors, and the possible misuse of public funds. Sources said bulldozers and JCB machines were later deployed at the site to dismantle portions of the allegedly defective construction.

The Assam Rifles successfully rescued an abducted woman in Manipur's Kamjong district following coordinated operations carried out in the violence-hit border region. The rescued woman, identified as Olina Ningshen, had reportedly been abducted during unrest and firing incidents that took place on May 7 near the India-Myanmar border.

According to officials, the woman was safely released on Friday near Z Choro village under the supervision of Assam Rifles personnel and other security agencies. After securing the area, the Assam Rifles brought her husband, village headman, and representatives of local civil society organisations to Humine police station near the handover point.

Following the rescue, the woman and her family were escorted to the Assam Rifles headquarters at Chassad for official docu-

Assam Rifles Rescues Abducted Woman in Manipur's Kamjong District Amid Border Tension

MI News Service, Kamjong : The Assam Rifles successfully rescued an abducted woman in Manipur's Kamjong district following coordinated operations carried out in the violence-hit border region. The rescued woman, identified as Olina Ningshen, had reportedly been abducted during unrest and firing incidents that took place on May 7 near the India-Myanmar border.



mentation, medical examination, and psychological assistance. Officials said the family later returned safely to their village.

The security forces stated that the operation was conducted amid tense conditions in the region. During the unrest, Assam Rifles troops had swiftly intervened to restore order and rescue civilians trapped in violence-affected areas. Around 15 villagers, including women and children, were evacuated and provided shelter and humanitarian support at the Aloyo Assam Rifles

camp. Security personnel also conducted extensive search and sanitisation operations in nearby areas to prevent further escalation. During these operations, one armed militant identified as Lal Thag John, aged 38, was apprehended along with weapons and ammunition before being handed over to local police authorities.

Assam Rifles said it continues to maintain intensive patrols across sensitive zones in Kamjong district to ensure peace and security in the region.

Behind the Scenes: How Eastern Railway is Using Magnetic Particle Testing and Brighter Lights to Ensure Your Safe Journey

MI News Service, Kolkata, 9 May 26 : Eastern Railway continues its unwavering mission to provide a safer and more comfortable journey for its passengers, maintaining a rigorous 24/7 work cycle to ensure every locomotive is in peak condition. Under the visionary leadership of Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway, the month of April 2026 saw significant milestones in technical maintenance and safety upgrades. All these critical monitoring activities and safety measures were carried out under the expert guidance of Shri Devender Kumar, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer of Eastern Railway, ensuring that the highest engineering standards are met for the benefit of the travelling public.

One of the primary focuses this month was the safety improvement of the Traction Motor Nose Stay, a vital component that helps the engine run smoothly. Following strict safety guidelines, the team successfully completed Magnetic Particle Testing on 52 units. This sophisticated scientific method allows engineers to detect tiny, invisible cracks that cannot be seen by the naked eye, effectively preventing potential mechanical failures before they occur. In addition to this, Eastern Railway conducted Dye Penetration Testing on 71 welded joints of motor stays and supporting lugs, as well as 50 coupler bodies which are responsible for securely connecting the train cars together. By using these specialized dyes to check the strength of welds, the railway ensures that the structural integrity of every train remains uncompromised.

Beyond internal mechanical checks, Eastern Railway is also prioritizing better visibility for train pilots to ensure safety during night travel and monsoon seasons. The ongoing project to replace old halogen lamps with modern twin-beam LED headlights saw great progress in April, with 21 locomotives newly fitted with these high-in-

EASTERN RAILWAY STRENGTHENS PASSENGER SAFETY		
With Advanced Locomotive Testing & LED Upgrades		
TECHNICAL SAFETY CHECKS		
SAFETY ACTIVITY	WORK COMPLETED	PURPOSE
Magnetic Particle Testing	52 Units	Detection of invisible cracks in Traction Motor Nose Stay
Dye Penetration Testing (Welded Joints & Supporting Lugs)	71 Welded Joints	Verification of weld strength and structural integrity
Dye Penetration Testing (Coupler Bodies)	50 Coupler Bodies	Ensuring secure train coupling safety
BENEFITS OF LED HEADLIGHTS		
LED HEADLIGHT MODERNIZATION	UPGRADE STATUS	NUMBER OF LED HEADLIGHTS
Locomotives Fitted with Twin-Beam LED Headlights in April 2026	21	Better visibility during night operation
Total LED-Equipped Locomotives Achieved	534	Improved safety during monsoon conditions
Overall Target	705	Energy-efficient technology
		Higher reliability compared to halogen lamps
SAFETY-FIRST COMMITMENT		
Advanced non-destructive testing methods adopted	Continuous locomotive maintenance and safety upgrades	Proactive detection of mechanical failures
Enhanced operational safety for passengers and crew	24/7 monitoring and maintenance	24/7 emergency response and engineering support
SAFE TRAINS • SECURE JOURNEYS • STRONGER TOMORROW		
EASTERN RAILWAY - COMMITTED TO YOUR SAFETY		

Money laundering case: ED arrests Punjab Minister Sanjeev Arora!

MI News Service, Chandigarh: Punjab Power, Industries, Investment Promotion and Local Government Minister Sanjeev Arora has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) following a search operation at his official residence in Sector 2 in an alleged money laundering case.



Meanwhile, the ED has also provisionally attached assets belonging to M/s Hampton Sky Realty Limited and entities under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) linked to Arora in connection with an alleged foreign exchange violation. The violation involves bogus exports worth Rs 157.12 crore.

Sanjeev Arora is considered the most powerful minister in the Bhagwant Mann Cabinet and was mainly responsible for forging ties between the AAP government and industrialists of the State, in a case related to money laundering.

However, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema told the media that no arrest had been officially confirmed yet. The ED is yet to officially respond to reports of his arrest.

Sources further added that the searches were conducted at five premises in Delhi, Gurgaon and

Chandigarh, on the office premises of Hampton Sky Realty Limited, and Arora's residence.

