

# Vice President visits Munda's birthplace; says his life, sacrifice still inspire people

**RANCHI/KHUNTI:** Birsa Munda's life and sacrifice continue to inspire generations, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan said on Saturday after paying floral tributes at the statue of the tribal icon during his visit to Khunti district.

During the visit, Radhakrishnan interacted with the descendants of Birsa Munda at Ulihatu.

"After assuming the office of the Vice President, I am deeply moved to once again visit Ulihatu, the sacred birthplace of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. I pay my deepest respects to this great freedom fighter, whose life and sacrifice continue to inspire generations," he posted on X.

Radhakrishnan also said, "I fondly recall the day I took the oath as the governor of Jharkhand. On that very day, I had travelled to Ulihatu, an experience that remains profoundly meaningful." Radhakrishnan was the governor of Jharkhand between 2023 and 2024.

"The visionary decision taken in 2021 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to commemorate November 15, the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, has elevated nation-



al awareness and pride in our tribal heritage. "I also had the privilege of being present with the prime minister at Khunti when he announced the PM-JANMAN scheme, a transformative initiative aimed at protecting and empowering particularly vulnerable tribal communities," he said.

Radhakrishnan further said, "This two-pronged approach of instilling pride and awareness about the rich legacy and struggles of tribal freedom fighters across genera-

tions, while simultaneously empowering tribal communities during this Amrit Kaal, truly embodies the realisation of the rights and dignity for which Bhagwan Birsa Munda fought so valiantly."

The Vice President arrived at the Ranchi airport earlier in the day and was welcomed by Jharkhand Governor Santosh Gangwar, Union minister Sanjay Seth and state minister Sudivya Kumar.

Radhakrishnan also attended the 15th convocation of the Indi-

an Institute of Management (IIM), Ranchi, in the afternoon, where he felicitated the meritorious students.

Congratulating the graduating students, the Vice President encouraged them to choose character over shortcuts and purpose over profit.

Ethical leadership, integrity and trust are the foundations on which enduring institutions are built, he added.

Radhakrishnan said management education must go beyond boardrooms and balance sheets.

"When I say go beyond balance sheets, do not think balance sheet is not important. It is important but your mind and dedication should go beyond balance sheets," he said, while urging students never to apply short-cut methods in life.

"Short-cut methods may give you big success in the beginning but one day, it will be a disaster," he added.

The Vice President also launched IIM Ranchi's virtual reality case repository, which aims to transform the way case studies are taught and understood, making learning more practical, immersive, and aligned with real-world business environments.

# Tiger poisoned to death near Satpura Reserve in MP, 5 held

**BHOPAL:** A radio-collared tiger was allegedly poisoned to death, following which five persons were arrested on Saturday, Madhya Pradesh police said.

The tiger's body was found buried in a pit in West Chhindwara division revenue area on Friday, the official said.

"The tiger was brought from Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Umaria in December 2004. It had formed its territory outside the reserve. Five persons have been arrested for poisoning the animal. They have been remanded in judicial custody," STR field director Rakhi Nanda told PTI.

The accused, who laced

tiger kill with poison, allegedly took this step as the big cat had killed their cattle, Nanda added.

The accused are also involved in illegal opium cultivation, the official said.

Meanwhile, wildlife activist Ajay Dubey on Saturday lodged a formal complaint in the matter with Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Principal Secretary (Forest), MP, among others.

In his complaint, Dubey alleged that no movement was seen in the radio-collar monitor since March 3, but

the forest department ignored the development.

"The tigress was poisoned by poachers and her carcass was found buried in a pit in Sanga Kheda village area under Chhindwara South Forest Division. It is not merely a case of poaching, but a glaring example of administrative and monitoring failure," Dubey said while seeking immediate intervention from higher authorities.

He also sought the removal of STR field director Nanda "for free and fair investigation into the glaring incident".

A total of 14 tigers have died in MP since January this year, he pointed out.

# Several 'B teams' were formed to 'break' AIADMK: Palaniswami

**CHENNAI:** AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Saturday alleged that several "B teams" were formed and many tried to "break" the AIADMK by filing cases in court, but all that has been smashed and shattered into pieces.

Without naming expelled AIADMK leader O Panneerselvam, Palaniswami, while garnering votes in North Chennai for the April 23 Assembly polls, here, said, "Several internal problems were created in the party and now see where they (Panneerselvam) have gone."

"The true face (of Panneerselvam) has come

out. The cat is out of the bag. After Amma's (As Jayalithaa is fondly called, meaning mother) demise, many tried to capture this movement intentionally. But with the help of you all and party supporters, we stopped and have proven that AIADMK is a strong movement," he said.

