

**Vijay follows NTR's footsteps, achieves political success within 2 years of launching party**  
-Pg: 2



**Did Kiara Advani Ask Toxic Makers To Tone Down Bold Scenes With Yash? Actor Reacts**  
-Pg: 5



**Iran War, Oil Crisis Has 'Enormous Impact' In Asia-Pacific: Japan PM**  
Pg: 6



**MS Dhoni Out Of IPL 2026? Chennai Super Kings Coach Provides Big Update: 'Above My Pay Grade'**  
-Pg: 8



# "Lotus Blooms In Bengal"

## BJP maintains average, stronger saffron base in North Bengal

**Kolkata, 4 May :** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has maintained its dominance in North Bengal politics. The preliminary results of the ongoing vote counting show that the saffron camp has become even stronger in this region. The BJP's tendency to be ahead in several districts - Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Cooch Behar - is clear. The party's influence is believed to have expanded more than before, especially in the hills and border areas. The party leadership claims that this success has come about due to a combination of local issues, promotion of central projects and grassroots work of the organization. On the other hand, the ruling Trinamool Congress has tried to reclaim land in North Bengal, but the expected success has not been achieved so far. Although there was a close fight in several constituencies, the overall picture of the BJP's lead has emerged. According to political analysts, North Bengal has long been known as a stronghold of the BJP. This year's results have taken that trend a step further. However, they be-



lieve that the full picture will not be clear until the final results are out. If the CRPF engages in any high-handedness or harassment, you, too, must stand your ground, holding aloft your party flags. If anyone physically attacks me, I have every right to act in self-defense." Abhishek Banerjee provided a detailed, technical breakdown of the various methods of manipulation that could potentially occur during the vote counting process, thoroughly briefing the counting agents on these aspects. His advice was as follows: "Once the EVMs are

brought in, you must cross-check their serial numbers against the details recorded in Form 17C. If the numbers do not match, the machine must not be opened under any circumstances. You must insist on a physical count of the VVPAT slips. If the numbers do match, proceed to verify the seals, as well as the recorded date and time. Cross-reference the figures from the first and second phases of voting. Verify the total vote count displayed on the 'Total' button; this figure must correspond exactly with the data recorded in Form 17C. Subsequently,

press and hold the 'Result' button to ascertain exactly how many votes each specific candidate has secured. Carry a notebook or diary with you. While the data entry for the 'Suvidha' app must be completed on-site at the counting center, you should carry a pre-formatted template to record the individual vote tallies for each candidate. Take meticulous notes. Such electoral theft has previously occurred in states like Bihar and Delhi." Reiterating his earlier point regarding the 2021 Nandigram results, Abhishek added, "They will attempt to orchestrate power outages and use security forces to intimidate and harass. Our student wing must surround and guard the electrical transformers. Keep a particularly vigilant watch over Purba Medinipur. If the CRPF engages in any high-handedness or harassment, you, too, must stand your ground, holding aloft your party flags. If anyone physically attacks me, I have every right to act in self-defense. Should an Observer approach you and demand that you report to the local police station.

## PM Modi's speech from Delhi in the afternoon, BJP headquarters busy preparing for victory celebrations

**New Delhi, 4 May:** Intense excitement and preparations have begun in the BJP camp ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech in Delhi this afternoon. Last-minute preparations are underway at the party headquarters to celebrate the victory. The festive mood is evident among the workers and supporters, various programs and campaign activities are being arranged. Party sources said that the Prime Minister may highlight the various achievements and future plans of the central government through his speech. At the same time, he may also convey a message to further strengthen the organization. The BJP top leadership claims that this speech will create new enthusiasm not only among party workers but also among the common people. Rajeev retired from his post as the Acting Director General of the State Po-



lice on January 31. Approximately one month later—on February 27—the Trinamool announced its decision to send the former DG, Rajeev, to the Rajya Sabha. Subsequently, on the 7th of this very month, the state's former police chief took the oath as a Member of the Rajya Sabha. Now, he serves as the counting observer for the Dum Dum-Barrackpore organizational district. This marks the first time Rajiv is set to discharge an organizational responsibility for the Trinamool. Following the con-

clusion of the second phase of voting, Mamata voiced strong criticism against the central forces. Speaking on the matter today, she stated, "Instead of ensuring border security, the CRPF is engaging in atrocities. Never in my life have I witnessed central forces resorting to physical assault in this manner. They are committing excesses everywhere; they are forcibly evicting polling agents from the booths. They did not even spare a small child, who was also subjected to their brutality."



