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## Mamata's 15-year-old chair removed from the Assembly; Suwendu takes his seat in the new State Legislature

### Administrative systems are changing alongside political transitions



**Kolkata, 10 May :** With the political transition in Bengal, long-standing administrative traditions are undergoing a transformation. After 15 years, the historic chair used by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly has finally been removed. Adhering to administrative protocol, the chair and nameplate used by Mamata were removed on Friday night, and work has begun to re-decorate the chamber for the new Chief Minister, Suwendu Adhikari. According to Assembly sources, the wooden chair in which Mamata Banerjee sat for the past decade and a half has now been transferred to the chamber of the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. As per protocol, furniture and other equipment used by a former Chief Minister are removed in the interest of administrative efficiency. Since the Trinamool Congress now occupies the op-

position benches, this specific chair has been allocated to the leader of their legislative party. After being sworn in as Chief Minister, Suwendu Adhikari made it clear that he would not use the chair previously occupied by his predecessor. A completely new chair and set of furniture have been arranged for him within the Chief Minister's chamber. The nameplate bearing Mamata Banerjee's name has already been removed from outside the Chief Minister's chamber in the Assembly, and a new nameplate inscribed with Suwendu Adhikari's name has been installed in its place. A senior Assembly official stated that, in accordance with protocol, the furniture and official insignia designated for the former Chief Minister have been removed. Renovation work is currently underway within the office to meet the requirements of the new administration. Notably, in the

recent Assembly elections, Trinamool leader Mamata Banerjee was defeated by Suwendu Adhikari in her own stronghold—the Bhabanipur constituency in South Kolkata. This transition of power began immediately following this electoral defeat and the BJP's victory in 207 seats across the state. For the time being, following the swearing-in of the new government, an atmosphere of renewal and preparation prevails within the inner precincts of the Legislative Assembly. While Mamata's chair has shifted to the opposition camp on one side, a new era has simultaneously dawned within the Chief Minister's chamber of the Assembly, ushered in by Suwendu Adhikari. Adhikari once served as an aide to a proud and unstoppable Banerjee, then chief minister, when she steered the Trinamool Congress ship. Fast forward to this very moment, Adhikari has settled himself on the cushy 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 Adhikari's story. Consider these, all in the former sense: aide to a defeated chief minister, senior guide to the Trinamool Congress, hero to voters in Nandigram and Bhabanipur. Like the Roman general who returned for justice. Today is more than just Adikari's day. Today is also more than just a dream-comes-true day for the BJP. The attendance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the new chief minister's oath-taking tells how significant is this turn in Bengal's political destiny, irrespective of ideologies.

## 'Those who are the most brilliant minds of Bengal'—Suwendu Adhikari takes a dig at Mamata over the her new advisor

**Kolkata, 10 May :** Suwendu Adhikari has become the first Chief Minister of the first BJP government in West Bengal. Suwendu Adhikari took the oath of office as Chief Minister. He is scheduled to assume charge on Monday. On that very day, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari is slated to hold an administrative meeting at Nabanna. The Chief Minister will convene a meeting to address the law and order situation. Immediately after taking the oath, the new Chief Minister will hold a meeting with the state police and administrative officials. The new Chief Minister will meet with the Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, Director General of Police (DG), and Commissioner of Police (CP). Subrata Gupta has been appointed as an advisor to the new Chief Minister. According to an official notification, he is transitioning from his role as a Special Observer for the Election Commission to serve as an advisor to the new Chief Minister. Subrata Gupta was also present at the swearing-in ceremony of the new Chief Minister and his cabinet on Saturday. Later, Suwendu was asked for his re-



action regarding this matter. Chief Minister Suwendu stated that Mamata Banerjee failed to utilize the services of Bengal's most brilliant IAS officers.

