

## Mamata's Delhi visit aimed at preventing a Cong-Left tie-up

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**KOLKATA:** As chief minister Mamata Banerjee reached Delhi on Monday on a three-day trip, political circles were abuzz with speculations over the real purpose of her visit. A string of meetings lined up with leaders cutting across the political spectrum have only strengthened the perception that her visit is aimed at gauging the political situation in the run-up to the Assembly polls in Bengal in the summer of 2016.

Sources said the Trinamool Congress chief has two principal objectives. One, she needs to thwart any further proximity between the CPI(M) and the Congress. Two, she needs to lobby to rein in the CBI investigation into the Saradha scam that seems to have got a fresh lease of life after the cancellation of bail of former transport and sports minister Madan Mitra. She is also expected to hobnob with Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

On Tuesday the chief minis-



■ CM Inaugurating the Andal-Delhi flight on Monday. TAPASI BASU

ter has a scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The official reason of the meeting, as the chief minister herself said, is to demand the release of unpaid central funds earmarked for Bengal. However, political analysts believe the meeting will be very crucial in the backdrop of the increased activity of the CBI.

Mamata herself has bristled time and again against the renewed CBI activity in the state and publicly vented her ire against the Centre.

Possibilities are also high of Mamata meeting Congress president Sonia Gandhi to try to prevent any alliance between the Congress and the CPI(M) in Bengal.

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