"After Amma passed away (on December 5, 2016) they thought the party would break. They tried so much to break this party by creating some B teams. But, along with the support of the people and party cadres, all that has been smashed and shattered into piec-

es," he said. Stressing that the party had been started for the welfare of the poor by the late Chief Minister M G Ramachandran, Palaniswami said after his demise the movement got split. "But Amma (Jayalithaa) united them and fulfilled the dreams of our revolutionary leader (M G Ramachandran)," he said amid thunderous applause from the audience.

The only party to have ruled Tamil Nadu for 31 years is the AIADMK and because of it, the state secured top rank among other states in India, he claimed.

Observing that the party follows democracy,

he said in the DMK it is not so, as no matter how much one toils hard for the party's growth they would not get any recognition. The ruling DMK's objective was to only "loot", he said, and asked the people whether such a party should come to power again. The people replied, "no".

Palaniswami said it was his government that obtained the approval for the Rs 63,000 crore metro rail project in the state.

"This is an achievement of the AIADMK. Has any such achievement been attained by the DMK in their five-year rule," he asked.

# 20-year-old man died in road accident in Rajasthan's Udaipur

**JAIPUR:** A 20-year-old man died after a collision between a motorcycle and a tractor-trolley in Rajasthan's Udaipur district, police said on Saturday.

Following the incident, tension prevailed as villagers protested, demanding compensation from the tractor owner.

The accident occurred Friday night on Navania Road in Vallabh Nagar area, when an oncoming tractor-trolley hit three youngsters travelling on a motorcycle, police said.

Assistant Sub-Inspector Ramesh Jat said that Rudra Nagda succumbed to injuries during treatment, while two others are undergoing treatment at a private hospital.

# Development projects worth Rs 12Cr launched in Palam area of Delhi

**NEW DELHI:** Development works valued at over Rs 12 crore were launched in the Palam Assembly constituency on Saturday, with South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and local MLA Kuldeep Solanki participating in the foundation-laying ceremony.

According to details shared during the event, the projects focus on improving basic infrastructure, including roads, internal lanes, drainage systems and parks in the area. The foundation stones were laid at Gokal Garden, with several works planned across Palam Village, Rajnagar and nearby localities. The planned developments include construction and repair of roads and drains in Palam Village, installation of open-air gyms and children's play equipment in parks, and reconstruction of lanes in Rajnagar.

# TMC counters Shah's 'chargesheet' with similar document; seeks answer for Manipur violence

**KOLKATA:** The Trinamool Congress slammed Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday with a counter to his "chargesheet" against the Mamata Banerjee government, accusing the BJP of trying to polarise the people of poll-bound West Bengal and evade accountability for its own record on a host of issues, including women's safety.

Hours after Shah's press conference here, the incumbent TMC questioned the BJP-led Centre over the prolonged violence in Manipur, women's safety in BJP-ruled states and the Centre's handling of illegal immigration.

Senior TMC leaders Mahua Moitra, Bratya Basu and Kirti Azad held a joint press conference where they targeted the Union Home minister over his criticism of the TMC government on women's safety. "Amit Shah is talking about women's security. What is the condition

of women's safety in BJP-ruled states?"

"Shah should first answer about violence in Manipur, which has bled continuously for the past three years," TMC MP Moitra said.

The counter-charges came after Shah, earlier in the day, sharpened the BJP's campaign for the West Bengal assembly elections, releasing a political "chargesheet" against the TMC government and framing the polls as a battle not merely for Bengal, but for the country's security.

At a packed press conference, Shah alleged that after 15 years of TMC rule, West Bengal had become the country's "principal corridor" for infiltration because of the ruling party's appeasement politics, corruption and political violence.

Rejecting the allegation, the TMC noted that the BJP has been in power at the Centre for over a decade and



has been ruling several border states.

"BJP rules at the Centre. It rules 15 states and most border states through which infiltration is happening. Amit Shah himself is the Union Home Minister. So what exactly has he been waiting for?" senior TMC leader and West Bengal Education minister Bratya Basu said.

Questioning the Centre's claims on infiltration,

Basu asked why the Union Home Ministry had "failed" to identify and deport illegal immigrants.

"Why has the BJP-controlled Election Commission failed to release the names of foreign nationals found on the electoral rolls?" he asked.

In a separate statement, Basu alleged that the BJP was using the issue of infiltration to create divisions in Bengal.

# Karnataka BJP MLA Suresh Kumar refuses IPL tickets, slams 'VIP culture'

**BENGALURU:** Calling the decision to allot two IPL tickets to MLAs "VIP culture", senior Karnataka BJP MLA Suresh Kumar on Saturday said he does not want them.

He expressed surprise that the government was eager to make such an announcement just 24 hours after the discussion in the Assembly. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said on Friday that the KSCA had agreed to provide two tickets per MLA for the IPL match on March 28 at the city's Chinnaswamy Stadium.

IPL 2026 kicked off here with Royal Challengers Bengaluru facing Sunrisers Hyderabad in the opening match.