Sanjay Mitra was compelled to leave Bengal. Malay De declined her offer, so deeply entrenched was the corruption within the administration. We must seek the assistance of individuals like Mr. Subrata Gupta. After all, we are the policymakers—we make decisions within the Cabinet; the actual implementation lies in the hands of the bureaucracy. The former Chief Minister has dismantled all four pillars of the Constitution. The legislature has been rendered non-existent, the bureaucracy has been stripped of its authority, the judiciary has come under

attack, and the media has been reduced to a spineless entity. A line of leaders including Suwendu Adhikari, who took oath as Bengal's first chief minister from the BJP, and five others who formed the state's initial cabinet, flanked the prime minister to his right. Then, seconds later, PM Modi knelt down slowly and bowed before the crowds, his hands extended to the front and firmly planted on the ground. The prime minister had spent considerable time campaigning in Bengal ahead of the election. Shah also put in long, hard hours to ensure a BJP win with numerous roadshows and rallies. Today is more than just Adikari's day. Today is also more than just a dream-comes-true day for the BJP.



Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officials investigate the crime scene following the killing of BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari's close aide Chandranath Rath, at Madhyamgram, in North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal.

## Indian Trawler Attacked Again the Strait of Hormuz; One Sailor Dies in Fire, 17 Rescued

**New Delhi, 10 May :** An Indian trawler has once again come under attack in the volatile waters of the Strait of Hormuz. A fire broke out on the wooden trawler, resulting in the death of one sailor. The deceased has been identified as a resident of Gujarat. Additionally, 17 individuals were rescued following the incident. Four injured crew members were evacuated and admitted to a hospital in Dubai. Reports indicate that this tragic incident occurred last Friday in the waters near the Strait of Hormuz. According to media sources, the trawler somehow caught fire while transiting through the sea lanes near Hormuz. As the vessel was made of wood, the situation escalated rapidly and took a dire turn within moments. The impact of the incident caused the trawler to capsiz. One sailor on board lost his life, while four others sustained burn injuries. Another vessel present in the vicinity at the time of the in-

cident rushed to the scene and rescued the sailors. It is reported that there were a total of 18 people on board the trawler. However, the exact cause of the fire remains unclear. An investigation has been launched to determine the circumstances leading to the blaze. Meanwhile, officials



from the Indian Consulate in Dubai established contact with the rescued sailors on Friday night itself. The Consulate is extending all necessary assistance to the affected individuals. The Consulate has also reached out to the owner of the trawler. Further-

more, the Consulate is closely monitoring the situation to ensure that the four injured sailors receive comprehensive medical care without any lapses. It is worth noting that, amidst the ongoing conflict, Iran has kept the Strait of Hormuz closed for an extended period. Although a

ceasefire was declared between the United States and Iran on April 7, both nations have continued to engage in sporadic exchanges of fire along this strategically vital waterway. Recently, Iran claimed to have launched an attack on a U.S. warship. In

response, the U.S. Central Command stated that they had successfully repelled the Iranian assault and destroyed several Iranian vessels. Against this backdrop of heightened tensions, the fire incident involving an Indian vessel has sparked fresh concerns.

Hezbollah—the Tehran-backed armed group in Lebanon—erupted in fury. Fueled by a desire for retaliation, they began shelling Israel. Tel Aviv responded in kind, launching missile and airstrikes across vast areas, including the Lebanese capital, Beirut. However, those attacks have yet to cease. India, along with 30 other nations, has expressed deep concern regarding this situation. The death toll in Lebanon resulting from Israeli attacks has now surpassed 2,000. Recently, US President Donald Trump had even announced a ceasefire agreement between Lebanon and Israel. One of the primary reasons for the failure to establish peace.

## Chief Minister Vijayan's first message; announces measures ranging from free electricity to a women's protection force

**New Delhi, 10 May :** On Sunday, Southern superstar Thalapathy Vijay was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Immediately following the ceremony, in his inaugural message, he declared, "I am a common man. A new chapter of secularism and social justice begins right here, right now." Alongside this, Vijay announced a series of initiatives for the people of Tamil Nadu—ranging from free electricity to the formation of a dedicated women's security force. Delivering his first address from Chennai after assuming the office of Chief Minister, Vijay stated, "I alone shall remain at the center of power. There will be no one else but me. I alone will be accountable for the government's policies. The previous DMK government has left us burdened with a debt of ₹10 lakh crore. If you grant me this opportunity and continue to extend your support in this manner, we will strive to fulfill every single promise we have made." He further clarified that the TVK-led government in Tamil Nadu would not yield to any pressure to follow the dictates of

