

## From Pendency Of Dues To Air Pollution: Issues Raised On 1st Day In Lok Sabha

**New Delhi:** Matters related to pendency of dues to West Bengal, renaming of the Bombay High Court and air pollution were among the issues raised by Lok Sabha members on Wednesday. Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi raised the issue of India's poor performance in combating air pollution and said it is because of the insufficient capacity building of municipal cooperations and district sub-division administrations under the National Clean Air Programme. He claimed that most of the



cities mandated to submit their city action plans have only replicated each other's initiatives. "Some local governments have either under-spent or diverted majority of funds towards projects not at all related to national clean air programme," he said, adding that a comprehensive monitoring mechanism must be developed by the Union government to prevent such activities of the local governments. Trinamool Congress MP Sougata Ray urged the government to pay the pending funds related

to a job scheme to West Bengal which he claimed amounted to around ₹ 7,300 crore. He also said the total amount pending to the state involving other schemes was ₹ 1 lakh crore. "It is very unfortunate that neither funds nor response have been received from the ministry," Mr Ray said. BJP MP Gopal Shetty demanded that the Bombay High Court be changed to Maharashtra High Court. "The name Maharashtra has a special significance in the state," he said, noting that since there is no city called 'Bombay' anymore, the HC cannot be called so. BJP MP Khagen Murmu urged the government to expedite construction of Malda airport, while party colleague Sandhya Ray urged the government to open a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind. BJP MP Rajesh Verma urged the Union railway minister to introduce a Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) train between Sitapur and Lucknow to facilitate movement of passengers in the region

## Today Padampur by-poll Counting

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Susil Kumar Lohani has made elaborate arrangements for the counting of votes of the crucial Padampur by-poll. Briefing media persons here, Mr. Lohani said counting will be held tomorrow. The counting will start at 8 AM at RMC Godown, Padampur. Initially, counting of postal ballots will be taken up at 8 AM. All the postal ballots received from service voters (24) as well as absentee voters (272) i.e. total 296 postal ballots will be taken up for counting. Postal ballots from service

voters will also be included which are received till 7.59 AM on the counting day, he said. Total votes in 319 booths will be counted in 14 tables in each round. There will be 23 rounds of counting for the by-poll. So, the counting process may be delayed, the CEO said. Mr. Lohani said after completion of EVM counting, VVPAT slips of five booths selected randomly will

be taken up for counting to cross verify the EVM figures. Each table will have three persons, one counting supervisor, one counting assistant and one micro observer (belongs to Central Government). There will be sufficient reserve personnel. All of them have been properly trained, he said. Allotment of table to the counting staff will be done on a random basis. Counting will be done under the supervision of a returning officer who will be assisted by one ARO. The General Observer appointed by ECI will also remain present throughout to oversee the counting process, he added.



## Khallikote high school ragging: Seven students permanently suspended from campus

**Berhampur(KCN):** Days after a Plus II First Year girl student of Khallikote Higher Secondary School (Berhampur) alleged ragging by seniors in Berhampur of Odisha's Ganjam district, seven students were permanently suspended from the campus. A notice from the office of the Principal, Khallikote Higher Secondary School dated 6.12.2022 stated that the decision was taken based on the recommendations of the anti-ragging committee which found the seven students guilty of the act. "As per

recommendations of the anti-ragging committee, the following students are permanently suspended from the campus. If they are found on the campus, police is free to take appropriate legal action against them. The members of the anti-ragging committee and squad and discipline are directed to intimate immediately to the local police station, if these students are seen in and around the campus," the notice read. The incident had come to the fore on November 19 after few girl classmates of the

victim brought the matter to the knowledge of school authorities alleging that some senior (Plus II Second Year) students of the Higher Secondary School blasted firecrackers and committed nuisance inside a classroom. "They are entering the class in presence of teachers and creating a lot of disturbance. Girls are insecure in the classroom in presence of teacher. Those anti-social elements come to class and start burning crackers. Showing rude behavior using unparliamentary words," the complaint letter read.

"I am being misbehaved and scolded in filthy language by some seniors for the last few days. Earlier, I had brought it to the knowledge of the Principal of my school. As no remedial step was taken by him, I complained in writing again today. I feel insecure to come to attend my classes. My parents asked me to stay at home for safety and discontinue my studies," the victim girl had told mediapersons. Subsequently, an internal anti-ragging committee had been directed for a detailed probe into the incident.

## Odisha Govt to bear study expenses of tribal MBBS student Ifu Mallick

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Odisha government today announced to bear the study expenses of Ifu Mallick from Kandhamal who recently cleared NEET exam. Acting on the directives of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, state SC&ST department today announced that Odisha government will bear the entire MBBS study expenses of Ifu and sanctioned Rs 62,950 towards his first-year course fee. Ifu recently cleared NEET and has been selected for admission to undergraduate medical course (MBBS) in Saheed Laxman Nayak (SLN) Medical College and Hospital in Koraput. As reported in media, Ifu was unable to arrange funds for admission fee and other

expenses. "This came to the knowledge of the CM, who directed the SC&ST Department to take up the matter on priority basis for necessary and immediate action. Hence, the department swung into action and within six hours the MBBS student has been sanctioned an amount

of Rs 62,950," a senior official said. "Odisha government funded under its own scheme of Financial Assistance meant for SC&ST students. The CM previously started this initiative so that meritorious SC&ST students could be able to pursue their studies especially in professional colleges. The government fully bears the cost of studies as well as accommodation of such students getting into national institutes on merit," the official added. Notably, ST Secretary VK Pandian spoke to Ifu and invited him to meet Patnaik in Naveen Niwas, when the latter is in Bhubaneswar. The secretary wished him success for the future.



## Nirmala Sitharaman, 5 Other Indians Among Forbes' 100 Most Powerful Women

**New Delhi:** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar are among six Indians who have made it to the Forbes' annual list of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women. Ranked at number 36, Ms Sitharaman has made it to the list for the fourth time in a row. In 2021, the 63-year-old minister was ranked at number 37 on the list, while she was on the 41st spot in 2020 and 34th in 2019. The other Indians to feature on the list are HCLTech Chairperson Roshni Nadar

Malhotra (rank: 53), Securities And Exchange Board Of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch (rank: 54), and Steel Authority Of India Chairperson Soma Mondal (rank: 67). For her leadership during the Ukraine war, as well as her handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, European Commission President Ms Ursula von der Leyen sits atop the 19th annual Forbes list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women. "Her influence is unique - no one else on the list formulates policy on behalf of 450 million people - but her commitment to a free

and democratic society is not. Von der Leyen is just one face of the biggest storyline of 2022: women acting as stalwarts for democracy," the website underlined. While European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde is placed at 2nd, US Vice-President Kamala Harris ranked 3rd on the list. At rank 100, Iran's Jina "Mahsa" Amini has posthumously made it to the influential list. Her death in September sparked an unprecedented women-led revolution for their rights in the Islamic nation. Ms Malhotra, Ms Mazumdar-Shaw and Ms Nayar made it to



the prestigious list last year also at 52nd, 72nd and 88th spots, respectively. This year Ms Mazumdar-Shaw is ranked 72, while Ms Nayar is at 89th spot, according to the list released by Forbes yesterday. The list includes 39 CEOs; 10 heads of

state; and 11 billionaires worth a combined USD 115 billion. Highlighting Ms Nayar's profile, the Forbes list noted that the 59-year-old businessman "worked as an investment banker for two decades, leading IPOs and helping other

entrepreneurs achieve their dreams. In 2012, she decided to work for herself, investing USD 2 million of her own savings to launch the beauty and retail company Nykaa. She took it public in 2021 and became India's richest self-made woman". According to the Forbes website, 41-year-old Ms Malhotra is responsible for all strategic decisions for the USD 12 billion technology company. "Founded by her father, Shiv Nadar, in 1976, HCL became a central player in India's rise as an IT hub," it noted. On March 1, 56-year-old Ms Buch became the first female chair of

the SEBI, which oversees India's more-than \$3 trillion stock market ecosystem. Ms Mondal, 59, who became the first woman to chair the state-run Steel Authority of India (SAIL) in January 2021, has led the company to record financial growth since taking over. The company's profits surged threefold to 120 billion rupees in her first year at the helm, according to the Forbes website. It described 69-year-old Ms Mazumdar-Shaw as one of India's richest self-made women. She founded India's largest listed biopharmaceutical firm by revenue, in

1978. The firm has successfully forayed into the lucrative US market. The company has Asia's largest insulin factory in Malaysia's Johor region, it noted. Promoted "The list was determined by four main metrics: money, media, impact and spheres of influence. For political leaders, we weighed gross domestic products and populations; for corporate leaders, revenues and employee counts; and media mentions and reach of all. The result is a collection of women who are fighting the status quo," according to the website.