Shivakumar had met officials of the Karnataka State Cricket Association, which manages the stadium, a day after legislators across party lines raised the issue in the Assembly regarding improper ticketing and seating arrangements at the city's premier venue.

During the discussion, Speaker U T Khader had asked the government to ensure that every MLA receives four VIP tickets for matches at the stadium.

Kumar also wrote to the Speaker on Saturday, declining the IPL match tickets.

"As per my conscience, I politely decline to accept any IPL match ticket or pass issued

by the government or the KSCA. Therefore, please do not issue any ticket or pass in my name," he said in his letter.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, responding to a reporter's question in Mysuru about Kumar's stand, said, "If someone does not want the tickets, that is fine. Whoever wants to watch the match can go."

When asked whether discussing IPL tickets for MLAs in the Assembly was appropriate, he said, "Tickets were given by the KSCA to MLAs and MLCs in the past as well. Even now, they are giving tickets—this time, instead of one, they have been asked to give two. That's all." The CM said he would try to attend the match if time permitted. "It won't be possible until April 9 due to the by-elections," he added.

Earlier in the day, Kumar said in a statement, "The state government, led by Siddaramaiah, claims to be socialist. It is truly surprising and unfortunate that VIP culture continues even under the rule of this self-proclaimed socialist CM."

"Oh, I forgot! When RCB won the IPL last year, we all saw how this same 'Samajwadi' chief minister took his grandson to the victory stage built in front of the Vidhana Soudha," he added, taking a dig at the government.

# Nominations open for Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre has invited nominations for the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) 2026, a national initiative to recognise outstanding contributions in the fields of science, technology, and innovation.

The awards are administered by the RVP Secretariat, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Ministry of Science and Technology, under the chairmanship of the principal scientific advisor to the government.

"The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar reflects the government's unwavering commitment to fostering excellence in science, technology, and innovation. These awards celebrate the spirit of inquiry and dedication of our scientists and innovators who are driving India's transforma-

tion into a global knowledge leader," Union Minister Jitendra Singh said in a statement on Saturday.

Nominations, including self-nominations, are open across a wide range of domains, including agricultural science, atomic energy, biological sciences, chemistry, defence technology, Earth science, engineering sciences, environmental science, medicine, physics, space science and technology, and others.

The awards will be presented in four distinct categories: Vigyan Ratna to recognise lifetime achievements in science and technology; Vigyan Shri to acknowledge distinguished contributions to the field; Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar to encourage young scientists (up to 45 years of age).

# Himachal CM's Himcare facts incorrect, scheme should not be discontinued: LoP

**SHIMLA:** A heated debate occurred between the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP in Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha on Saturday during a discussion on a cut motion related to the health department.

Leader of the Opposition Jairam Thakur raised several questions regarding the state government's handling of the Himcare scheme and health services. He also objected to statements made by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

The BJP leader asserted that the chief minister's facts regarding the Himcare scheme are inaccurate. Specifically addressing the issue of bills related to "hysterectomies performed on men". He said that the medicines in

question are actually used in the treatment of cancer patients and added that an investigation into the matter revealed these medications had indeed been utilised for the treatment of patients suffering from cancer.

The Himcare scheme, launched during the tenure of the previous BJP government, provides free healthcare services to low-income individual groups who are not covered under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana or Jan Arogya Yojana.

He further alleged that the information being provided by the chief minister's health advisor is incorrect.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday had said that irregularities like bills for

ovarian surgeries of men and implant of expired lenses have come to light during an internal audit of the Himcare scheme, following which a vigilance inquiry has been ordered.

The Leader of Opposition countered and said that if any irregularities occurred within the Himcare scheme, they should be investigated, but discontinuing the scheme entirely would be inappropriate.

He also argued that it is unfair to tarnish doctors' reputations by levelling allegations of irregularities against the scheme. He further alleged attempts are being made to alter the fundamental structure of the Nerchowk Medical University, a move he deemed improper.

Jairam Thakur also raised questions regarding the infrastructure of health services. He said that while introducing robotic surgery in two major institutions is logical, launching it across five locations without adequate infrastructure could impose an additional financial burden on patients.

He also highlighted the issue of termination of outsourced employees who served during the COVID-19 pandemic, stating their removal is unjustifiable given their crucial role during a difficult period.

He also pointed out that the current government took approximately three and a half years to install the PET-scan machine, an initiative for which

the previous government had already laid the groundwork.

Furthermore, Thakur alleged that the procurement of furniture for the medical colleges in Chamba and Hamirpur has remained incomplete for the past year and a half.

The LoP remarked that Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda is willing to provide funds from the Centre for various health schemes, but the state government must ensure proper utilisation of those funds.

He pointed out that while the state government receives financial assistance from the Centre for numerous schemes, it does not even acknowledge or appreciate it.