A case of large-scale money laundering allegedly committed by Arora through his company in fake GST purchases of mobile phones worth more than Rs 100 crore and through exports to round-trip illegitimate funds from Dubai to India was detected.

Also, many fake GST purchase bills have been obtained from non-existent firms in Delhi to claim fake ITC. Besides a refund of GST on export credit and a duty drawback, thus causing loss to the exchequer and personal enrichment. The latest search is the third raid at Arora's residence.

Sources said that sleuths of the central investigation agency raided Arora's official residence in Chandigarh at 5 am as some eight vehicles of ED

officials were seen parked outside the residence during the search operation.

The action comes as Punjab continues to witness a series of searches by the agency on leaders and people linked to the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Last month, the ED had raided Arora, who is a MLA from Ludhiana (West) and entities linked to him under the civil provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

He had then said that he would fully cooperate with the probe agencies and that he was confident that the truth would prevail.

It is worth to mention that in 2024, when Arora was a Member of Parliament of the Rajya Sabha, the ED had also carried out a raid in a money laundering case linked to the alleged misuse of industrial land for residential projects.

The ED has also provisionally attached multiple bank accounts and immovable properties of Hampton Sky Realty Limited, demat accounts and mutual fund holdings of Kavya Arora.

The ED has also attached the immovable properties situated in Ludhiana, Mohali and Gurgaon, linked to Arora.

GRACE. STRENGTH. LOVE.

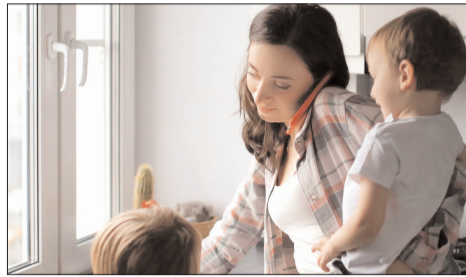
SUNDAY, KOLKATA, MAY 10, 2026

Morning India



THE INVISIBLE MENTAL LOAD

Modern mothers manage far more than household chores. They carry the emotional responsibility of planning schedules, remembering needs, solving family problems, and balancing work with caregiving. Even in dual-income families, much of this invisible labor falls on women. Constant multi-tasking and emotional pressure often lead to exhaustion, anxiety, and burnout, while their efforts remain unnoticed or undervalued by society.



CAREER VS. CAREGIVING

Many mothers struggle to balance professional ambitions with expectations of perfect parenting. Career breaks, unequal workplace opportunities, limited maternity support, and guilt over spending time away from children create constant conflict. Society often judges working mothers harshly, while stay-at-home mothers may feel financially dependent or overlooked. The pressure to "do it all" leaves many women emotionally and physically drained.



RAISING KIDS IN DIGITAL AGE

Parenting today comes with the challenge of managing technology and social media influence. Mothers must monitor screen time, online safety, cyberbullying, and unhealthy digital exposure while also helping children stay emotionally connected in real life. Constant comparison through social media adds pressure on both mothers and children, making parenting more complicated than ever before in the modern world.



LACK OF PERSONAL TIME

Many mothers gradually lose touch with their own dreams, hobbies, friendships, and personal well-being while prioritizing family responsibilities. Between caregiving, work, and household duties, self-care becomes the last priority. Over time, this can affect confidence, emotional health, and personal identity. Modern motherhood often demands endless sacrifice, leaving many women searching for balance between being a mother and being themselves.

THE SILENT SUPPORT BEHIND EVERY SUCCESS



DR RASHMI KUMARI

their mothers. A mother's comforting words help them feel safe, confident, and emotionally strong. This emotional bond improves a child's mental well-being, self-esteem, and resilience. Mothers teach children that failures are temporary and challenges can be overcome with patience and effort. It is rightly said, "A mother's hug lasts long after she lets go."

Mothers as Role Models

Mothers become role models through their everyday actions, proving that "Actions speak louder than words." By managing household duties, careers, and family responsibilities, they show dedication and hard work. Working mothers teach children time management, commitment, and perseverance. Mothers' kindness and helpful nature also teach empathy and social responsibility. Simple actions like respecting elders, helping neighbours, and staying positive during hardships deeply influence children. These real-life lessons shape a child's character better than textbooks and encourage them to dream big, hard work, and believe in themselves.

The First Teacher in a Child's Life

A mother is a child's first teacher and guide. From birth, children learn to speak, behave politely, and respect others through their mother's words and actions. She teaches vital moral values such as honesty, kindness, discipline, and responsibility through daily life experiences. Children observe and imitate their mothers' habits and behaviour, and these teachings shape the foundation of their character and personality for the future.

Life Experiences Become Valuable Lessons

A mother's advice is based on real-life experiences and practical wisdom. After facing challenges like financial struggles, family responsibilities, health issues, and emotional hardships, she guides her children with understanding and care. Her experiences teach practical values such as determination, patience, and perseverance. Children learn how to stay calm, confident, and positive during difficult situations. For example, a hardworking mother inspires her children to never give up and to face problems bravely. These powerful lessons shape a child's mindset and attitude, helping them believe that "Where there is a will, there is a way."

A Source of Emotional Strength

In today's stressful and fast-paced world, a mother's emotional guidance is vital. Her love, care, and understanding create a strong support system for children. During failure, fear, or disappointment, children often seek comfort and encouragement from



WHY THIS DATE MATTERS?

Mother's Day is a celebration dedicated to honoring mothers, motherhood, and the influence of mothers in society. The modern version of Mother's Day began in the United States during the early twentieth century. It was largely inspired by Anna Jarvis, who wanted to create a special day to recognize the sacrifices and unconditional love of mothers after the death of her own mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis. In 1908, Anna organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a church in West Virginia. Her efforts soon gained national attention, and in 1914, Woodrow Wilson officially declared the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day in the United States. Over time, the celebration spread across the world, with many countries adopting different dates and traditions to honor mothers. In India, Mother's Day is widely celebrated on the second Sunday of May with flowers, greeting cards, gifts, and family gatherings. Although the occasion has become commercialized in many places, its true purpose remains deeply emotional — expressing gratitude, respect, and love for mothers who play a central role in shaping families and society. Today, Mother's Day stands as a reminder of sacrifice, care, strength, and unconditional affection.