## A class on History and Discovery

Dwit David Philip



It's two thousand fifty AD,  
After hundred three years, India became free,  
A tribal child of Jharkhand is asking in class three,  
What is called mines,  
Teacher says, all the the metals that you see were one day it were  
under earth our parents and grand parents have excavated and all finished,  
"Teacher, teacher, now where can we see, tell us"  
"You can see in the tv channels like the History, or Discovery after  
classes are over.  
"Who, why, and how all these were finished,"  
"It was the need of growth and development at that time as discussed,"  
"Do I have any thing metallic or atomic in my home to find,"  
"Sorry, you all have plastic, fiber, earthen and wooden things as those  
are ban due to scarcity and gone."  
"What were there in Indian mines,  
It is available only if you will file RTI,"  
"What is that, it's called second independence of India, Right to in-  
formation, they were calling it."  
"Don't tell, I told you in class, those are iron ore, uranium, copper,  
manganese, gold, buxide..."  
"Who all did it?"  
"Tata, Ambany, Adani, Zindal, Vedanta etc. along with our parents voted  
thee".  
"Its, history, let's read fruits, vegetables, grains and cereals we struggle  
to eat",  
"It's inevitable, basic, without that you, me, our family and nation,  
can't live."  
"Let's close the session,  
Bye bye,"  
"Bye bye Miss, next time teach us, something which we can see."

Chaibasha, Jharkhand

## S U I C I D E

SUBHANARAYAN SATAPATHY

Let us Value Life

In the facts & beauties of "NATURE",  
Not in the theories of mere existence,  
Not in the ongoing woes, worries, onslaught & ordeals.

MAN is born for

Not to be imprisoned in Narrow Mindset,  
Nor in physical enslavement  
Or in psychological BONDAGE



God empowers human-beings

to blossom to their ultimate potential,

The Goal of life is moving non-stop,  
boundless & infinite,

And, to suffer & sacrifice life

through yeomen service is the **highest score in life.**

Then why the conceptualization &

mapping of "Suicide" in Mind?

Why this ugliest thought permeates &  
reverberates in the corridor of one's Mind?

Why such unwanted / premature **full stop to life?**

"Suicide" is an unmitigated outcome of unguarded emotions,

An **eternal conflict** between Life & Death

An act of complete cowardice,

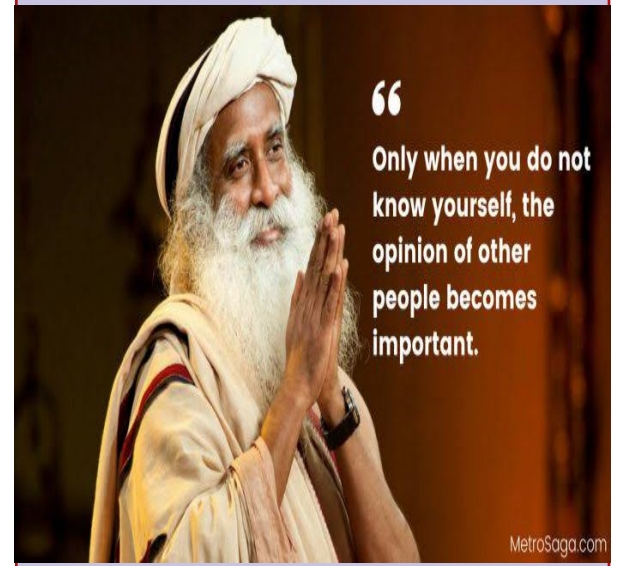
A heinous Social Crime,

A disastrous aberration from

One's own self & consciousness.

SUMANTA KAR, PURI

## Quotation of the Day



# What is Art for?

For decades, Western culture has been reluctant to assign an inherent value or a purpose to art—even as it continues to hold art in high esteem. Though we no longer seem comfortable saying so, our reverence for art must be founded on a timeless premise: that art is good for us. If we don't believe this, then our commitment—in money, time, and study—makes little sense. In what way might art be good for us? The answer, I believe, is that art is a therapeutic instrument: its value lies in its capacity to exhort, console, and guide us toward better versions of ourselves and to help us live more flourishing lives, individually and collectively.

Resistance to such a notion is understandable today, since "therapy" has become associated with questionable, or at least unavailing, methods of improving mental health. To say that art is therapeutic is not to suggest that it shares therapy's methods but rather its underlying ambition: to help us to cope better with existence. While several predominant ways of thinking about art appear to ignore or reject this goal, their ultimate claim is therapeutic as well. Art's capacity to shock remains for some a strong source of its contemporary appeal. We are conscious that, individually and collectively, we may grow complacent; art can be valuable when it disrupts or astonishes us. We are particularly in danger of forgetting the artificiality of certain norms. It was once taken for granted, for instance, that women should not be allowed to vote and that the study of ancient Greek should dominate the curricula of English schools. It's easy now to see that those arrangements were far from inevitable: they were open to change and improvement.

When Sebastian Errazuriz created dollar signs out of ordinary street markings in Manhattan, his idea was to jolt passersby into a radical reconsideration of the role of money in daily life—to shake us out of our unthinking devotion to commerce and to inspire, perhaps, a more equitable conception of wealth creation and distribution. (One would completely misunderstand the work if it were taken as an encouragement to work harder and get rich.) Yet the shock-value approach depends upon a therapeutic assumption. Shock can be valuable because it may prompt a finer state of mind—more alert to complexity and nuance and more open to doubt. The overarching aim is psychological improvement.

Shock can do little for us, though, when we seek other adjustments to our moods or perceptions. We may be paralyzed by doubt and anxiety and need wise reassurance; we may be lost in the labyrinth of complexity and need simplification; we may be too pessimistic and need encouragement. Shock is pleasing to its adherents in its assumption that our primary problem is complacency. Ultimately, however, it is a limited response to impoverished thinking, timid or ungenerous reactions, or meanness of spirit. Another way of addressing these shortcomings is to pursue a deeper understanding of the past. Vittore Carpaccio's painting *The Healing of the Madman* offers a rare visual record of the Rialto Bridge—

then still made of wood—before it was reconstructed, so it has much to teach us about the architecture of Venice circa 1500. It's also highly instructive about ceremonial processions, the prominent civic role of religion (and its intersection with commerce), how patricians and gondoliers dressed, how ordinary people wore their hair, and much else. We also gain insight into how the painter imagined the past; the ceremony depicted took place over 100 years before the picture was painted. We learn something about the economics of art—the image is part of a series commissioned by a wealthy commercial fraternity. In a less scholarly way, the richness with which a past era becomes visually present allows us to imagine what it would have been like to clatter across the wooden bridge, to be rocked along the canals in a covered



gondola, and to live in a society in which belief in miracles was part of the state ideology. We value historical information of this kind for various reasons: because we want to understand more about our ancestors and how they lived and because we hope to gain insight from these distant people and cultures. But these efforts lead back, eventually, to a single idea: that we might benefit from an encounter with history as revealed in art. In other words, the historical approach does not deny that the value of art is ultimately therapeutic—it assumes this, even if it tends to forget or dismiss the point. Hence the irony (to put it gently) of scholarly resistance to the idea of art's therapeutic benefit. Erudition is valuable only as a means to an end, which is to shed light on our present needs.

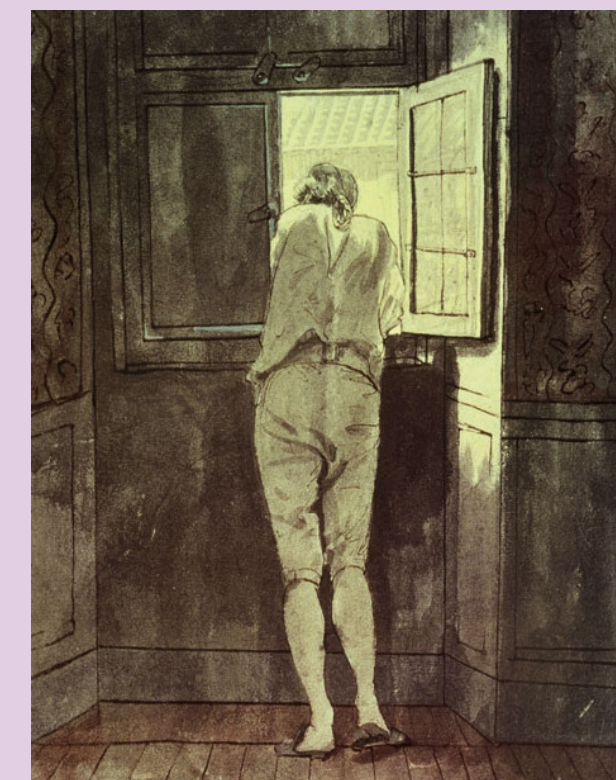
Opening a window onto the Venetian past: Carpaccio's *The Healing of the Madman*.  
Opening a window onto the Venetian past: Carpaccio's *The Healing of the Madman*.

