

Flight trial of advanced Agni missile successful

NEW DELHI, May 9 (PTI)

INDIA has successfully carried out a flight test of an advanced Agni missile featuring multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV) off the coast of Odisha.

The MIRV feature ensures that a single missile can deploy multiple war heads at different locations. The missile system was tested on Friday, according to the Defence

Ministry. "India conducted the successful flight-trial of an advanced Agni missile with Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) system from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha on May 8," it said.

The missile was flight-tested with multiple payloads, targeted to different targets spatially distributed over a large geographical area in the Indian Ocean Region, it added.



An Advanced Agni missile with MIRV (Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle) system takes off from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island on Friday, in Odisha.

(PTI)

Jan Suraksha schemes provided Rs 25,160 cr support since inception: Sitharaman



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JAN SURAKSHA schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana have settled claims of about Rs 25,160 crore since their launch in 2015, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday.

Jan Suraksha schemes Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) envisioned to extend affordable financial protection to all, particularly the underserved and vulnerable sections of society, were launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 9, 2015. These flagship schemes, which completed 11 years, aim to broaden the insurance and pension landscape by shielding citizens against life's uncertainties and fostering long-term financial resilience.

Citing data on the 11th anniversaries of the Jan Suraksha Schemes, Sitharaman said that over 27 crore, 58 crore and 9 crore enrolments have been done under PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY, respectively.

Pak-China affairs expert, Lt Gen Subramani, named next Chief of Defence Staff



Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani (retd)

NEW DELHI, May 9 (PTI)

LIEUTENANT General NS Raja Subramani (retd) has been named India's next Chief of Defence Staff and his primary mandate will be to implement the ambitious military theaterisation plan and bolster tri-services synergy.

He will replace Gen Anil Chauhan, who completes his

tenure as the country's senior-most military commander on May 30.

Lieutenant General Subramani, widely known as an expert on Pakistan and China, is currently serving as the Military Advisor at the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).

He retired as the Vice Chief of Army Staff on July 31 last year. The Government has appointed Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani (Retd) as the Chief of Defence Staff and he will also function as the Secretary of the department of military affairs, the Defence Ministry said on Saturday.

As Chief of Defence Staff, Subramani's primary task will be to implement the theaterisation model by rolling out integrated military commands.

Gen Chauhan, a former Eastern Army Commander, took charge as the country's senior-most military commander in September 2022, over nine months after the first CDS, General Bipin Rawat, died in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu.

Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan appointed next Chief of Navy staff



Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan

NEW DELHI, May 9 (PTI)

VICE Admiral Krishna Swaminathan was on Saturday appointed India's next Chief of the Naval Staff. He succeeds Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who retires from on May 31.

Vice Admiral Swaminathan is currently serving as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command.

The Government has appointed Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan as the Chief of the Naval Staff, the Defence Ministry said. As the Navy Chief, his focus is likely to be on taking forward the ongoing modernisation of the force. The Flag Officer was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1987, and is a specialist in communication and electronic Warfare.

He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla; the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham, United Kingdom; the College of Naval Warfare, Karanja; and the US Naval War College, Newport.

A recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, and Vishisht Seva Medal, the Admiral has held several key operational, staff and training appointments in his naval career, including the command of missile vessels INS Vidyut and Vinash, the missile corvette INS Kulish, the guided missile destroyer INS Mysore and the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

SUVENDU ADHIKARI TAKES OATH AS WB CM

Five other leaders also sworn in as Ministers

'Historic dawn for W Bengal; marks end of misrule'

KOLKATA, May 9 (PTI)

WEST Bengal's Chief Minister-elect Suwendu Adhikari said the days of 'Sonar Bangla' have officially started with Saturday marking the beginning of a new era of "peace and prosperity" under a "double-engine" administration as the State's first BJP Government is set to take charge.

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrival in Kolkata for the oath-taking ceremony at the Brigade Parade Ground, Adhikari posted a message

on X welcoming him to the State and describing the occasion as the fulfilment of the "dreams of our founding fathers".

"A historic dawn for West Bengal indeed. It is a moment of profound pride and jubilation to welcome visionary Leader PM Narendra Modi Ji to the City of Joy. Today, as we witness the swearing-in ceremony of the first-ever BJP Government in West Bengal since Independence, we fulfil the dreams of our founding fathers."

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BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari takes the oath to become West Bengal's first BJP Chief Minister, at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata, West Bengal on Saturday. (PTI)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with West Bengal Governor RN Ravi, State Chief Minister-elect Suwendu Adhikari and BJP MLAs Agnimitra Paul, Nisith Pramanik, Kshudiram Tudu, and others, during the oath-taking ceremony at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata, West Bengal on Saturday. (PTI)

KOLKATA, May 9 (PTI)

SUVENDU Adhikari on Saturday took oath as West Bengal's first BJP Chief Minister, ushering in the State's maiden BJP Government since Independence and marking a tectonic political shift in a region long regarded as the party's toughest ideological frontier.

The swearing-in at the iconic Brigade Parade Grounds -- once the citadel of the Left and later a theatre of TMC

dominance-- symbolically sealed the BJP's stunning ascent in Bengal politics, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Ministers of NDA-ruled States and the party's top leadership sharing the stage before a sea of saffron flags and chants of "Jai Shri Ram".

Governor RN Ravi administered the oath of office and secrecy to Adhikari amid drumbeats, loud cheers and fluttering saffron flags across the sprawling ground in the heart of Kolkata.

As Modi walked onto the stage, he bent low, touched his forehead to the dais with folded hands and acknowledged the crowd, triggering thunderous applause from lakhs of BJP supporters packed into Brigade.

Dressed in a saffron kurta, white dhoti with a thin red border and a prominent tilak on his forehead, Adhikari took the oath first before greeting the gathering with folded hands. The BJP leader won both Nandigram and Bhabanipur and spearheaded the

party's aggressive campaign against the TMC.

Senior BJP leader and former State president Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra

Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Kshudiram Tudu and Nisith Pramanik were also sworn in as Ministers in the six-member Cabinet that reflected a social-and-regional balance.

While Adhikari is a Brahmin face, Ghosh represents the OBC community, Kirtania the politically crucial Matua

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belt, Tudu the tribal Junglemahal region and Pramanik the Rajbanshi population of north Bengal. Two

Ministers are from north Bengal and three from the south, underlining the BJP's effort to consolidate its support across regions and communities.

Notably, there was no representative from Kolkata in the first list of Ministers, despite the city historically producing

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