MOTHER

MOTIVATOR

A mother is the first person who teaches courage, confidence, and determination. Her words inspire children to rise after failure, dream fearlessly, and believe in themselves even when the world doubts them.

ORGANIZER

From managing household responsibilities to balancing careers, finances, education, and emotions, mothers coordinate countless tasks every day. Their ability keeps families connected, functioning.

TRUSTED

Mothers become lifelong guides who offer wisdom, direction, and support through every stage of life. Their advice, shaped by love and experience, helps children navigate challenges, relationships, choices.

HEALER

Beyond physical care, mothers heal emotional wounds with compassion, patience, and understanding. Their comforting presence provides strength during pain, failure, fear, and loneliness, making home feel safe, peaceful.

EMPOWER

Modern mothers balance countless responsibilities while continuing to grow personally and professionally. Their resilience, independence, and determination inspire future generations to pursue equality, ambition, compassion.

RESILIENT

Through sacrifices, struggles, and silent battles, mothers continue standing strong for their families. They endure pressure, heartbreak, and exhaustion with remarkable courage, proving that true strength for us.

THE UNTOLD BATTLES OF MODERN MOTHERS



RICHA SHARMA

In every home, a mother is often the first to wake up and the last to rest. She is the planner, caregiver, motivator, protector, and emotional anchor of the family. Yet behind her smile and strength lies a reality

filled with pressures that modern society rarely talks about openly. Today's mothers are not only raising children - they are balancing careers, managing homes, navigating technology, and silently sacrificing their own well-being. One of the biggest challenges mothers face today is the "invisible mental load." Beyond physical work, mothers constantly carry the responsibility of remembering school schedules, family needs, bills, appointments, and emotional conflicts within the household. Even in families where responsibilities are shared, emotional management often falls on women. This unseen pressure leads

to stress, fatigue, and emotional burnout that frequently goes unnoticed. Modern women are encouraged to dream big professionally, yet motherhood often forces them into impossible choices. Working mothers struggle with guilt over missing family moments, while homemakers are sometimes made to feel their contributions are less valuable. Career breaks, unequal pay, and workplace bias continue to affect many women after childbirth. Society still expects mothers to excel everywhere - at work, at home, and in parenting - without complaint. Unlike previous generations, today's mothers are

raising children in the age of smartphones and social media. Protecting children from cyberbullying, online addiction, and harmful content has become a daily concern. At the same time, social media creates unrealistic expectations of "perfect parenting," increasing pressure on mothers to constantly compare themselves with others. Parenting today demands emotional awareness, digital monitoring, and endless patience. In caring for everyone else, many mothers slowly lose touch with themselves. Personal dreams, hobbies, friendships, and even rest become secondary to family responsibilities. Over time, many women struggle

silently with loneliness, exhaustion, and emotional isolation. The challenge is no longer just about being a good mother - it is about finding space to remain an individual while carrying the demands of motherhood. Despite these challenges, mothers continue to hold families together with resilience and unconditional love. Their sacrifices shape generations, often without recognition or reward. Mother's Day is not just a celebration of affection - it is a reminder to value, support, and truly understand the women whose strength quietly keeps the world moving forward.

Unlike previous generations, today's mothers are raising children in the age of smartphones and social media. Protecting children from cyberbullying, online addiction, and harmful content has become a daily concern. At the same time, social media creates unrealistic expectations of "perfect parenting," increasing pressure on mothers to constantly compare themselves with others.

(The writer is an Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication, Karim City College, Jamshedpur. Views are personal)

(The writer is Co-Academic Coordinator ODM Sapphire Global School Ranchi)

Russian, Saudi FMs discuss situation around Strait of Hormuz

MI News Service, Moscow: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Saudi counterpart, Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, discussed the situation around the Strait of Hormuz during a phone conversation on Friday, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

According to a ministry statement, both sides stressed the inadmissibility of a return to escalation and the need to continue ongoing diplomatic contacts aimed at quickly reaching a sustainable, long-term agreement on all aspects of crisis resolution.

They also emphasized the importance of restoring freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz to the level that existed before the end of February, the statement said.

The two sides noted the advisability of resuming efforts to comprehensively normalize relations between Iran and Arab states for the long term.

Russia also reaffirmed its readiness to facilitate progress in these areas while taking into account the interests of all parties involved, according to the statement.

UK says it is sending warship to Middle East ahead of potential Hormuz mission

MI News Service, London: The UK will send a destroyer to the Middle East ahead of any international mission to help protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, its defense ministry says.

"The pre-positioning of HMS Dragon is part of prudent planning that will ensure that the UK is ready, as part of a multinational coalition jointly led by the UK and France, to secure the strait, when conditions allow," a ministry spokesperson tells AFP.

Britain and France said last month that military plans to secure the Strait of Hormuz were coming together and would succeed in restoring trade flows through the vital passage. The MoD says deploying HMS Dragon would strengthen the confidence of commercial shipping and support mine clearance efforts once hostilities end.

At a two-day meeting in London in April involving more than 44 countries, military planners discussed the practicalities of a multinational mission led by the UK and France to protect navigation in the key waterway. Some 40 countries are understood to have agreed to participate in plans for the mission to free up navigation in Hormuz.

Ghana steps up precautionary measures against possible hantavirus outbreak

MI News Service, Accra: Ghana has intensified surveillance systems against any possible outbreak of hantavirus in the country, the Ghana Health Service (GHS) said in a statement late Friday. According to the statement, the West African country has recorded no cases of the virus as of May 7 and is making every effort to ensure the virus does not spread into the country.

"The Ghana Health Service, using its structures, including port health, together with health partners, has instituted precautionary health measures to prevent any possible spread into the country," said the statement.