Another approach sees art as a succession of discoveries or innovations in the representation of reality. In this almost scientific way of evaluating art, we elevate artists who pioneered new techniques, much as we prize explorers and inventors from his-

### John Armstrong

tory ("Who discovered America?") "Who built the first steam engine?"). Leonardo da Vinci is crucial, in this view, because he was an early adopter of sfumato, an artistic technique for showing shapes without using outlines.

Likewise, Paul Cézanne's *Mont Sainte-Victoire* is seminal for being one of the earliest works to emphasize the flat surface of the canvas. In his image of the mountain as seen from Les Lauves, his property near Aix-en-Provence, Cézanne uses blocks of paint to symbolize shrubs—though they are, on closer examination, equally colored marks forming an abstract pattern. (This is most apparent if the top half of the painting is covered.) We are presented not with the illusion of three-dimensional space but with the admission that this is a two-dimensional work. Cézanne's approach is so familiar to sophisticated enthusiasts that it seems almost embarrassing to point out that his technique explains little about the work's value to us. The worth of an invention can be assessed externally only in terms of the genuine benefits that it brings. Technical discussions reveal only the changes in methods of design or production. The new ways are not good in themselves; they are good only if we have reason to believe that they are better than the old. Hence the technical view of art has a buried assumption: it presupposes that the works in question are beneficial to us. It does not explain why this should be so but, like the historical approach,



takes this for granted. Technical advances are valuable insofar as they bring new, or enhanced, therapeutic resources to the art form. If one agrees with Hegel that art is the sensuous

presentation of the idea (or ideal), it remains to be explained why such a presentation is valuable. What is the nature of our troubles or aspirations, such that art is something that we need?

The therapeutic thesis is not simply another idea about art's value. It homes in on the only area in which such value could be explained: art's capacity to improve our lives. Art can be: A corrective of bad memory: Art makes the fruits of experience memorable and renewable. It is a mechanism to keep our best insights in good condition and make them publicly accessible.

A purveyor of hope: Art keeps pleasant and consoling things in view, fortifying us against despair. A source of dignified sorrow: Art reminds us of the legitimate place of sorrow in a good life, so that we recognize our difficulties as elements of any noble existence.

A balancing agent: Art encodes with unusual clarity the essence of our good qualities; it holds them before us to help rebalance our natures and direct us to our best possibilities.

A guide to self-knowledge: Art can help us identify what is central to life but difficult to put into words. Visual art helps us recognize ourselves.

A guide to the extension of experience: Art is an immensely sophisticated accumulation of experience, presented to us in well-organized forms. We can hear the voices of other cultures, extending our notions of ourselves and the world. At first, much art seems merely "other"—but we discover that it contains ideas that we can make our own, in ways that enrich us.

A tool of re-sensitization: Art saves us from our habitual disregard for what is all around us. We recover our sensitivity and look at the familiar in new ways. We are reminded that novelty and glamour are not the only solutions.

Consider, for example, Tischbein's *Goethe at the Window of His Roman Apartment*. We see the great man from behind: a slipper falls casually from his foot as he leans out, and the dim coolness of the room and the bright sunshine of the street make a powerful contrast. Some might see in this work an attempt to preserve the lessons learned on holiday. Away from home and work, in the warm South, Goethe became (like most travelers) a slightly different—and, in some ways, better—version of himself. The drawing attempts to memorialize the good version of the self and make that more prominent and more readily accessible when one has returned to familiar surroundings. The point is not so much to recall that Rome was interesting as to encapsulate who one became there. Goethe could hardly take the Italian weather back to Weimar; what he could do was hold on to the insight into his nature and needs that he gained while away. Hence it is a pity if one is more likely to encounter such images on the walls of a pensione in Trastevere than in a subway station in a metropolis, where its meditative qualities are more needed.

Writer is a philosopher and senior advisor to the vice chancellor at the University of Melbourne; he is the coauthor, with Alain de Botton, of *Art as Therapy*, published by Phaidon in October.



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## Charlie Chaplin - Remembering the legend on his 133th birth anniversary

Today, 16 April, is the 133th birth anniversary of Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin - or just Charlie Chaplin as he is more commonly known.

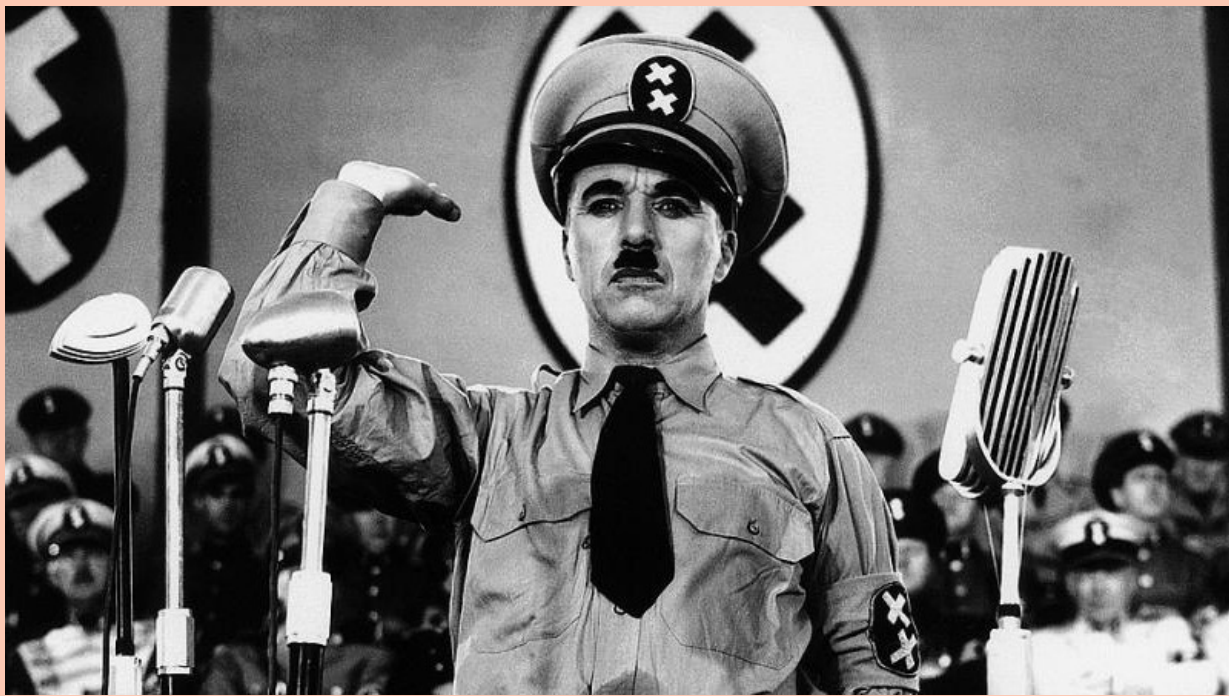
Chaplin wrote, directed, produced, edited, starred in, and composed music for most of his films. Multitalented as he was, the English comic actor rose to fame in the era of silent film and became a worldwide icon through his screen persona in The Tramp, which became a sobriquet.

Chaplin satirised Adolf Hitler in two of his movies, The Great Dictator (1940), and Modern Times (1936), as a "grim contemplation on the automatization of the individual". Considered his most successful commercial film, the movie is lauded by critics, especially for the famous climate monologue.

"Chaplin could never really be outdated," remarks Vineet, who is an ad executive by profession. "In some form or another, he will reappear, even though he may not be a central character today, unlike earlier times," he adds.

Vineeth, observing that a number of ads too were modelled on Chaplinesque characters, says "The poor, innocent worker looking for happiness in small things of life made Charlie Chaplin a comic

hero, but his was not just (plain) buffoonery, his comedy often made you cry even while you were laughing all the way."



Throughout the world, even to generations born way after Chaplin bid adieu, he is easily identified by his trademark style of performance. Walking in a geometrical movement with a mop of hair under his Bowler's hat, a wide grin on his face and a little mascara in his eyes, sporting a toothbrush moustache, a tight coat, baggy pants, big sized shoes and holding a curved stick in his hand - all his mannerisms have now become iconic just like the man himself. Hariharan Subramanyam, a Tax Consultant in Hyderabad, said "I have fond memories of The Circus, which

finds the Little Tramp joining a travelling circus and falling in love with a beautiful horse rider (Merna Kennedy). A tightrope sequence featuring

Chaplin and several monkeys is brilliant. The film earned him a special award for writing, directing, producing and acting at the very first Oscar ceremony itself."