BJP supporters celebrates as the party takes lead during the West Bengal Assembly elections result day, in Murshidabad district, Monday.

## Rabindra Sangeet played at BJP party office on Shamik's orders as saffron victory looms

**Kolkata, 4 May:** The BJP party office was filled with a festive atmosphere as the saffron camp's victory loomed. Party sources said that Rabindra Sangeet was played in the party office on the orders of top leader Shamik Bhattacharya, which instantly gave a different dimension to the atmosphere. As soon as the results became clear, excitement began among the workers and supporters. Some played the Abir, others danced to the beat of the dhak and dhol. However, the decision to play Rabindra Sangeet to maintain cultural order throughout the celebration was particularly eye-catching. According to a section of the party, this move is not just a celebration of joy, but also a message of respect for Bengali culture. On the other hand, political circles claim that even though the results are not final, a storm of discussion has started in advance around such a celebration. All in all, the saffron atmosphere in the party office combined with Rabindra's poetry created a unique political-cultural moment. The first train

departed from Udhna for Jaynagar at 1:30 AM, followed by the next train, which left Udhna for Madhubani at 5:30 AM. We are continuously monitoring passenger volumes, and the railway au-



thorities have taken all necessary measures." The massive crowd at Udhna station was driven by a combination of factors: the ongoing summer vacation and the urgent desire of workers—whose factories had shut down over the past one or two months due to the LPG crisis—to return to their native villages. What magic allowed Thalpathy to achieve such a resounding triumph in his

very first electoral outing? The answer lies in the fact that, within a remarkably short span of time, TVK has successfully carved a special place for itself in the hearts of the common people of Tamil Nadu. One of the primary reasons for the party's growing popularity is Vijay's "will not bow down" attitude. He categorically stated, "We stand for secularism and social justice. Therefore, we will never compromise with anyone." Analysts believe that this stance of Vijay is set to further boost his popularity and credibility—a sentiment that has been reflected in the ballot box. Due to a lack of work, laborers who had traveled from distant regions are being compelled to return home. It was against this backdrop that chaotic scenes unfolded at Udhna station in Surat. On Sunday, as they set out on their journey home, they were subjected to a brutal beating at the hands of the police. To manage the station premises—which had become virtually paralyzed—the police unleashed a ruthless lathi-charge upon the crowd.

## America will remove ships stuck in Hormuz, Donald Trump announces 'Project Freedom'

**New Delhi, 4 May:** Donald Trump announces major military operation to rescue commercial ships stuck in the Strait of Hormuz. Donald Trump, 'Project Freedom' According to White House sources, recent tensions and disruptions to shipping in the Strait of Hormuz are putting pressure on global energy supplies. Trump has claimed that "global trade will not be held hostage." However, international circles fear that this move could lead to renewed geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Tehran began launching indiscriminate strikes across various countries within the Middle East. Finally, after 40 days of conflict, both nations agreed to a temporary ceasefire. However, lasting peace has not yet been established. Consequently, the scheduled peace talks between Iran and the US have effectively been shelved. Mohammad Ghalibaf, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, recently wrote on his X (formerly Twitter) han-

dle. After a brief hiatus in the tariff war—occasioned by judicial intervention—US President Donald Trump has returned in full force. This time, the European Union (EU) finds itself in America's crosshairs. Citing alleged violations of trade agreements, a 25 percent tariff has been



announced on all types of cars and trucks imported from the EU. This new regulation is expected to take effect starting next week. On Friday, the US President addressed this issue via his social media channels. In his post, he asserted that the European