The GHS announced it is implementing quite some public health and precautionary measures to prevent the virus from entering Ghana, as well as collaborating with the World Health Organization and international disease surveillance networks for timely information sharing.

Iran warns of self-defense rights as US escalates tensions in Strait of Hormuz

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations, Amir-Saeid Iravani, has strongly reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's sovereign right to self-defense and protective measures in response to escalating hostile actions by the United States in the Persian Gulf and the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

In an official letter addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the President of the UN Security Council on Friday, Iravani detailed recent aggressive military operations conducted by American forces.

These included attacks on two Iranian oil tankers near the port of Jask and the Strait of Hormuz, as well as strikes targeting several locations along Iran's coastal regions overlooking this vital international waterway.

The ambassador condemned what he described as a clear pattern of provocation, stating that such



actions demonstrate Washington's preference for coercion and military pressure over diplomacy, restraint, and constructive dialogue. "The United States favors coercion over diplomacy," Iravani emphasized, highlighting the urgent need for de-escalation in one of the world's most critical energy corridors.

The Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of global oil shipments passes daily, re-

mains a flashpoint for regional tensions. Iran has repeatedly warned that any threat to its security or economic interests in these waters will be met with appropriate defensive responses in accordance with international law.

Iravani called upon the United Nations to issue an explicit and unequivocal condemnation of the unlawful US operations. He urged the world body to press Washington to fully respect its obligations

under international law and immediately cease all provocative activities that endanger maritime security and regional stability.

The letter underscores Iran's position that it will not tolerate threats to its territorial integrity or commercial vessels. Officials in Tehran maintain that while they seek peaceful resolutions through diplomatic channels, they retain the fundamental right to protect their sovereignty and national interests when faced with aggression.

This latest diplomatic move comes amid heightened concerns over freedom of navigation and the potential for miscalculation in the Gulf region. Iran has appealed to the international community to uphold principles of sovereignty and non-interference, warning that continued US adventurism could have severe consequences for global energy markets and peace and security.

Karnataka farmer's son secures All India Rank 1 in IFS exam

MI News Service, Bengaluru: In a proud moment for Karnataka, Basavaraj Dareppa Kempwad from Savadi village in Athani taluk of Belagavi district has secured All India First Rank in the Indian Forest Service (IFS) examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission.

The UPSC announced the results on Friday, May 8, and Basavaraj's achievement has drawn widespread appreciation across the state. Hailing from a humble farming family, the 25-year-old cracked the prestigious examination in his second attempt alone

through consistent hard work and self-study.

Basavaraj completed his primary education in his native village before continuing his studies in the town of Athani. He later pursued his graduate studies in Forestry at a college in Sirsi, Uttara Kannada district. Following graduation, he moved to Bengaluru to prepare for the UPSC examination.

Speaking over the phone after the results, Basavaraj expressed immense happiness over his achievement and credited his success to continuous effort and determination.

"This achievement is the result of my constant hard work. Coming from a rural background and being a farmer's son, reaching this stage gives me immense pride," he said.

Basavaraj revealed that he did not depend on coaching institutes during his preparation. "I did not join any special coaching course. I prepared with guidance from seniors and through disciplined self-study," he said.

"Currently, I am in Bengaluru and will return to my village in the next few days," he added.

Celebrations erupted in Savadi village soon after the results were announced. Villagers and relatives gathered to congratulate Basavaraj's family, while many described his success as an inspiration for rural students.

In the IFS examination rankings, Anshuman Kumar secured the second rank while Siddharth secured the third position.

Belagavi district had also performed well in the recent UPSC Civil Services examination, where Rahul Patil secured 224th rank and Basavaraj Patil secured 739th rank.

US disables two Iranian oil tankers trying to break Hormuz blockade

MI News Service, Washington: The United States said it disabled two Iranian-flagged oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman on Friday, May 8, intensifying maritime tensions in the region even as Washington and Tehran continue indirect diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the conflict.

US Central Command (CENTCOM) said an F/A-18 Super Hornet struck the empty tankers, identified as M/T Sea Star III and M/T Sevdia, using precision munitions fired into their smokestacks.

According to CENTCOM, the vessels were heading towards Iranian ports in violation of an on-



going US maritime blockade.

In a statement posted on X, the command said the tankers were disabled before entering Iranian waters and were no longer transiting towards Iran. The US military also claimed it had stopped a

third Iranian-flagged vessel earlier this week.

US President Donald Trump believes any future agreement with Iran can be presented as a US victory, according to The Atlantic citing administration advisers.

The report said Wash-

ington believes the blockade is increasing pressure on Tehran, while Trump remains hesitant to resume military operations and wants to ease tensions ahead of a planned visit to China.

An Iranian official said a cargo vessel caught fire near Minab after overnight exchanges of fire involving US forces in waters near the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman.

According to Mehr News Agency, 10 sailors were injured and five others remain missing. Iranian officials said it was not immediately clear whether the vessel had been directly targeted.

Delhi Authorities Demolish Alleged Century-Old Dargah Amid Local Protest

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) demolished a century-old dargah in Mangolpuri Industrial Area Phase-II early hours of Wednesday, May 6, with heavy police presence.

While authorities claimed it was an illegal encroachment on government land, the dargah caretakers maintained it was more than 100 years old. The DDA said the structure was Dargah Panch Peeran and that demolition took place only after obtaining approval from the religious committee and completing legal proceedings.

"This was done after getting due approval from the religious committee, with completion of all codal formalities, which established the said dargah as a patently blatant unauthorised construction on government land," a DDA spokesperson was quoted by Hindustan Times.

According to the spokesperson, a notice was already sent to "illegal occupants" in 2024. "The DDA had already served a show cause notice to the illegal occupants of the dargah in 2024, but their



reply was not substantial," he said. No damage was caused to any other structures or belongings at the site, since action was confined strictly to the identified encroached portion, the spokesperson said.