Phillip Joshua, a Corporate Communications professional from Hyderabad, said "The movie Kid is deeply entrenched in my memory. The great bond between the kid and his foster father played by Chaplin is memorable. The adopted son Jackie goes forth gaily to break the neighbouring windows while Chaplin follows about, as a glass

repairer to the rescue. Thus they do a thriving business, in spite of the suspicious police." Chaplin believed his first influence to be his mother, who entertained him as a child by sitting at the window and mimicking passers-by: "It was through watching her that I learned not only how to express emotions with my hands and face, but also how to observe and study people," he once said. Chaplin was a perfectionist, and his financial independence enabled him to spend years on the development and production of a picture.

## Amitabh@80: Still a delight, keeps getting better, say directors old and new

Mumbai: He's 80 and going stronger than ever, spooling in celluloid 'miles' with the roles rolling in and directors still lining up to sign him on. Amitabh Bachchan, they say, was and is still an exciting actor, perhaps the best there ever has been.

From Ramesh Sippy who directed him in the 1975 cult film 'Sholay' to Ayan Mukerji who helmed his latest 'Brahmastra' 47 years

screen with 'Zanjeer' in 1973.

There was no looking back after that, and storytellers across five decades are still trying to decode the success of the man who keeps on reinventing himself - the 'angry young man' of 'Zanjeer', 'Don' and 'Deewaar', the amiable, fun professor of 'Chupke Chupke' and the conflicted singing star of 'Abhimaan' in the 1970s.

cult role and he stood out, and 'Bombay to Goa', where he played a lighter and a more boisterous role, which had impressed me a lot. We signed him? A few months later "Zanjeer" and "Deewar" released. By the time "Sholay" came, he was the rising star, the veteran filmmaker added.

Sippy, who also worked with Bachchan in "Shakti", "Shaan" and "Akayla", said it is ex-

some people. I write my films for him. I have been searching for my next film for some years now," Balki told PTI. The filmmaker's other ventures -- 'Ki & Ka?', 'Pad Man?' and 'Chup: Revenge of the Artist?' - feature the veteran star in a special appearance. "There is one word to describe Amit ji and it is Amitabh Bachchan. There are no other words... It has become like a character itself. It has so much meaning, you can say persona, dignity, grace, powerful, voice, performance, everything being put together. There is a character called Amitabh Bachchan. That character

is a rare phenomenon," Balki said.

For new-age directors - Ayan Mukerji and Ribhu Dasgupta -- the opportunity to direct Bachchan is nothing short of a dream.

While Mukerji cast Bachchan as a guru in his astraverse, sci-fi film, Dasgupta directed Bachchan in the TV series "Yudh" (2014) and 2016 mystery-thriller 'Te3n'.

Dasgupta has tried hard to keep his fan boy self out of the picture.

"I come from Kolkata and we worship him there. There is an Amitabh Bachchan temple in Kolkata. But when I directed him, I

had to keep the fan boy out. Also, sir knows everything, where the camera should be, what and where the light should be, etc. He sees what the person in front is doing," Dasgupta said.

This year, Bachchan has already had three theatrical releases -- Nagraj Manjule-directed 'Jhund?', Ajay Devgn's 'Runway 34?' and 'Brahmastra'.

His latest film "Goodbye", directed by Vikas Bahl, opened on Friday.

He is now awaiting the release of "Uunchai", directed by Sooraj Barjatya.



later, Bachchan is the man for all seasons and all kinds of films.

"What a wonderful innings it has been and he just keeps getting better. He has played so many varied roles in comedy, drama, romance, dancing and songs. He can do anything and everything perfectly. Has there been anybody bigger or better? I doubt it," Sippy told PTI as the star celebrates his 80th birthday on Tuesday. It's been just five days since his latest release 'Goodbye'.

"For me, to have Mr. Bachchan walk in my film is a big deal. He is the father of Indian cinema. He is the most respected person in the film industry," Mukerji added.

Making his debut with the relatively low profile 'Saat Hindustani' in 1969, remembered all these years primarily for serving as his launchpad, Bachchan exploded on the silver

screen with 'Zanjeer' in 1973.

Then came the 1980s with films such as 'Shakti' and 'Silsila'. The 1990s saw a slump in Bachchan's career and many of films, including "Mrityudata" and "Lal Baadshah", tanked at the box office. Bachchan was back in the reckoning the following decade as a television host in 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' in 2000. Twenty-two years later, the show is still running. This is also the time Bachchan transitioned into age appropriate characters in films. It started with 'Mohabbatein' and continues with varied roles, be it 'Pink?', 'Cheeni Kum?' or 'Jhund'.

Sippy recalled the casting for 'Sholay', which saw Bachchan and Dharmendra as two friends 'thick as thieves'.

"I had seen two of his earlier films -- 'Anand' in which he played a serious role, it was a diffi-

citing to see the megastar recreate magic on screen, both the big and small even after all these years.

"There have been a lot of fine actors and there is absolute respect for all but he definitely stands above," he said. They may be in awe of him, but all of Bachchan's directors have experimented with the roles they offered him.

R Balki, who first worked with Bachchan on an advertisement campaign, gave him "Cheeni Kum", where Bachchan is a 60-something arrogant chef romancing a much younger Tabu, and 'Paa' that sees the star playing a 12-year-old boy afflicted with progeria.

"Every filmmaker thinks of Mr Bachchan first, everybody would love to get a chance to work with him. We all came to the cinema being his fans. I was luckier than

## Mehreen opts for 'acuskinlift'

Stars often undergo cosmetic and corrective surgeries on various parts of the body. But actress Mehreen took a less-trodden path to maintain her looks. A couple of days ago, she visited the famous Dr John Tsagaris, a wellness and acupuncture specialist in

reputed to be the best in the world. "I don't believe in fillers and botox!" the Raja The Great star says, adding, from inserting needles painlessly into specific spots to finally cleaning up the face, the entire process took an hour.

"Initially three pins were put on my ears and then on my face. This is the first time I am undergoing such a treatment and it's been great and amazing. I could see the results immediately," she says.

"Facial acupuncture makes my skin look younger, smoother and healthier. It addresses not only signs of aging, but also the skin's overall health and appearance," shares Mehreen, adding that the treatment boosts the production of collagen and makes the skin tauter. Mehreen, who is also an adventure freak, recently did some diving in the Maldives. A certified scuba diver, she



London, for a procedure on her face. Mehreen, who says she prefers traditional methods of treatment to medicines, explains that acupuncture can be extended for cosmetic procedures too.

The actress first read about the doctor in a magazine, and wanted to get the treatment done by him as he is

relishes taking up adventure sports whenever she visits an island country. "I love taking up tasks that push me and I love adventure sports. Being adventurous is like therapy. It changed me a lot. Underwater life makes me feel very peaceful," she says and shares that it gave her a different perspective on life.



# Padma Bhusan, "Sundar Pichai"

**Pratap chandra sahu**

Sundar pichai is an indian-american business excutive and chief executive officer of " google" and "alphabet inc ". Mr. Pichai has been awarded the third highest citizenship award " padma bhushan" of the govt.of India by the present ambassador Taranjit singh sandhu at s a n f r a n s i s c o ,america. Mr. Pichai thanked to consul general mr.prasad and ambassador mr. Sandhu and to the govt.of India. He is grateful to the honourable p.m. of India. He says he is always a part of India. He is proud that he has been made up in the indian soil. He will never forget India. He says wherever he goes he is with India. He praised the prime minister's digital India vision programme. Mr. Pichai was born on 10th June 1972 in madurai,tamilnadu. His father worked as an electrical engineer in state government. His mother was also working as stenographer before his(pichai's) birth. Mr. Pichai completed his schooling from chenai and earned his bachelor's degree from indian institute of technology,kharagpur in metalurgical engineering. After graduation he pursued m.s from Stanford university in material science and engineering and M. B. A.from wharton school of the pennsylvania university. Mr pichai was named as seible scholar and Palmer scholar in stanford university and Wharton university respectively. After completeting M. B. A.he planned to pursue ph.d. from stanford but dropped out and



*Sundar pichai is an indian-american business excutive and chief executive officer of " google" and "alphabet inc ". Mr. Pichai has been awarded the third highest citizenship award " padma bhushan" of the govt.of India by the present ambassador*

joined applied explorer and fire fox materials as an engineer and product manager for a brief period. He then moved to work with Mc. Kinsey and company as m a n a g e m e n t consultant. In april 2004 he was interviewed and selected by "google". Initially he worked on google's search toolbar which could give an easy access to searches and direct the users of internet

toolbar to mitigate the effect of change implied by microsoft. The success of google toolbar brought him the idea of developing his own browser. After facing objectives by the then C. E. O. Eric Schmidt, he (mr. Pichai)preserved and

convinced the co-founders of google , Larry and sergey brin to launch his own browser. Mr. Pichai played a vital role launching of google's browser " google chrome" in 2008. Mr. Pichai became a widely known household name after the great success of "google chrome". Then mr. Pichai was promoted to serve as the vice-president of product development division in 2008 and by 2012 he had become the senior vice-president of google chrome and apps. As a leader mr. Pichai has always been well-liked for his easy and focused outlook. With more responsibility piled up his shoulders he took over Android division in 2013 ,when the former head of department Andey rubina left the team. Mr. Pichai gave in his best to make android most compatible with google products. Mr. Pichai had by then achieved a very important role in google. Desprive getting high ranked offers from twitter, but denied the offer. Last in October 2014 mr. Pichai was made the products chief with the recognition of the company ' google' a new holding company Alphabet inc. was formed. Google put his co-founders Larry page & sergy in charge of it. Thus on 12th october 2015 pichai was appointed as C. E. O. of " google". In 2019 mr. Pichai added nearly 240 millios dollars in his network as C. E. O. of google's parent company alphabet inc. on 3rd December. Google pays nearly 650 crores of rupees to sundar pichai as his package. Pichai is a chess enthusiast and admirable.

