



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses his outgoing Council of Ministers in New Delhi, Friday. *Twitter*

## NDA meets today to re-elect Modi as PM, swearing-in next week

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, MAY 24

A DAY after the BJP-led NDA was swept back to power in a landslide, the process for the formation of a new government began Friday with the Union Cabinet recommending dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who led the BJP to a historic victory, met President Ram Nath Kovind to

### DECISION 2019

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hand in his resignation.

The newly elected NDA MPs will meet Saturday to formally elect Modi as their leader, allowing him to approach the President to stake claim to government formation. The MPs

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## In 100-day education agenda, more IoEs, faculty recruitment

RITIKA CHOPRA  
NEW DELHI, MAY 24

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's education agenda for the first 100 days of his re-elected government includes unveiling of a new national education policy, a special drive to fill five lakh vacant faculty positions in higher education, and addition of 10 Institutions of Eminence (IoE) to the existing sanctioned strength of 20. The Indian Express has

learnt.

The 100-day action plan for education under the new government, drafted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and approved by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) recently, lists nine priorities for higher education. Many of the initiatives build on work done in the last term.

The Ministry's 100-day plan has been prepared at the behest of the PMO, which had directed

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### BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY



### WEST BENGAL

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### PAGE 1 ANCHOR

MAULSHREE SETH  
AMETHI, MAY 24

*Qila fateh kar liya.* The fort has been conquered.

That's what the ecstatic BJP worker was telling everyone who walked past his party office Friday in Amethi, a day after Smriti Irani defeated Rahul Gandhi, ending his 15-year grip on the family stronghold.

While the defeat of Gandhi in Amethi reverberated across the nation and signalled the rout of the Congress in the Lok Sabha elections, BJP workers and supporters on the ground here were

## ED moves HC: Cancel bail granted to Vadra

PRITAM PAL SINGH  
NEW DELHI, MAY 24

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) Friday moved the Delhi High Court seeking to cancel anticipatory bail granted to Robert Vadra, brother-in-law of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, in a case of alleged money laundering.

Seeking Vadra's custodial interrogation and lifting of protection from arrest, the agency said they want to ascertain the exact source of the "tainted money and the end use of such funds involved in the instant case".

It said that his "bald denials" to basic facts is contrary to records of the case and only highlights his "non-cooperation and evasive attitude".

The agency claimed that if Vadra's stand is that he is entitled to protection under the right against self-incrimination, the same only substantiates his culpability in commission of serious economic offence.

Vadra is facing a probe in connection with allegations of money laundering in purchase of a London-based property worth 1.9 million pounds. He had moved the trial court on February 1, seeking protection from arrest. On February 2, he was granted protection, which has been extended from time to time.

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### AFTER HUMILIATING DEFEAT

## Rahul's negative campaign didn't work: senior Cong leaders on eve of CWC

MANOJ CG & P  
VAIDYANATHAN IYER  
NEW DELHI, MAY 24

CONGRESS PRESIDENT Rahul Gandhi's relentless "chowkidar chor hai" campaign against Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "negative" in its tone and the party leadership's "inept" approach towards the Pulwama terror attack and the Balakot air strikes in its wake played a major role in shaping public opinion against the Congress, some top party leaders said a day after the Congress's humiliating defeat in the Lok Sabha elections.

At least one former Chief Minister, speaking to The Indian Express on the condition that he not be named, argued that a Congress revival may be "difficult" with Rahul Gandhi at the helm. "Because now a huge antipathy has been developed towards this whole entitlement politics. Because I belong to a family, I can be a leader, my sister can be leader...you must accept that all. That people, especially the younger generation, is not accepting."

At least three senior leaders — all former Union Ministers — were critical of the campaign in their conversations with The Indian Express.

"Our strategy was wrong. We



One leader said revival may be difficult under Rahul



#### Remember Antony report?

AFTER THE rout in 2014, Congress leader A K Antony headed a panel to study what went wrong and suggest corrective action. That report remains buried. Adding eight seats in five years and barely 1 crore voters when the BJP added 5 crore is the challenge the Congress faces. There are voices of discontent but all eyes are on how Rahul gives them a hearing.

took a negative attitude calling Modi...chowkidar chor hai...that gave very negative vibes and people did not appreciate that.

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### SEVERAL TAKEN TO HOSPITAL

## 20 students killed in Surat coaching centre fire, some fell to death

Fire engulfed rooftop coaching centre, escape route got cut off; probe ordered

KAMAAL SAIYED, SOHINI GHOSH & AISHWARYA MOHANTY  
SURAT, AHMEDABAD, MAY 24



Have ordered an inquiry and anyone found responsible won't be spared: Gujarat Deputy CM Nitin Patel. *Express*

## Most were awaiting Class XII results today

KAMAAL SAIYED & SOHINI GHOSH  
SURAT, AHMEDABAD, MAY 24

DINESH KEVADIA heard from his daughter Yashvi at around 5.30 pm Friday. She called to tell him about a fire in the building where she attended coaching classes for fashion design. After that, her phone was switched off.

