

**Saffron Shawls Not Allowed: Siddaramaiah Clarifies Hijab Order**

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**Influencer Says Shah Rukh Khan's 'K' Neckline At Met Gala Looked 'Tacky'**

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## 'Vande Mataram' must be sung before classes in all government schools across the state announces CM Shubhendu

Kolkata, 14 May : In the state's government schools, the national song 'Vande Mataram' must be sung before classes commence. This rule will come into effect starting this coming Monday. Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari has now made a direct announcement to this effect. He stated that an official government notification regarding this matter would be issued shortly. Indeed, it was issued on Thursday afternoon. Directives—stipulating that 'Vande Mataram' must be sung during the morning prayer assembly in government schools—had already been sent via WhatsApp from Bikash Bhavan to the District Inspectors of Schools. Reports indicate that these directives have now begun to be forwarded to the individual schools. Standing within the Assembly premises on Thursday, the Chief Minister announced that he would proceed to Nabanna to issue the official notification regarding this matter. Suwendu stated, "I will go to Nabanna. From Monday onwards, every school must begin its day (classes) by singing 'Vande Mataram.' I will issue the necessary notice to that effect." Following the Chief Minister's announcement, the official government notification was formally issued. According to sources at Bikash Bhavan, WhatsApp messages have already been dispatched to the relevant officials, instructing them to undertake advance preparations to ensure that this initiative is implemented smoothly across all government schools. Notably, this government directive regarding the national song applies specifically to the state's government-run schools. Additionally, reports suggest that private schools will also be requested to adopt this practice. The results of the Higher Secondary Examination were also published on Thursday. Extending



his congratulations to all the high-achieving students across the state, the Chief Minister remarked, "May they move forward, guided by Swami Vivekananda's mantra: 'Charaiveti, Charaiveti' (March on, march on)." He also conveyed a message encouraging the celebration of this success achieved by the future generation. The Chief Minister further stated that he is keen to personally interact with the students who secured the first, second, and third positions in the merit list. To this end, he has already instructed the relevant departments to take the necessary steps. Suwendu also mentioned that the Sub-Divisional Officers (SDOs) of the respective areas are currently visiting the homes of these meritorious students to convey the state government's congratulations. Speaking from Nabanna, the Chief Minister stated, "The state government had stalled four specific CBI cases for the past four years. In accordance with the law, whenever the CBI—or any investigative agency appointed by the courts—seeks

to ensure the punishment of corrupt officials or file chargesheets against them, they are required to obtain the state government's permission. The previous government had withheld this permission in an attempt to shield corrupt bureaucrats and officials. We have now granted the necessary approval to the CBI to initiate action against corrupt officials across three distinct departments. The CBI has already received a copy of this clearance." Regarding the specific instances of corruption for which clearance has been granted to the CBI, Suwendu Adhikari clarified that permission has been accorded to initiate action against officials implicated in the teacher recruitment scam within the Education Department, the recruitment irregularities within the Municipalities, and the investigations currently underway—pursuant to court directives—within the Cooperative Department. Suwendu further stated, "This government of ours has come to power raising high expectations. We are adopting a policy of 'zero tolerance' towards corruption. I reiterated this repeatedly during the election campaign as well. Taking action against institutional corruption was also a part of our party's manifesto. In the days to come, the people of the state will witness further steps being taken in this regard. We have already begun the work." On the very same day, the Chief Minister declared that women would no longer be required to pay fares on government buses. It is worth noting that this is not a first for Bengal; residents of several other states have already experienced similar benefits. In Delhi, for instance, women do not have to pay fares on government buses. Since last August, female passengers in Andhra Pradesh have also been exempted from