**Nabarangapur**  
9437788860

## Editor To Letter

Dear Editor,

### Reforestation needed badly

As per studies since last decade about five million hectares of trees have been cut down every year in our country. This has contributed to extreme niche loss and a drop in large quantum of biodiversity. Every species, including the human species, directly relies on these trees to survive. The trees have given us everything and we've continued to leave their homes destitute. We've to carry out a reforestation to combat the challenge of climate change and the rapid-fire decline of biodiversity. This kind of action will restore the trees in the country, especially those that have been particular targets of deforestation in recent years. Our governance has to plant millions of trees with the help of NGO's in areas of dire need. Due to deforestation many species are extinct today. For example the Lion-tailed macaque and Nilgiri Langurs are a small species of primate set up only in our country. In recent times, these species nearly went extinct. Reforestation that's planting kinds of trees that will profit both Lion-tailed macaque and Nilgiri Langurs populations and the original communities. Even creating wildlife corridors through the connection of old growth trees will help the cause. These sweats will profit the biodiversity of the area by potting tracts that were formerly used agriculturally and by returning aboriginal tree species. With ferocious reforestation sweats, inheritable diversity and tree growth will only increase moving forward. Government should take initiative to plant further trees and cover hovered species across the country.

**Vijaykumar H K**  
Raichur, Karnataka  
Environmentalist

# Ram Kumar Manna "Matir Manush" an Award Winning Sculptor from Kolkata West Bengal

**Soma Bhowmik**

Ram Kumar Manna love to make the idol of Shree Ganesh but not in it's orthodox form. He view Shri Ganesh through his vision in different style and artistic manner. Which got very popular in year 1982. He was called to Jehangir Art Gallery to exhibit his unique Art of Sculpture. Sky was the limit for him to fly. He put a spirit of life and motion in his sculpture which does not define the limit of sense, organise the distinction of understanding, but signifies the excess of the imagination beyond the actual ordinary impression of any object or feeling. That is why he can established himself on quiet a higher position.

He was born in the year 1963 at

*Ram Kumar Manna was born in the year 1963 at Purba Medinipur kamarda khejuri which is a historical place. His Father's name was Radha Shyam Mana, Mother's name was Katayani Manna. His journey to success was not that easy. Being a farmer's son he has to struggle a lot from his childhood. Due to heavy financial crunch he was forced to live his education and join his father for earning his livelihood.*

Purba Medinipur kamarda khejuri which is a historical place. His Father's name was Radha Shyam Mana, Mother's name was Katayani Manna. His journey to success was not that easy. Being a farmer's son he has to struggle a lot from his childhood. Due to heavy financial crunch he was forced to live his education and join his father for earning his livelihood. He left his schooling at primary school only. But in those days of struggle also he did not left his work of

creativity. He loves to play with clay and kept on doing it side by side in his struggle for survival days. His dedicated hard work and positive thinking is a real inspiration for this coming generation. He is successful in developing his own style of work which got noticed not only Nationally but Internationally as well. He got the chance to showcase his sculpture at London in the year 2009. Which made an astonishing a f f e c t internationally. The art of sculpture was

remodeled by his skilled hands. He is mainly known for his rural art with innovative touches. He prefers wooden furnace than electronic furnace to retain the original texture and colour of Terracotta. This further highlights the folk quality of his statues. The most delightful of all Mana's work is the "Child Ganesh" reclining in his amiable pose. His wife Minu Manna was also a great sculptor. He uses ceramic colors to add Grayes and greens to his red

Earth. Tough he has been sculpting Terracotta for a long time somehow he is yet to break out of the ancient prototype. The typical images that one associates with this medium continue to dominate his creative spectrum. His mixed media works with wooden board and fibre glass accessories deteriorate into unfortunate mix up which reek of commercialism and definitely negate the pastoral and effected tone of the show. The figures are familiar, cat,

jackals, owls, fish but the sculptor varies there forms. S o m e t i m e s ornamenting with E g y p t i a n hieroglyphics. Now and then stripping them to bare essentials or scoring with clean cut lines. Reminding one of sudanese and ivory coast masks and sculpture, or folk toys at home. But unlike African art, Ram Kumar Manna's Terracotta sculptures on show at the Chitrakoot art gallery in the year 1983, the figures are all cast over a hollow, because of which eyes, Jaws and beaks are often left gapping. Adding to its simple and soft appeal. Ramkumar Manna has an obvious feel for clay. That is how he grew and became a "MATTIR M A N U S H " sophisticated yet simple.



## Businesspersons join university students as Iran protests continue unabated

Even as protests continue in Iran nearly two months after 22-year-old Mahsa Amini died in the custody of "morality police"—which reports claim has been lately disbanded—the indications coming from Iran are that there is not going to be any let up in the public outrage.

Mahsa Amini was arrested for allegedly wearing her hijab "improperly." She died in police custody on September 16.

Well over 300 people were reported to have been killed by security forces in deadly government crackdowns since the protests broke out after Mahsa Amini's death.

Amid this, a former Iranian president, Mohammad Khatami has reportedly praised the anti-government protests. He urged the authorities to heed their demands before it

protests can be stopped.

Iranian journalist and writer Taghi Rahmani "The Iranians have broken their ties with this regime. We are experiencing the genesis of a revolution that, to succeed, needs to be imposed in five areas: cultural, social, economic, legislative and political," he reportedly said.

In the first two, the revolution has already been completed. If there were any breaks in the mobilization, it would be only to resurface again, given the extent of popular discontent. The only thing that could slow down, but not stop, the protests would be if the theocracy managed to inject a large amount of money that would improve the daily life of the population, but the regime does not have that kind of economic capacity.

When asked about what the persistence of the demonstrations represents, he replied that Iran's supreme leader is very concerned, especially since the forces of repression are becoming depleted [448 Iranians have died from the repression in Iran, according to the NGO Iran Human Rights, or 300 according to the only known official figure].

"The regime was not expecting this. Documents obtained by hackers have been released, in which the authorities express their fear that they will not have sufficient means to continue repressing the protests," he said. Even the regime itself knows that the vast majority of Iranians, 80% according to those documents, want change. Not all of them are taking to the streets, due to the brutality of the crackdown and the fear, but they do share the ideals of the protesters. The remaining 20% are people who have a vested interest in the survival of this regime, he was quoted as saying by El Pais.



is too late.

Mohammad Khatami said the "beautiful slogan" of "woman, life, freedom" showed Iranian society was moving towards a better future. "Iranian women are suffering from Stone Age norms. What happened to Mahsa Amini, was just the fuse. The protests are directed against the entire regime," says activist Taghi Rahmani.

A very big difference about these protests, when compared to the previous ones, is the involvement of the middle classes and university students, points out the 63-year-old activist, in an interview with the Spanish-language daily, El Pais.

"I think there is no going back," he has replied when asked about whether he thinks the

## Golden jubilee of SCB's 1972 batch celebrated



CUTTACK: The 1972 alumni batch of SCB Medical College and Hospital celebrated the golden jubilee on the premises of the premier health institution here recently. Over 50 doctors at-

tended the get-together. Retd eye Prof Dr B Rajguru inaugurated the event in presence of O&G Prof Dr Sujata Mohanty, physiology Prof Dr Anupama Panda and Prof Dr Gyana Mohanty, bio-

chemistry Prof Dr Saileswar Nanda. The dignitaries were felicitated by their students during the meet.

Padmabhusan Ramakanta Panda, Prof Dr Ramnath Misra, Dr Jayant Rath,

Dr Santanu Parida and Dr Ranjita Mohanty recollected their memories as SCBians. Dr Arun Choudhury moderated the event, while Dr Niranjan Mohanty presented the vote of thanks.

## Sensible to get best deal in interest of Indians: Jaishankar on oil imports from Russia

NEW DELHI: The government does not ask Indian companies to buy oil from Russia but it is a sensible policy to get the best deal in the interest of

our companies to buy oil, what is the best option that they can get. Now it depends on what the market throws up. If tomorrow the market gives

conflict, but New Delhi has remained firm on the issue. On the Ukraine issue, Jaishankar said that the government's stand is publicly

food inflation or whether it is fertiliser costs," the minister said.