At least 20 students, the oldest aged 21, were killed, on the terrace of the Takshashila complex in Surat Friday after a fire

engulfed the building but hours after the fire was doused, Yashvi is still listed "missing". Most of the students killed in the fire were attending coaching classes, like Yashvi, and expected their Class 12 board results Saturday.

A Class 12 commerce student, Yashvi's body was found charred from inside the building. "She called me at 5:30 pm. telling me about the fire. After that, when we tried to reach her, her phone was switched off. She was expecting her board results

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## Day after BJP stuns TMC in West Bengal, workers of both face off on street

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, MAY 24

INCIDENTS OF violence were reported from several areas of West Bengal on Thursday and Friday after the Lok Sabha results, leaving several people injured. BJP and Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders blamed each other of fomenting trouble by bringing in "outsiders".

Houses were vandalised, people were attacked and injured, and gunshots fired in some instances of clashes between BJP and TMC supporters over the last 24 hours, police sources said.

While clashes were reported from Barrackpore constituency, in North 24 Parganas district, for the sixth consecutive on Friday, a BJP supporter received a bullet on his leg, allegedly fired by TMC supporters, in Bankura's Saltora area.

Coochbehar district witnessed violence at several places, and people of Bhargar, in Baruiour area of South 24 Parganas district, blocked roads and demanded action against expelled local TMC leader Arabul Islam for allegedly instigating attacks and vandalism of their homes.



In Bhargar, South 24 Parganas on Friday. *Express*

West Bengal has seen clashes and violence, largely between TMC and BJP workers, through the election season. The BJP won 18 seats, up from two it had won in 2014.

In Bankura, which the BJP wrested from the TMC in the results declared on Thursday, a scuffle allegedly broke out when some BJP supporters were celebrating their victory near TMC Saltora block president Kalipada Roy's residence. Two bullets were fired, one of which hit a BJP supporter on his leg. Police officials said the injured person is recuperating and they are verifying allegations of both sides.

In Barrackpore, where BJP's Arjun Singh, a former TMC legislator, defeated TMC's sitting MP Dinesh Trivedi, tension continued as several houses were vandalised and vehicles damaged. Senior police officials visited areas where clashes and vandalism took place.

Prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrP are imposed in some parts of the constituency. Police sources and local residents said 15 shops in areas under Jagdal police station's jurisdiction were vandalized last night, allegedly by BJP supporters after the results were

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## Cong locks doors in Amethi, BJP checks in: Change in the air, on ground



Never was this lane in Amethi so deserted. *Maulshree Seth*

not very surprised. Change, they said, had been in the air for a while. Their party, they said, had been transforming the face of Amethi.

Two months ago, the BJP started functioning from a new office, moving out from the rented, ramshackle dharamshala that had been its workplace for decades. The newly constructed three-storey building is a well-furnished office, complete with air-conditioning in every room, modern furniture, a conference hall, a meeting hall for 300 people, an IT room. It has a granite staircase, tiled floors, rest rooms, even a seven-bed dormitory. Not

many in Amethi have such a workplace.

In sharp contrast is the Congress office, barely 2 km away. The day after the defeat, there are big locks on the doors. And that's a sight Amethi hasn't seen in years.

BJP leaders credit Smriti Irani's victory to her "hard-work". They list her many visits to Amethi despite losing in 2014, and recall how she would bring Union Ministers to announce different schemes.

Irani, on her part, thanked them in an audio message released Friday: "Mei Smriti Irani, aaj se aapki vidhivat sansad. Ek

*sadharan parivar ki mujh jaise mahila ko aap sabne ashirwad diya. Aap sabne jo itihase racha ussey desh aur duniya ne dekha* (From today, I am your MP. You have blessed a woman from an ordinary family. The entire country and the world are witness to the history you created.)"

The Congress workers are still coming to terms with the defeat. The party's district president Yogendra Mishra has offered his resignation. No one knows what will happen to the party workers in Amethi. Will Rahul come? Will Priyanka come? They don't know. Speaking to *The Indian*

*Express* over phone, Mishra said, "Someone had to accept responsibility for this defeat. Being the local head, it is my responsibility. But the results should not be seen as the failure of Rahul Gandhi. They (BJP) had the government at the state level too, and used all means. We were confident that the people of Amethi would not ditch the Gandhi family. We will be back."

The divide in Amethi is evident. Many who used to vote for Gandhi decided to switch sides once they started benefitting from government schemes for housing, handpumps, Ujjwala and PM-Kisan. There's a feeling

here that more such benefits will come their way once they send a BJP member to Lok Sabha. Many here said they were "fed up" because the Congressmen would always offer the excuse that the governments in the state and Centre were not theirs and, therefore, they could do little to help them. Rahul Gandhi's decision to contest from a second seat — Wayanad in Kerala — did not go down well either.

Kamal Chand Yadav, who owns a tea shop in the Jagdishpur area, said: "We do not have big issues or demands. We

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