Three Delhi police teams were stationed at the location from 6 am, when the demolition drive started. The police officers removed the locals attempting to protest. Approximately 90 per cent of the structure has been demolished, the authorities said.

The individual in charge of the dargah, Maqbool Hasan, said the structure had been established for decades. "My father and his father, we have all taken care of this

dargah which is more than 100 years old. We were not provided with any proper notice this week. Policemen came around 4 to 5 am and threatened us. I even begged the SHO (Station House Officer) to stop and wait till proper court proceedings, but he threatened to arrest me. Now, the dargah is almost demolished," said Hasan.

A legal notice objecting the demolition has been sent to the Lieutenant Governor, Delhi Police and DDA officials. Issued on Wednesday, the notice said the shrine had existed without any disturbances for years, and that any demolition without due process would constitute a violation of the Supreme Court guidelines.

Iran says US naval escalation raises doubts about Washington's commitment to diplomacy

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran has voiced deep skepticism over Washington's diplomatic intentions following a recent escalation of US naval presence in the Persian Gulf. According to Tasnim News Agency, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi conveyed these concerns during a telephone conversation with his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan, on Friday.



Araghchi described recent US military movements in the Gulf and "offensive rhetoric" from senior American officials as provocative, arguing they have heightened Iranian suspicions about the sincerity of US efforts to end the ongoing war. He accused Washington of re-

peatedly violating the ceasefire, claiming such actions are eroding trust and obstructing diplomatic progress.

The Iranian minister emphasized that halting "illegal attacks" and adopting more reasonable approaches from the opposing side are essential

prerequisites for meaningful negotiations. He also briefed Fidan on Tehran's own diplomatic initiatives aimed at achieving a permanent resolution to the conflict.

Fidan, in response, underscored the need to sustain diplomatic channels and reaffirmed Turkey's support for efforts to bring peace to the region.

The call comes against the backdrop of heightened tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, where overnight exchanges of fire occurred between Iranian and US forces.

The developments highlight the fragile state of diplomacy amid persistent military posturing in this critical waterway.

US awaits Iran response as Hormuz tensions threaten ceasefire efforts

MI News Service, Washington: As the US-Israeli war on Iran entered its 71st day on Saturday, May 9, the United States said it expected a response from Tehran to a proposed ceasefire framework amid renewed tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, escalating violence in Lebanon and continued diplomatic efforts to prevent a wider regional conflict.

US President Donald Trump said he expected Iran's reply "tonight", expressing hope that Washington's latest proposal could open the door to serious negotiations aimed at ending the 10-week war, which has killed thousands across West Asia and disrupted global energy markets.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said in a CNBC interview that even if the conflict between the United States and Iran ended immediately, it could still take at least three to four months for the global economy to recover from its impact.

At least six people

were injured and six others were reported missing after a US strike targeted an Iranian vessel in the Strait of Hormuz, according to the governor of Iran's Lengeh Port, as tensions continued to rise in the ongoing conflict between Washington and Tehran.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Washington was still awaiting Tehran's final response, while Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Iran was reviewing the proposal and would not be influenced by deadlines or warnings.

According to The Wall Street Journal, discussions are centred on a proposed one-page, 14-point memorandum of understanding that could establish a month-long negotiation process between the two sides.

The proposed framework reportedly includes discussions on Iran's nuclear programme, easing tensions in the Strait of Hormuz and the possible transfer of Iran's highly

enriched uranium stockpiles to another country.

ABC News, citing US officials, reported that Washington had not yet received a final Iranian response and that negotiations were continuing through multiple mediators.

Talks between the United States and Iran could reportedly resume as early as next week in Pakistan's capital Islamabad as mediators continue efforts to secure a framework for negotiations aimed at ending the conflict.

Tensions continued to mount in the Strait of Hormuz after reports of US military action against Iranian-linked vessels and continued restrictions around Iranian ports.

In a statement posted on X, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei criticised what he described as American "adventurism and roguish behaviour" following reports of attacks on Iranian vessels in the strategic waterway.

Music bridges hearts as China, Pakistan celebrate 75 years of ties

MI News Service, Islamabad: The Pakistan finals of the "Water Cube Cup" Chinese song competition were held here on Friday to celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan.

The venue was packed as contestants from China and Pakistan sang Chinese songs on stage, showcasing youthful passion and the warmth of cultural exchange.

Speaking at the event, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh recalled his visits to China over the years and described himself as "an old friend of the Chinese people."

In his remarks, Sheikh said Pakistan and China have stood together through challenges and hardships over the past 75 years, with bilateral friendship taking deep roots and

continuing to grow stronger. He noted that co-operation in trade, agriculture and education has yielded fruitful outcomes, and expressed hope for broader collaboration in the future.

The event brought together participants from different sectors and highlighted the close cultural bonds and people-to-people ties between the two countries, he added.

Chen Peng, cultural counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, said in his speech that 2026 marks an important year for the deepening of the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

China and Pakistan have always been ironclad friends through thick and thin, as well as brothers bound by trust, integrity and a shared sense of jus-

tice and responsibility, Chen said, adding that the building of a China-Pakistan community with a shared future is reflected not only in strong political mutual trust and economic cooperation, but also deeply rooted in mutual understanding and cultural affinity between the two peoples.

The competition has injected fresh vitality into bilateral cultural and people-to-people exchanges, he said. Sana Javeria, winner of the youth category, told Xinhua that she enjoys Chinese songs very much and can understand the meaning behind the lyrics. "This event is like a bridge connecting the friendship between Pakistan and China," Javeria said. The songs are inspiring and show how music can bring people closer together, she added.

Attacks on civilians in eastern DRC raise alarm: UN

MI News Service, United Nations: A new wave of deadly attacks against civilians in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has raised alarm, a UN spokesman said Friday.

In the last three days, at least 34 civilians have reportedly been killed in a series of attacks in Ituri and North Kivu provinces, said Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for the UN secretary-general, quoting the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. In Ituri's Irumu and Mambasa, attacks reportedly killed at least 15 civilians between Tuesday and Thursday. The violence forced people to flee to neighboring villages in North Kivu province, said Haq.