In response to the question of DMK member Tiruchi Siva



the Indian people, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday. Responding to questions from members in the Upper House, the minister said it is his duty to put the interest of the Indian people first to ensure that they do not pay the cost of some other countries' actions or some other region's actions for fertilizer, food, etc. "We do not ask our companies to buy Russian oil. We ask

us more competitive options. Again, please do understand. It's not just that we buy oil from one country. We buy oil from multiple sources, but it is a sensible policy to go where we get the best deal in the interests of the Indian people and that is exactly what we are trying to do," Jaishankar said. The US and European countries have been critical of India's oil imports from Russia during the Ukraine

clear on the prime minister's level that this is not an era of war. Ukraine slams India for buying Russian oil, calls it 'morally inappropriate' "We have consistently urged dialogue and diplomacy. When it comes to the impact of the war on the Indian people or the rest of the world, we have also done the right things. We have taken measures to soften the impact whether it is of fuel or whether it is of

about students who have returned from Ukraine, Jaishankar said some of the students have gone back while some have looked for other solutions. "In some cases, the Ukrainian authorities have offered some solutions. It is a very mixed picture. Unfortunately, there is no clean and simple answer here. But the government is doing what it can in this situation," Jaishankar said.

## Al Jazeera moves ICC over Israeli forces' killing of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh

THE HAGUE: TV network Al Jazeera submitted the case of slain journalist Shireen Abu Akleh to the International Criminal Court on Tuesday, saying she was killed by Israeli

Al Jazeera said its submission highlighted "new witness evidence and video footage (that) clearly show that Shireen and her colleagues were directly fired at by

launched a probe into war crimes in the Palestinian territories, but Israel is not an ICC member and disputes the court's jurisdiction. Israel said it would not cooperate with

likely shot Abu Akleh after mistaking her for a militant.

The veteran reporter, who was a Christian, was wearing a bullet-proof vest marked "Press" and a helmet when she was shot in the head in the Jenin refugee camp, a historic flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

After receiving complaints from individuals or groups, the ICC prosecutor decides independently what cases to submit to judges at the court. Judges decide whether to allow a preliminary investigation by the prosecutor, which can then be followed by a formal investigation and if warranted, charges.

In the majority of cases, such complaints do not lead to investigations, according to the ICC.



forces.

The Qatar-based channel said it had "unearthed new evidence" on the death of the Palestinian-American, shot while covering an Israel army raid in Jenin on May 11. Any person or group can file a complaint to the ICC prosecutor for investigation, but the Hague-based court is under no obligation to take on such cases.

the Israeli Occupation Forces."

"The claim by the Israeli authorities that Shireen was killed by mistake in an exchange of fire is completely unfounded," the channel said.

An AFP journalist saw a lawyer representing Al Jazeera's case entering the ICC's headquarters to hand over their submission. The ICC last year

any external probe into Abu Akleh's death.

"No one will investigate IDF (Israeli military) soldiers and no one will preach to us about morals in warfare, certainly not Al Jazeera," Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid said in a statement.

The Israeli army conceded on September 5 that one of its soldiers had



# 115 KM KBR rail open 7K CR from PM-Kisan

New Delhi(KCN): A total of 115.66 km of 289 km length Khurda-Bolangir railway line project has been commissioned so far, Rail-

ways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told Lok Sabha on Wednesday.



In a written statement to a question of BJD MP Achyutananda Samanta, the Railways Minister said the project is of 289 km length and divided into two parts. First part is from km 0 to km 112 and second part is from km 112 to km 289. While first part (km 0 to km 112) is fully funded by Railway, second part (from km 112 to km 289) is on cost sharing in which the land is to be provided free of cost by Government of Odisha along with sharing 50 percent cost of construction, he said.

The anticipated cost of the mega railway project is Rs 3792 crore. So far, an expenditure of Rs 2105 crore has been incurred on the project, Vaishnaw said. Rs 371.85 crore has been spent on this

project during the financial year 2021-22. An outlay of Rs 891.12 crore (Rs 655 crore budgetary support + deposit Rs 236.12 crore) has been provided in the financial year 2022-23.

This project involves acquisition of 4917.99 acres private land, 1275.81 acres Government land and forest land diversion of 1844.40 acres. Out of which, acquisition of 4823.98 acres private land, 1011.62 acres Government land and forest land diversion of 170.04 acres land has

been completed, the Minister pointed out. He said that the Odisha Government has to expedite balance land acquisition of 94.01 acres private land, 264.19 acres Government land and forest land diversion of 1674.37 acres forest land. Informing about the delay in completion of the project, Mr. Vaishnaw said completion of any railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions etc. All these factors affect the completion time of the project, he added.

Classroom doors serve as blackboards in Jajpur school

## Classroom doors serve as blackboards in Jajpur school

JAJPUR(KCN): Highlighting the dismal state of rural

500 students are enrolled in Classes I to X of the school.

manded to know why the students were deprived of

school did not receive the same from Sarva Shiksha



education in Odisha, the classroom doors of a Jajpur school transformed under the government's much-hyped high school transformation programme are being used as blackboards for students. A video of Hingula government high school at Antia village in Dharmasala block has once again brought the state's sub-par education infrastructure under scanner.

In the video which went viral on social media on Tuesday, a teacher is seen writing questions on the classroom door in absence of a blackboard. The school was upgraded under the government's 5T Initiative in November last year. At least

Sources said the incident took place during the half-yearly examinations of Classes I to VIII in the school. As per the notification, students arrived at the school to appear the examinations on



Monday but to their surprise, question papers were reportedly not given to them. When the news spread, parents and guardians reached the school and de-

question papers. The school authorities pacified them by saying questions would be written on the blackboard. The students later took the examination after teachers wrote questions on the

classroom doors as there were no blackboards in the school. Headmistress Saraswati Panda said they failed to provide question papers to students as the

Abhiyan authorities. "We have two smart classrooms. As the school has more than 400 students in Classes I to VIII, we made seating arrangements in all the classrooms. Since the entire school building does not have a blackboard, the teachers had to write the questions on the classroom doors," she said. District education officer (DEO) Ranjan Kumar Giri said, "We have issued a show cause notice to the school headmistress for her carelessness and dereliction of duty. She has been asked to reply within three days failing which necessary action will be initiated against her."

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Union Government has distributed a whopping Rs 6956.68 crore to Odisha farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, so far.

Under the PM-KISAN scheme, an annual financial benefit of Rs 6,000 is provided to eligible beneficiary farmer families, payable in three equal four-monthly installments of Rs 2000 each.

According to official sources, a sum of Rs 1912.94 crore was distributed to the small and marginal farmers of the State in the financial year 2019-20, while the beneficiaries received Rs 1968.47 crore under the scheme in the year 2020-21. The Centre has disbursed Rs 1994.32 crore under the scheme during 2021-22. Moreover, a total assis-

tance of Rs 1080.94 crore has been given to the PM-Kisan beneficiaries during the current year. So far, a total of Rs



6956,68,62,000 has been distributed to the accounts of farmers in 3,47,83,431 instalments. Notable, the Central scheme was launched following

the launch of Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme by Odisha Government in

2018. Till now, a total of 41,08,952 small & marginal farmers and 18,69,529 landless agriculture farmers have been included under the KALIA

2018. Till now, a total of 41,08,952 small & marginal farmers and 18,69,529 landless agriculture farmers have been included under the KALIA

scheme.

The State was providing financial assistance of Rs 5,000 each during Rabi and Kharif crop seasons under its own KALIA scheme. Besides, Rs 12,500 has been disbursed to the bank accounts of landless agriculture farmers.

However, after the launch of the PM Kisan scheme, eligible farmers are entitled to get Rs 4,000 financial assistance per year in two installments under the State scheme KALIA. While Rs 2,000 is provided for Rabi crop, Rs 2,000 is given for Kharif season crop.

Moreover, the State has sent around Rs 1.24 crore on the scholarships provided to students in Odisha under the KALIA scheme during FY 2021-22 and a total of 765 students from different districts were benefited.

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# For RBI the battle is still against the big I, will keep an 'Arjuna's eye on inflation'

## RBI's policy on expected lines, signal softening of rate hike intensity: Experts

If inflation is the necessary evil, the RBI positioned itself as the country's undefeated warrior.

Much like Arjuna, the fighter prince with superior battle skills and sharp thinking, the central bank on Wednesday stressed that it won't lose sight of the price stability target. It delivered the good news and perhaps the first official confirmation, that the worst of inflation was behind us.