Union is failing to adhere to the terms of their trade agreement. He further stated that such stringent measures are absolutely essential to safeguard American industries and jobs. It is worth noting that a trade agreement between the United States and the European Union was con-

cluded in July of last year; under that accord, a 15 percent tariff had been imposed on European automobiles and parts. However, Trump contends that European nations—particularly Germany—are not properly complying with those terms. The Kremlin dis-

closed this development on Wednesday. Kremlin official Yuri Ushakov informed the news agency AFP that the two heads of state discussed the situation in the Middle East as well as the conflict in Ukraine. Notably, during the discussion, both Putin and Trump placed particular emphasis on the situation regarding Iran and the Persian Gulf region. According to Ushakov, "Putin welcomed Trump's decision to extend the ceasefire. In the Russian President's view, this will provide both parties with an opportunity for dialogue and contribute to the overall stabilization of the situation." However, Ushakov also noted that during the phone call, Putin issued a stern warning to Trump. He stated, "The Russian President made it unequivocally clear that if the United States and Israel were to launch further military operations in the Middle East, it would invite peril upon the entire world." Meanwhile, according to Kremlin sources,

## As election heat increases, administration tightens, EC sends special team to Nabanna to secure documents

**Kolkata, 4 May :** The election atmosphere in the state is intensifying. In that situation, the Election Commission has taken strict steps to ensure transparency and security of documents in government offices. According to sources, a special monitoring team has been sent to Nabanna. The main task of this team is to check the security of government documents, files and digital data and to monitor whether there is any kind of irregularity or attempt to exert influence. As per the commission's directives, strict monitoring is being carried out on the storage of documents and file movement in important offices. Besides, emphasis has also been laid on maintaining impartiality at the administrative level. According to administrative circles, such steps are usually taken before elections to maintain transparency. On the other hand, speculation has started in political circles that the commission's activism indicates that the situation is about to get



tougher. After casting her vote at Mitra Institution in Bhabanipur, Trinamool Supremo Mamata Banerjee visited the Kalighat Temple later in the day. While interacting with journalists there, Mamata said, "The CRPF has resorted to violence in numerous locations. They have severely beaten our party workers. I have not yet received reports from all areas. However, we will certainly cross the 200-seat mark. It is up to the people to decide exactly where our final tally will stand." On Monday, the Trinamool supreme took aim at Modi over the \*Jhalmuri\* incident during three consecutive ral-

lies held in Murarai (Birbhum), Khardaha (North 24 Parganas), and Belegghata (Kolkata). Speaking at the Belegghata rally, she remarked, "Your downfall has already begun, no matter how theatrically you stage your \*Jhalmuri\*-eating sessions! How is it that cameras are already positioned inside that shop beforehand? Are we really expected to believe that you walk around with a mere 10-rupee note in your pocket?" In Bengal, 'fish' has emerged as a key electoral issue ahead of the 2026 elections. The Trinamool Congress has been campaigning relentlessly—citing allegations that bans on

the sale of fish and meat are imposed in BJP-ruled states—to warn voters that if the BJP comes to power in Bengal, they will put an end to the consumption of fish, meat, and eggs. Linking this "politics of fish" to Modi's newfound fondness for \*Jhalmuri\*, Mamata challenged him today: "You are eating \*Jhalmuri\*; now show us that you can eat fish. After all, I eat your \*Dhokla\*... You people should try eating some fish, meat, or eggs. All it takes is pulling a single rupee out of your pocket. Tell me, when will you eat it? I will cook it and send it over. I give you my word: I won't let anyone else cook it; I will prepare it with my own hands. Let's see just how much you truly appreciate the 'Bong who lives on fish and rice!'" Sharpening his attacks on the Prime Minister and his party today, Trinamool's National General Secretary, Abhishek Banerjee, addressed a rally in Ranibandh (Bankura),