In North Kivu's Oicha, an attack by an armed group near the border with Ituri province reportedly killed at least 19 civilians on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Local partners reported that several civilians were attacked while working in their fields, and other people remain missing, he said.

In Ituri's gold-rich Mambasa, at least 130 civilians have reportedly been killed and more than 500 others abducted since mid-



March. The violence has displaced over 68,000 people within Mambasa and into neighboring Tshopo province, while more than 310,000 people have also been displaced across Beni and Lubero territories in North Kivu province, said the deputy spokesman.

"Our humanitarian partners are currently assessing displacement and urgent needs," said Haq. "As you can imagine, these attacks are heightening humanitarian and protection concerns in the northern parts of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo."

**ITALIAN OPEN:
MEDVEDEV ADVANCES
VIA WALKOVER AFTER
MACHAC PULLS OUT
WITH ILLNESS**

ROME : Daniil Medvedev received an early boost in his campaign at the Italian Open after Czech player Tomas Machac withdrew from the tournament due to illness on Saturday. The withdrawal, confirmed by the ATP ahead of the day's play in Rome, handed former champion Medvedev a walkover into the third round without the Russian needing to step onto court.

Machac, currently ranked world No. 53, had been scheduled to face Medvedev in one of the headline second-round contests at the Foro Italico. Instead, the 2023 Rome champion now advances directly and will face the winner of the clash between France's Correntin Moutet and Spain's Pablo Llamas Ruiz.

The late withdrawal also forced organisers to make several changes to Saturday's schedule. Andrey Rublev's encounter against Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic was moved to Centre Court, while the Moutet-Llamas Ruiz fixture was shifted to the Supertennis Arena.

Meanwhile, action on Court 1 was rescheduled to begin at midday, with the match between Chile's Christian Garin and Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina set for no earlier than 2:00 PM local time.

For Medvedev, the walkover comes at a useful moment in an otherwise inconsistent clay-court season. The former world No. 1 has struggled to find rhythm on the surface in recent weeks, suffering a shocking first-round exit at the Monte-Carlo Masters after a one-sided defeat to Matteo Berrettini. The Russian showed some improvement at the Madrid Open 2026, winning two matches before losing to home favourite Flavio Cobolli in the fourth round. Medvedev, however, has previously enjoyed success in Rome, lifting the title in 2023. Since then, he has endured back-to-back fourth-round exits, losing to Tommy Paul in 2024 and Lorenzo Musetti last year.



Gujarat Titans' Sai Sudharsan plays a shot during the Indian Premier League 2026 match between Rajasthan Royals and Gujarat Titans at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on Saturday.

Ramit Tandon, Velavan Senthilkumar bow out in World Squash C'ships opening round

GIZA : Ramit Tandon and Velavan Senthilkumar bowed out in the men's opening round of the World Squash Championships in Giza, Egypt on Saturday.

A day after Veer Chotrani edged out higher-ranked compatriot Abhay Singh in the first round, world No 40 Tandon lost to Egyptian world No 21 Kareem El Torkey 6-11, 11-7, 6-11, 0-11, while world No 50 Senthilkumar went down to world No 5 Victor Couzin, the Frenchman winning 11-8, 11-8, 11-3.

After edging Asian Games medallist Abhay Singh in a tight tie-break in the opening game, Veer Chotrani found himself with his back against the wall after losing the next two. However, Chotrani fought back from the brink against his fellow countryman by winning the next two games and advancing to the second round.

"It's obviously tough to play a countryman in the first round of the World Championships.



We don't want one of us to get out in the first round, but this was how it was planned and I'm very happy to be the one that got through," said Chotrani.

"It's a big confidence booster for the work I've put in, in the last few weeks. To get a result like this is very positive. I lost to Abhay the last time in India when we played in the final and I was very disappointed with that performance," he added.

Chotrani will meet Egyptian world No 1 and defending champion Mostafa Asal in the second round on Sunday.

At last year's World Championships in Chicago, India's campaign ended in the second round. Anahat Singh, Veer Chotrani, Abhay Singh and Ramit Tandon all exited after competitive losses, while Velavan Senthilkumar was ousted in the opening round.

India are yet to win a medal in singles events at the World Squash Championships.

'Winning, being competitive, sharing wisdom with youngsters,' says Buttler on what encourages him at this stage of career

JAIPUR : Jos Buttler said enjoying the game and embracing competition has become his biggest motivation at this stage of his career as the Gujarat Titans wicket-keeper-batter reflected on form, leadership and facing his former franchise, the Rajasthan Royals, at the IPL 2026 on Saturday.

Ahead of Gujarat Titans' clash against Rajasthan Royals at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Saturday, Buttler also credited GT's bowling unit for the team's recent strong performances in the tournament.

Gujarat Titans head into the contest after registering three consecutive wins and are firmly in the race for a playoff spot. Reflecting on the side's momentum, Buttler said the bowlers have played a defining role in their success.

"No massive changes. I think the boys have been bowling really well. I think that's been one of the hallmarks of the few performances that we've had," Buttler said.

"We've taken a lot of wickets and restricted sides. So that's been a huge plus. And then we've had a little break, so five days or six days since the last game. And a huge game today against the Royals," he added.

The England batter spent several successful seasons

with Rajasthan Royals before moving to Gujarat Titans, but said facing his former side does not add any extra motivation beyond the importance of the contest itself.

"I don't really. I think you want to win every game, don't you?" Buttler said when asked if playing against the Rajasthan Royals carried additional significance.

"But, you know, spent a few good seasons there. But today's a massive game when you look at the table and getting into the business end of it. So big two points for whoever takes it," he added.

Buttler, one of the most experienced overseas players in the IPL, said his current focus is on enjoying cricket while also helping younger players develop through his experience.

"Oh, winning, being competitive and winning," Buttler said when asked what motivates him now.