Yet, the battle was far from over as the moderation in prices is likely to be gradual and complete only after 2024. This is why, Governor Shaktikanta Das noted for the second time in the past month, that India's monetary masters are keeping an 'Arjuna's eye on inflation.'

After hitting the 7.9 per cent peak, headline inflation eased to sub-7 per cent, but Das rammed home an unpleasant reality that price rise may remain above 4 per cent throughout 2023. For fiscal year FY23, headline

as an attempt to break the core-inflation persistence.

As per estimates, the 190 bps hike so far (excluding Wednesday's 35 bps), resulted in a loan tenor increase of 13 years for home loan borrowers, and those who opted for an EMI increase saw payments shooting up by 20 per cent. Market watchers believe that as long as interest rates remain in single digits (under 9.5 per cent) the impact on housing will be moderate.

The weighted average lending rates on fresh and outstanding rupee loans increased by 117 bps and 63 bps respectively, as of October. On the deposit side, it's 150 bps and 46 bps, respectively.

This is the fifth consecutive rate hike since May, and we are so deep into the rate hike cycle, yet our policy stance is moored at 'accommodative' and contrary market expectations of the MPC shifting to a neutral stance, it remained focused on the withdrawal of accommodation.

Das reasoned that system liquidity (which has been in surplus) increased from an average ₹1.6 lakh crore in November to ₹2.6 lakh crore as on December 5, forcing the MPC to remain focused on the withdrawal of accommodation.

ALSO READ | Fresh deposit rates grew at faster pace than lending rates: RBI

Meanwhile, the central bank lowered FY23 growth estimates by 20 bps to 6.8 per cent from the 7 per cent projected earlier. GDP will likely increase by 4.4 per cent and 4.2 per cent in Q3 and Q4 of FY23. Real GDP growth is projected at 7.1 per cent and 5.9 per cent in Q1 and Q2 of FY24.

The global economy is still marred by profound shocks and unprecedented uncertainty and the IMF projects over one-third of the global economy to contract this year or next. While no country is spared of the ill effects of such large shocks, emerging market economies have been the worst affected, the central bank noted.

The Indian economy remains resilient, our financial system remains robust. Bank credit is growing in double digits for 8 months now. Yet, inflation remains elevated and global spillovers continue to impart high volatility, it added. When 2022 began, the Covid-19 pandemic was receding, and the Ukraine war overwhelmed the world in a black swan moment and fundamentally altered the global economic outlook. Inflation severely affected the poor and though prices moderated, inflation remains high and broad-based.

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank's decision to raise the benchmark lending rate by 35 basis points is on expected lines and indicative of softening of the intensity of rate hikes going forward, opined industry bodies and experts on Wednesday.

After effecting three consecutive repo rate increases of 50 basis points (bps) each over and above 40 bps in May, the RBI on Wednesday slowed the pace of increase in borrowing costs in signs that rates may be nearing the peak, even as it reiterated its resolve to fight inflation that has stayed above the comfort zone for 10 straight months.

FICCI President Sanjiv Mehta said the RBI's policy action of hiking the repo rate by 35 bps was widely anticipated as the war against inflation is still far from over.

"While the CPI inflation projection has been maintained at 6.7 per cent for 2022-23 and some early signs of inflation cooling down on a sequential basis are coming to the fore, we need to see this trend emerge on a durable basis for RBI to indicate a change in stance," he said.

Industry body Assocham too said the 35 bps increase in the policy rate by RBI is on the expected lines, though there is a signal that the rate hike intensity "is being softened."

"Despite the challenges in the global economy and uncertainties with regard energy prices, supply chain and geo-political situation, India remains amongst the fastest growing economies of the world, as elaborated by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das," said chamber Secretary General Deepak Sood.

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday also lowered the country's GDP growth forecast to 6.8 per cent for the current fiscal from 7 per cent earlier, on account of continued geo-political tensions and tightening of global financial conditions.

India, however, remains a bright spot in the otherwise gloomy world and will be among the fastest-growing major economies, said RBI Governor Das.

For RBI the battle is still against the big I, will keep an 'Arjuna's eye on inflation' Another industry body PHD Chamber said as inflation is cooling, a calibrated approach to maintain economic growth would be vital to attracting investments.

"Efforts to rejuvenate demand and producers' sentiments for enhanced production would be crucial at this juncture," said PHD Chamber President Saket Dalmia. The latest round of hikes in repo rate will further impact consumers as loans would become costlier. "Take a look at how this will impact a borrower who has taken a loan of Rs 30 lakh on a 20-year period at 8.50 per cent. Currently, they would be paying Rs 26,035

as EMI. But if we factor in the 0.35 per cent increase due to repo, the new interest rate would jump to 8.85 per cent, making the EMI amount Rs 26,703," said V Swaminathan, Executive Chairman of Andromeda loans.

This implies the borrower incurs an additional Rs 668 monthly for the same home loan repayment and they would have to shell out Rs 1.60 lakh over the entire duration of the loan amount, he added.

Prashant Utreja, CEO, Reliance Home Finance, said the repo rate hike is likely to lead to a marginal increase in lending rates which may not prove a deterrence for the real estate industry in the short term.

"Presently, the sentiment around the real estate sector is positive which is supported by strong demand amid expectations of a price rise in the coming days. Since the pace of repo rate increase has been moderated, lenders would assess the market sentiment before passing on the rate hike to consumers," said Utreja.

Anand B, Assistant Professor, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), opined that although the growth rate forecast for 2022-23 stands corrected at 6.8 per cent

(despite a series of rate hikes), it provides sufficient space for the central bank to continue its efforts to anchor inflation as well as in f l a t i o n expectations.

Sandeep Bagla, CEO, Trust Mutual Fund, said the RBI's focus on inflation control should eventually soothe bond markets as lower inflation in the medium term is good for bondholders.

Also, markets should also take relief from the tumbling crude oil prices in the international markets.

RBI also announced that an additional feature would be added to the popular UPI platform to aid payments where delivery of goods and services happens later, like e-commerce purchases, hotel bookings or investments in securities.

Commenting on the new feature, Jasmin B Gupta, Co-founder and CEO of LXME, said the customer will be able to block funds in his/her bank account for specific purposes such as hotel bookings, purchase of securities, that will be debited post service/product delivery.

The value-added feature will enable trust-building in the person-to-merchant and merchant-to-merchant transactions, Gupta added. On RBI's decision regarding expansion in the scope of the Bharat Bill Payment System to include all payments and collections, Manan Dixit, founder FidyPay, said BBPS will become a one-stop solution for utility kind of billers or any monthly payment a consumer does regularly.



inflation is pegged at 6.7 per cent, with Q3 and Q4 estimates set at 6.6 per cent and 5.9 per cent respectively. It'll likely moderate to 5 per cent and 5.4 per cent in Q1 and Q2 of FY24 respectively, with the normal monsoon being the caveat.

Given the above tolerance inflation print of 6 per cent for 10 consecutive months, the MPC raised the repo rate by 35 bps to 6.25 per cent, on Wednesday.

While the rate increase isn't unexpected, the moderation in the size of the hike from previous 50 bps hikes, serves as the fundamental guidance to MPC's thought process. That said, the rate hike isn't off the table and markets are expecting another 25 bps this fiscal before the central bank can take its foot off the rate hike pedal. Such a move will anchor the policy rate at 6.5 per cent -- 20 bps lower than the anticipated FY23 inflation print of 6.7 per cent.

ALSO READ | Rupee should be allowed to find its level: RBI Governor

Given the geopolitical uncertainties and the 'forever war' in Ukraine, as Das noted in his post-policy press conference, there's no room for complacency and hence the MPC will remain 'watchful.' Moreover, core inflation continues to pressure the headline print and Wednesday's 35 bps hike appears

### Physics Department's Welcome ceremony held



Baiganbadia (KCN): A departmental welcome ceremony was held on 06.12.2022 in the Physics department of B.B College, Baiganbadia. The Honorable Principal Dr. J.N.S.D. Sachan Presided over the meeting and welcome the new

comes for their bright future as well as. The department H.O.D Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanta heartily welcome all the fresher student and ensure that everything is possible with teaching and learning and is able to shave your life. Mr. S.K. dash

Reader in Physics delivered his speech towards carrier for a challenging world. Mr. Kshitish Ch. Mohanta demon-strator, also advised the student to follow work is God Principle At Last Mr. S.K. Patra gave votes of thanks.

### India to witness addition of 90-110 lakh gig workforce by 2025: Report

MUMBAI: With more and more companies preferring to hire employees on a project basis, there is likely to be 90-110 lakh additions to the gig workforce by 2025, a report said on Wednesday.

The gig economy has been one of the most pivotal economic shifts in a long time and people are choosing gig jobs because it works with their lifestyle, they can choose when and how much they work, or it allows them to earn money between jobs, global job site Indeed said in the report.