coalition partners. Meanwhile, the Southern superstar also delivered a special message directly to his fans. He invoked a popular Tamil phrase—"En Nenjil Kudiyrirkkum"—meaning, "Those who reside in my heart." He added, "You are my very life. I will work solely for your well-being. Without you, I am nothing." From the Chief Minister's seat, Vijay an-



nounced that the people of Tamil Nadu would receive up to 200 units of electricity free of charge. He also announced the formation of a specialized women's security force to ensure the safety and security of women across the state. Simultaneously, Vijay affirmed that strict

measures would be implemented to curb drug abuse. Furthermore, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu stated that special attention would be directed toward critical sectors such as education, food supply, and healthcare. Reassuring the people of Tamil Nadu, he declared, "From now on, the administration in this state will function with complete transparency. The new government is committed to fulfilling every promise outlined in our election manifesto." Notably, nine other individuals took the oath alongside Vijay on this day. According to sources, they are set to receive ministerial portfolios. The list includes K.A. Sengottaiyan—whom the AIADMK expelled last year after he raised questions regarding the party's leadership. Also taking the oath were Vijay's election strategist Adhav Arjun, former BJP leader Nirmal Kumar, TVK General Secretary N. Anand, actor Raj Mohan, physician T.K. Prabhu, former IRS officer Arun Raj, the newly elected MLA for Chennai's Mylapore constituency P. Venkataramanan, and the youngest member, Keerthana.

## Suwendu to visit Nabanna on Monday; police on alert regarding the new Chief Minister's security

**Kolkata, 10 May :** On Monday, Subhendu Adhikari is set to visit Nabanna for the first time since assuming the office of Chief Minister. He is scheduled to hold an administrative meeting in the Nabanna conference hall around 12:00 PM. In anticipation of this meeting, the Howrah and Kolkata Police forces have swung into action to heighten security at Nabanna. Security arrangements are being scrutinized not only within the conference hall but also across the entire Nabanna complex. As Sunday progressed, Kolkata Police Commissioner Ajay Nanda and his Howrah counterpart, Akhilesh Chaturvedi, arrived at Nabanna. They were accompanied by several other senior police officials. Led by the two Commissioners, the police team first conducted a thorough inspection of the Nabanna premises, gathering detailed information regarding the existing security infrastructure. The police conducted an on-the-spot as-



essment to determine the specific security protocols for Chief Minister Subhendu at Nabanna, as well as the security arrangements for the conference hall where he is scheduled to hold his meeting. Subsequently, Ajay and Akhilesh held an urgent meeting within the Nabanna conference hall to discuss security-related matters. On Monday, Subhendu will first hold a meeting with the state administration's top-ranking officials. However, his agenda for the day extends beyond mere administrative review; he is scheduled to hold two additional meetings on Mon-

day. In the afternoon, the Chief Minister is expected to meet with the District Magistrates. Following that, in the evening, Subhendu has another scheduled meeting with senior officials of the State Police. According to sources, the meeting will be attended by the State Director General of Police (DGP), the Kolkata Police Commissioner, and high-ranking officials representing various zones across the state. Immediately after taking the oath as Chief Minister on Saturday, Subhendu held a meeting with the State Chief Secretary Dushyant Nariwala, Home Secretary

Sanghamitra Ghosh, and State DGP Siddhanath Gupta. This meeting took place at the Public Works Department (PWD) marquee in Dharmatala. During the meeting, Subhendu sought updates and information regarding the overall situation of the state. On Saturday, five other individuals—Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Nishith Pramanik, and Khudiram Tudu—were sworn in as ministers alongside Subhendu. Speculation is currently rife regarding the identities of the remaining members of Subhendu's cabinet. According to BJP sources, the remaining members of Subhendu's cabinet are scheduled to take their oaths on Monday. It is on that very day that it will become clear which minister will be entrusted with which specific portfolio. It has been reported that on Monday, Governor R.N. Ravi will administer the oath of office to the members of the new cabinet at Lok Bhawan.