"And just trying to be really content at this stage, you've experienced lots of things, all the highs and lows that you think the game can throw at you. And now it's just time to really enjoy it and really enjoy the competition, really, invest yourself in the team and try and share a bit of wisdom with the younger guys coming through and just to really enjoy this phase of your career. It's about enjoying it," he added.



Seasoned thrower Tajinderpal Singh Toor wins shot put title at Sangrur-leg of Indian Athletics Series

SANGRUR : Punjab's 31 years old seasoned thrower dominated the men's shot put at the fifth-leg of the Indian Athletics Series in Sangrur, Punjab on Saturday. His best throw was 19.97m.

Asian Games champion in men's shot put, Tajinderpal Singh Toor, is gearing up for upcoming major domestic competition later this month in Ranchi.

"Main goal this season is to peak in major international meets," says the national record holder.

Toor's season best of 21.03m was recorded earlier in April at the Delhi-leg of Indian Athletics Series.

The Sangrur leg of one-day Indian Athletics Series was also a good chance for two-time Olympian and Asian Games champion in women's javelin throw, Annu Rani, to test her preparation for the challenging season ahead. The 33 years old finished third with a throw of 55.78m on Saturday.

In an exciting women's javelin throw event, Haryana's Shilpa Rani was first (57.65m) while Rashmi K of Andhra Pradesh took the second spot (56.15m).

Harjit Singh of Air Force and Fatema Begam of Tripura emerged as fastest and female runners of the one-day meet in Sangrur, respectively. Fatema also won the women's 200m dash.

Haryana's Kiran Pahal was comfortable winner (54.07 seconds) of women's 400m race.

Results:
Men: 100m: Harjit Singh (Air Force) 10.32 secs, Sam Vasanth S (Tamil Nadu) 10.48 secs, Adesh Garsa (All India Police) 10.51 secs.
Men: 200m: Tipan Das (West Bengal) 10.68 secs, Yuvraj Singh Chib (Jammu and Kashmir) 10.70 secs, Jamil Ali (Uttar Pradesh) 10.78 secs.

200m: Dharambir (Haryana) 21.49 seconds, Raja Babu (Haryana) 21.67 secs, Sonu Chaudhary (Uttar Pradesh) 21.80 secs.

400m: Prakhari Sharma (Uttarakhand) 46.90 secs, Yashwant Singh (Rajasthan) 46.92 secs, Tarandeep Singh (Punjab) 47.04 secs.

800m: Vinod Kumar (Telangana) 1:49.62, Amit Kumar (Haryana) 1:50.68, Shakeel (Rajasthan) 1:50.81.

Men: 200m: 800m: Suraj Singh (Uttarakhand) 1:53.48, Dev (Haryana) 1:53.57, Harmandeep Singh (Punjab) 1:53.67.

1500m: Vinod Singh (Madhya Pradesh) 3:48.46 secs, Rahul Yadav (Madhya Pradesh) 3:51.69, Sumit Kumar (Army) 3:52.36.

Men: 200m: 1500m: Rahul Sarnaliya (Uttarakhand) 3:58.88, Rahul Godara (Rajasthan) 3:59.05, Priyanshu (Uttarakhand) 3:59.20.

5,000m: Sharashank M (Madhya Pradesh) 14:54.36 secs, Rajesh Manmya (Rajasthan) 15:02.74, Sandeep Pal (Uttar Pradesh) 15:02.84.



10,000m: Pankaj Kumar (All India Police) 30:04.77, Satish Kumar Verma (Uttar Pradesh) 30:06.88, Rajesh Manmya (Rajasthan) 30:12.13.
3000m steeplechase: Prince Raj Mishra (Railway Sports) 9:04.26 secs, Gurlal Singh (Army) 9:04.43 secs, Hemant (Haryana) 9:09.54 secs.
Triple jump: Jagseer Singh (Rajasthan) 15.11m, Akarshit Pratap Singh (Punjab) 14.99m, Ajay (Haryana) 14.90m.
Long jump: Amitra Ghosh (Railway Sports) 7.85m, Avinash Kumar (Haryana) 7.80m, Rajat (Uttar Pradesh) 7.55m.
Men: 200m: Long jump: Dinesh Tanwar (Haryana) 7.11m, Harshdeep Singh (Rajasthan) 6.88m, Abhay Singh (BSF) 6.63m.
High jump: Gurjeet S (Haryana) 2.12m, Rohit (Haryana) 2.05m, Sunil Kumar (Rajasthan) 2.00m.
Pole vault: Aayush Tanwar (Haryana) 4.50m, Anshu Patel (Madhya Pradesh) 4.50m, Dinesh Dalal (Haryana) 4.50m.
Hammer throw: Damneet Singh (Reliance) 68.37m, Praveen Kumar (Rajasthan) 64.98m, Ajay Kumar (Haryana) 62.54m.
Shot put: Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Punjab) 19.97m, Sanyam (Haryana) 19.09m, Karanveer Singh (Punjab) 18.79m.
Javelin throw: Rohit Yadav (Railway Sports) 78.82m, Vipul Yadav (Rajasthan) 76.31m, Arshdeep Singh (Punjab) 76.29m.
Women: 100m: Fatema Begam (Tripura) 11.98 seconds, Preet Kaur (Punjab) 12.30 secs, Dona Dhaked (Rajasthan) 12.31 secs.
Women: 200m: 100m: Lovejot Kaur (Punjab) 12.35 secs, Shubhneet Kaur (Punjab) 12.67 secs, Vandana Kumari (Rajasthan) 13.12 secs.
200m: Fatema Begam (Tripura) 23.97 seconds, Kusum Thakur (Himachal Pradesh) 24.08 secs, Rishita Kaur (Rajasthan) 24.36 secs, 400m: Kiran Pahal (Haryana) 54.07 seconds, Rama Tanwar (Rajasthan) 55.71 secs, Kiranpal Kaur (Punjab) 55.98 secs
Women: 200: 800m: Sehnoor Bawa (Punjab) 2:13.03, Deepika (Rajasthan) 2:14.76, Harpreet Kaur (Punjab) 2:21.66.
Women: 200: 1500m: Snehal Kharat (Maharashtra) 4:32.63, Nancy Choudhary (Himachal Pradesh) 4:52.82, Anney Toppo (Delhi) 5:18.68.
1500m: Preeti Yadav (Madhya Pradesh) 4:37.53 secs, Shivani Hudda (All India Police) 4:42.61 secs, Sangam (Delhi) 5:21.50 secs.
5,000m: Anita (Haryana) 17:49.56 secs, Chatru (Rajasthan) 17:52.40 secs, Shraddha Rajanikant (Gujarat) 18:02.42.
10,000m: Sonam (Delhi) 35:54.70, Shreya (Uttar Pradesh) 36:03.59, KM Mamta (All India Police) 36:08.54.
3,000m steeplechase: Rebi Pal (Railway Sports) 11:10.08 secs, Khushbu Gupta (Uttar Pradesh) 11:10.76 secs, Bhagyashree L (Gujarat) 11:20.33 secs.
Triple jump: Niharika Vashist (Punjab) 13.13m, Arshdeep Kaur (Punjab) 12.53m, Martina Ilisiyus (Madhya Pradesh) 12.29m.
High jump: Reet Rathor (Uttar Pradesh) 1.80m, Khyati Mathur (Uttar Pradesh) 1.78m, Manshi (Railway Sports) 1.70m.
Long jump: Nidhi (All India Police) 5.85m, Soniya (Uttar Pradesh) 5.74m, Anjali (Haryana) 5.58m.
Pole vault: Nidhi (Haryana) 3.20m, Shabnam (Haryana) 3.00m, Rajni (Haryana) 3.00m.
Hammer throw: Kulvinder Kaur (Railway Sports) 57.42m, Nithya B (Tamil Nadu) 55.39m, Haqiqat Grewal (Punjab) 53.89m.
Shot put: Manpreet Kaur (Railway Sports) 17.33m, Vidhi (Uttar Pradesh) 16.35m, Yogita (NCOE Patiala) 16.18m.
Women: 200: Javelin throw: Bhavya Pilania (Haryana) 47.36m, Navpreet Kaur (Punjab) 43.11m, Arya Mohite (Maharashtra) 42.48m.
Javelin throw: Shilpa Rani (Haryana) 57.65m, Rashmi K (Andhra Pradesh) 56.15m, Annu Rani (Railway Sports) 55.78m