## Ban on Blaring Loudspeakers at Religious Sites: Chief Minister Issues Strict Directives to Police During Meeting

Kolkata, 14 May : Having assumed the mantle of state governance, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari is systematically overhauling every sector. He is implementing new regulations across various departments to ensure a smooth and efficient pace of developmental work. In a recent meeting with the police administration, the Chief Minister issued a stern directive: the use of loudspeakers at religious sites and during religious events must not exceed prescribed noise limits. Should these limits be breached, the police are mandated to take firm action. To ensure strict compliance, Suwendu Adhikari conveyed this message to senior police officials in an uncompromising tone during the meeting. According to the regulations set by the Environment Court, the maximum permissible noise level for loudspeakers in residential areas is 55 decibels. However, this limit is slightly higher in industrial zones and commercial districts. Since religious institutions are typically situated within residential areas, the Environment Court has designated a maximum limit of 55 decibels for these locations as well. Previously, dur-



ing special festivals and events, a concession allowing noise levels of up to 65 decibels was granted. However, following the change of government in the state, all such regulations have been significantly tightened—with noise levels being a primary focus of this stricter enforcement. On Thursday, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari held a meeting with the state's police administration at Nabanna. According to sources, he issued strict instructions during this meeting, declaring that the blaring of loudspeakers at any religious site would no longer be tolerated. He repeatedly emphasized that if noise levels exceed the prescribed limits, the police must take appropriate legal action. Until now, instances of loudspeakers blaring at high volumes at religious sites during various festivals and events were a frequent occurrence. In some localities, loudspeakers would continue to play even beyond the designated time limits, causing distress to patients and residents. However, with the recent change in state leadership, strict measures are now being enforced to curb these practices. To combat noise pollution, the new Chief Minister, Suwendu Adhikari, has initiated a series of measures. His stern message to the police administration today was unequivocal: under no circumstances will the use of loudspeakers exceeding the prescribed limits be permitted in the vicinity of religious sites. Should such violations occur, the police are required to take decisive action. However, BJP promises to give complete guarantee to the Bengali voters.



Commuters make their way through an uprooted tree lying on a road after a dust storm, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

## Work from home two days a week and a 'No-Car Day' Delhi government takes action in response to PM Modi's appeal

New Delhi, 14 May: Amidst the backdrop of conflict in West Asia, India is also facing a fuel crisis. In light of this situation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appealed to the citizens to exercise restraint. Reminding the public of the COVID-19 era, he advised the general populace to work from home. He made this appeal specifically to encourage a reduction in the consumption of petrol and diesel. Responding to this appeal by Modi, the Delhi government has now taken concrete action. Effective immediately, all government employees will work from home two days a week. Furthermore, 50 percent of all official meetings will be conducted online. This announcement was made on Thursday. The office schedules for both the Delhi government and the Delhi Municipal Corporation are set to undergo changes. This initiative is being undertaken to alleviate traffic congestion and reduce fuel consumption during peak office hours. Additionally, the Delhi government plans to launch a campaign to promote the effi-



cient use of fuel. The use of official vehicles is also being curtailed; the petrol allowance allocated to employees has been reduced by 20 percent. The Prime Minister had appealed to the public to utilize public transportation in order to conserve fuel. To encourage citizens in this regard, the government has called for the observance of a weekly "Metro Day" and "No-Car Day" in Delhi. The Delhi government has also announced that it will refrain from purchasing any new vehicles for the next six months. To help manage the situation, 58 special bus services will be in-

troduced across 29 government residential colonies for the benefit of government employees. This initiative has been launched by the Delhi government specifically to encourage the use of public transportation. Notably, in addition to reducing fuel consumption, Modi has also appealed to citizens to temporarily curtail plans for foreign travel and weddings. Simultaneously, a call has been issued to reduce the consumption of edible oils. He has also advised against purchasing gold for the coming year. Modi stated, "Patriotism does not merely mean sacrificing one's life at the border; patriotism entails living responsibly and fulfilling our duties toward the nation in our daily lives." Furthermore—in alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement—directives have been issued to encourage "Work from Home" arrangements wherever feasible, with the aim of curbing petrol and diesel consumption and achieving savings across various sectors. Concurrently, the Chief Minister has mandated that ministers.