According to the report, companies have also started investing in gig work platforms and processes, which indicates how integral

they are to the future of job growth in India. A majority of the employers surveyed (58 per cent) estimate the gig workforce to grow to 90-110 lakh, or even exceed this number by 2025, the report revealed.

Gig workers are freelancers or contractors who work independently, typically on a short-term basis for multiple clients. "With the emergence of app-based models for roles like delivery and home services, there has been some degree of formalisation in this sector. In the coming years, we foresee this segment to grow exponentially," Indeed India's head of sales Sashi Kumar said. This report is based on

a survey among 550 employers and 750 gig workers across gig app

food and beverages, and home and office services.



companies including personal care services, cleaning services, household or vehicle repairs, food and other delivery, and cab or two-wheeler-driving, HR consulting, retail,

The report further revealed that job roles like door delivery are the most prevalent gig roles employers are hiring for currently. In addition, 22 per cent of the employers

surveyed are hiring a gig workforce for food and 26 per cent for other delivery, it stated.

Around 16 per cent of the employers surveyed are hiring gig workers for household or vehicle repairs and maintenance and for a cab or two-wheeler driving, 10 per cent are hiring for cleaning and 7 per cent for personal care service roles.

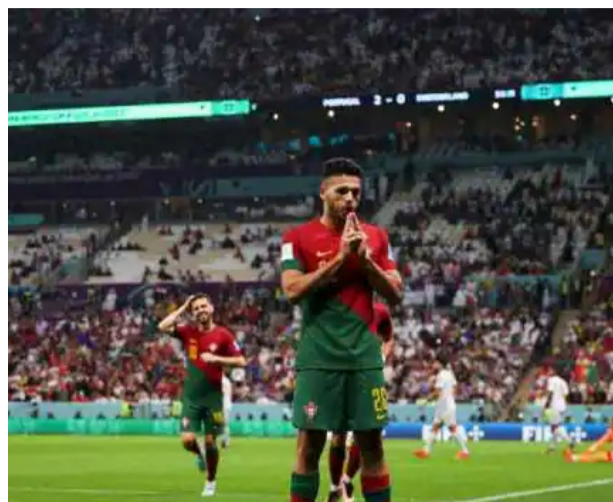
Meanwhile, the report also found that lack of access to the job information (62 per cent), not knowing English (32 per cent) and not knowing the local language (10 per cent) are the biggest barriers for gig workers, who have shifted outside of their home town for work.



## Cristiano Ronaldo replacement Goncalo Ramos hattrick powers Portugal to 6-1 win over Switzerland into quarterfinals

**NewDelhi:** A chant of "RONALDO! RONALDO!" swept around the biggest stadium at the World Cup, followed by loud jeers when the fans realized their idol wasn't coming onto the field. Cristiano Ronaldo was, in fact, sitting in the Portugal dugout, looking glum and still wearing a substitute's bib. And the guy who started instead of him on Tuesday was about to complete a hat trick.

After Ronaldo was dropped from the starting lineup in a bold call by Portugal coach Fernando Santos, Goncalo Ramos — the superstar striker's unlikely replacement — made himself an instant star by leading the team to a 6-1 win over Switzerland and into the FIFA World Cup 2022 quarterfinals. Ramos, a



21-year-old forward who only made his Portugal debut last month, demonstrated the kind of clinical finishing for which Ronaldo was once known in scoring the first goal in the 17th minute and adding others in the 51st and 67th.

No player had scored a hat trick in his first World Cup start since Germany striker Miroslav Klose in 2002. "Not even in my

wildest dreams did I think about being part of the starting team for the knockout stage," said Ramos, an unheralded striker who plays for Benfica and counts Ronaldo as his soccer idol along with Robert Lewandowski and Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

WATCH highlights of Portugal win over Switzerland HERE... It was around the hour

mark that fans throughout the 89,000-seat Lusail Stadium started to implore Santos to bring on the 37-year-old Ronaldo, and they got their wish in the 72nd minute. Portugal had the game wrapped up by then, with defenders Pepe and Raphael Guerreiro also having scored. Rafael Leao added another goal in stoppage time. Ronaldo didn't score — he still hasn't in the knockout stage in any of his five World Cups — and after briefly celebrating with his teammates following the final whistle, he walked off the field on his own, perhaps wondering where his career goes from here. He is currently without a club after leaving Manchester United midway through the

World Cup, and he might no longer be the starter for his country. The rest of the Portugal team hung around to applaud its fans at one end of the stadium. A quarterfinal match awaits against Morocco on Saturday and Santos now has to decide whether to stick with Ramos or restore Ronaldo, the top scorer in men's international soccer and one of the game's greatest ever players.

Santos said it was a strategic decision to drop Ronaldo and not a disciplinary one, having expressed unhappiness during his eve-of-match news conference Monday at the striker's attitude after he was substituted against South Korea in the team's final group game.



**Dhaka:** Bangladesh defeated India by five runs in the second ODI to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series on Wednesday. Opting to bat, Mehidy Hasan Miraz (100 not out) slammed his maiden ODI century and

forged a 148-run stand with Mahmudullah Riyadh (77) to lift Bangladesh to a challenging total of 271/7. Chasing, Shreyas Iyer made 82 while Axar Patel scored a run-a-ball 56 but India fell short as they were restricted to 266 for nine in 50 overs.

Skipper Rohit Sharma, who split his webbing while fielding, remained unbeaten on 51 off 28 balls. Ebadot Hossain (3/45) picked up three wickets while Shakib Al Hasan (2/39) and Miraz (2/46) scalped two wickets each.

## WTC final likely from June 7 at Oval, not too far from the IPL title clash

**NewDelhi:** The World Test Championship (WTC) final is expected to start in the first week of June, Cricbuzz understands. Although the International Cricket Council (ICC) has not yet announced the schedule, tentatively, it is expected to run from June 7 to 11 with a provision for a reserve day to make up for the play lost due to weather. The match will be held at The Oval.

That start date could be precariously close to the final of the Indian Premier League (IPL). The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is believed to be finalising the full IPL dates but it could end either on June 4 or May 28, both dates could be too close for the Indian team's comfort.

Assuming that India qualifies for the WTC final, the BCCI, the

national selectors and the team management may have to do a lot of balancing with those dates, more so if the league schedule spills over to June.

At this stage, India are placed fourth on the WTC table, behind Australia, South Africa and Sri Lanka. However, favourable results from the remaining six Tests - two against Bangladesh later this month and four home matches against Australia in February-March - should catapult them to the top two. Keeping the key players injury-free will be a challenge for the BCCI. It is not just the IPL final schedule that is close to an international game. The start date will also not be too far from an international game. The IPL stakeholders, who have spoken to the BCCI, say that the board has indicated to them that

March 31 or April 1 - more likely the latter - could be the potential launch date for the league, leaving the final schedule still open ended. With Gujarat Titans being the defending champions, the IPL is expected to kick off in Ahmedabad. April 1 is a Saturday and that will be just about a week from the third and final ODI between India and Australia that will follow the four-Test series. The final ODI is expected to be on March 22, less than 10 days from the IPL launch. The dates and venues of the home international games are expected to be announced soon.

Meanwhile, the IPL franchises have taken note of Australia head coach Andrew McDonald's comments on Cameron Green. "His overall load in the next 12 months of cricket, is

it a concern? Yeah, I think it's a concern for every player," McDonald was quoted as saying in the Australian media. "We've spoken about it several times. It's hypothetical to see how he's feeling come the end of March. He's got a lot of cricket before the IPL and I'm sure his decision won't be made right now, it will be made later on down the track leading into the IPL," McDonald said recently. Green has given his name for the IPL auction at a base price of Rs 2 crore. He is expected to draw big bucks in the auction but a couple of franchises have said that they will seek clarity from the BCCI on the Australian all-rounder's availability before the December 23 auction. A spokesman for Cricket Australia (CA) did not offer a comment.

## Boland to replace injured Cummins for Adelaide Test

**NewDelhi:** Scott Boland will replace the injured Pat Cummins for the second Test against West Indies in Adelaide, Cricket Australia confirmed. The Australian captain was put through the paces by the team's medical staff but wasn't deemed to have made a full recovery from the thigh strain he picked up in the opening Test at Perth. Cummins' absence means Australia will be skippered by Steve Smith for a second straight Day-Night Test with the regular captain also missing last year's showpiece Test against England after being deemed a close contact of a Covid-19 case. "Team medical staff



commenced Cummins' recovery in Adelaide but selectors deemed there was not sufficient time for the fast bowler to be fully fit for the match, which starts tomorrow," a Cricket Australia

statement said Boland, 33, made a stunning Test debut last year at the MCG, claiming 6 for 7 in the second innings shut-out of England. He took 18 wickets from three games in that series at an

average of 9.86 but has not played for the national side since with the team touring Pakistan and Sri Lanka over the last year where it has needed to reinforce its spin attack.



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