IPL 2026: When and where to watch RCB vs MI, Know all details

RAIPUR : Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) will clash with Mumbai Indians (MI) in the 54th match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 to be played at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium on Sunday.

RCB, who are playing their first match in the new home ground for two matches, head into this contest on the back of a narrow nine-run defeat to Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), marking their second consecutive loss. Despite back to back losses, they are currently placed at third place on the points table, thanks to a superior net run rate. However, another slip-up could put their top-four position under threat as other teams are performing well. On the other side, the five-time champions Mumbai Indians come into the game with renewed confidence after securing their third win of the season. They defeated Lucknow Super Giants by six wickets in a high-scoring encounter. They are currently placed at ninth position with six points in ten matches, and it will be a do or die game for the team, as if they lose against RCB, then they will become the first team to get eliminated.

When: Sunday, May 10, 7:30 PM IST
Where: Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium, Raipur
Where to watch: The RCB vs MI match will be broadcast on Star Sports channels, with JioHotstar live-streaming the game.
Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Rajat Patidar (captain), Virat Kohli, Tim David, Jacob Bethell, Romario Shepherd, Josh Hazlewood, Nuwan Thushara, Devdutt Padikkal, Jitesh Sharma, Krunal Pandya, Rasikh Dar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jordan Cox, Suyash Sharma, Venkatesh Iyer, Swapnil Singh, Jacob Duffy, Kanishk Chouhan, Abhinandan Singh, Mangesh Yadav, Phil Salt, Satvik Deswal, Vicky Ostwal, Vihaan Malhotra.
Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya (c), Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Robin Minz, Ryan Rickelton (wk), Shrijiith Krishnan (wk), Bevon Jacobs, Tilak Varma, Naman Dhir, Will Jacks, Keshav Maharaj, Raj Angad Bawa, Vignesh Puthur, Corbin Bosch, Trent Boult, Karn Sharma, Deepak Chahar, Ashwani Kumar, Reece Topley, VS Pemmetta, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Jasprit Bumrah.



MESSI BACKS NEYMAR FOR WORLD CUP RETURN

BUENOS AIRES : Lionel Messi believes Neymar still belongs among football's elite and said he hopes the Brazil forward returns in time for next month's FIFA World Cup.

Neymar, Brazil's all-time leading scorer, has not played for his country since October 2023, when he suffered a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament during a World Cup qualifier against Uruguay.

His injury problems have continued since returning to boyhood club Santos, limiting him to 12 appearances across all competitions this year after he played 28 matches in 2025.

"We want the best players to be there [at the World Cup] and Neymar, no matter his form, will always be one of them," Messi told the Lo Del Pollo show, reports Xinhua.

"It would be wonderful to see him at the World Cup because of what he means to Brazil and to football. I hope he can be there, but I can't be objective, because he always has to be there."

Neymar and Messi played together at Barcelona from 2013 to 2017 and were again teammates at Paris Saint-Germain from 2021 to 2023.

Messi acknowledged that their friendship made it difficult for him to be impartial.

"I can't be objective. Neymar is a friend... Obviously, I'd love for him to be at the World Cup, for good things to happen to him because he deserves it for the kind of person he is. And I hope he can be there."

Messi added: "He has a very special charisma. He doesn't put on an act; he lives his life as it is, according to what he feels, without worrying about the repercussions. He's happy, and he's very natural."

The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner said Argentina would have a difficult task defending its 2022 World Cup title, rating Spain, France and Brazil as leading contenders. "We know that the World Cup is always a complicated affair due to the caliber of the teams involved," the 38-year-old said.