## Iran's Missile Arsenal Intact! US Reports Themselves Refute Trump's Claim

New Delhi, 14 May: US President Donald Trump has repeatedly claimed that the United States has all but decimated Iran's military might and weaponry. He has asserted that Tehran's military backbone has been broken. However, a US report itself has now refuted this very claim by Trump. The report explicitly states that Iran's missile arsenal remains largely intact. Thursday marked the 75th day of the US-Iran conflict. It was on this day that this classified US report came to light. The report claims that discussions are currently underway between the two sides regarding a permanent ceasefire, aimed at preventing the outbreak of any fresh hostilities. Furthermore, it notes that Iran has regained control over the majority of its missile storage facilities—including various missile sites, underground bunkers, and similar installations—all of which remain undamaged. However, there

are reports that a few weapons depots situated along the Strait of Hormuz have sustained complete damage. The report indicates that approximately 30 weapons depots near the Strait of Hormuz are currently active. These facilities house vast stockpiles of missiles. The release of this



report has sparked concern among a section of experts. They argue that the presence of such a large number of weapons depots in close proximity to this strategically vital global waterway could compromise the safety and security of commercial cargo

vessels. The report further asserts that Iran's mobile missile launch systems also remain intact. According to the report, Iran has kept 70 percent of its mobile missile launch systems operational. The size of its missile stockpile has not deviated significantly from pre-conflict levels. Tehran's

arsenal comprises both long-range ballistic missiles and short-range cruise missiles, capable of striking targets on both land and sea. Meanwhile, satellite imagery reveals that Iran has regained control over approximately 90 percent of the country's

underground missile bases. However, sources indicate that not all of these facilities possess the same level of operational capability. The missile is slated to be formally inducted into the Russian military's arsenal by the end of this year. On Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the successful test of this missile to the global community. According to his claims, the destructive payload capacity of the Sarmat's warhead is four times greater than that of any Western missile. This colossal missile boasts a range exceeding 35,000 kilometers—meaning that virtually any region across the entire globe falls within its strike range. This lethal weapon is capable of penetrating any missile defense system, whether existing or currently under development. It has been designed to serve as a replacement for the 40 Soviet-era R-36M Voevoda missiles.

## 'Thief' Slogans and Abusive Remarks Aimed at Former WBCM Mamata! Tension Mounts Amidst Protests by a Section of Lawyers Within Kolkata High Court Premises

Kolkata, 14 May : She had gone to argue a case. She presented her arguments in the High Court before the bench of Chief Justice Sujoy Pal. However, immediately upon exiting the courtroom, former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was confronted by protesters. A section of the lawyers began chanting slogans of "Thief!" directed at her. Abusive language could also be heard emanating from the crowd. Amidst this protest, Mamata left the High Court premises. Pointing her finger toward a section of the lawyers, she exclaimed, "They hit me!" On Thursday, a hearing regarding a case concerning post-poll violence was held at the High Court. Advocate Shirshanya Banerjee—son of Trinamool MP Kalyan Banerjee—had filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) regarding the matter. The case was heard on Thursday morning before the bench compris-



ing Chief Justice Pal and Justice Parthasarathi Sen. Mamata had gone specifically to argue this case in her capacity as an advocate. She arrived at the High Court premises shortly before 11:00 AM. Dressed in the attire of an advocate, she appeared before Chief Justice Pal's bench, where she presented her arguments. The untoward incident occurred as she was making her exit from the courtroom. As was to be expected, news that the Tri-

namool supremo had arrived to argue a case had already spread throughout the High Court's legal fraternity by that time. A crowd of lawyers had also gathered in the High Court lobby. Upon exiting the courtroom at the conclusion of the hearing, Mamata found herself face-to-face with a group of agitated lawyers in the lobby. Upon spotting the former Chief Minister, this section of the lawyers began raising slogans against her. Chants of "Thief!" rang out,

and other abusive remarks could be heard from within the crowd. The atmosphere in the High Court lobby suddenly turned volatile amidst the lawyers' protest. Amidst this commotion, Mamata exited the High Court premises. However, before leaving, she pointed toward the group of lawyers and expressed her indignation, stating, "They hit me!" The state's opposition camp has already voiced its strong condemnation of the situation that unfolded within the High Court premises. Trinamool spokesperson Arup Chakraborty stated, "What will those who have long parroted the rhetoric of democracy say today? The state's three-time elected Chief Minister has had to knock on the doors of the court. If such an incident can occur even there, it becomes abundantly clear what kind of democracy the BJP intends to cultivate in this state."