

Cancer survivor from Maoist-hit Kanker tops C'garh Std X exam

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Raipur: The "Supergirl" tag would sit easy on Ishika Bala. The Class X student from Maoist-hit Kanker district in Chhattisgarh not only defeated cancer but also came on top to the state board exams. The farmer's daughter scored 99.2% marks, standing first in an exam that only 76% managed to pass. Ishika's achievement is a beacon of hope for the district where female literacy rate is just 59.6%.

Ishika recently recovered from her battle with blood cancer and studied for her board exams despite the rigours of treatment. She would have appeared for the Class X exams last year itself, but her health was in a very precarious state. She credited her success to the support of her parents and



Ishika, seen here with her father, scored 99.2% marks, standing first in an exam that only 76% managed to pass. Ishika's achievement is a beacon of hope for the district where female literacy rate is just 59.6%.

teachers, and said she wants to become an IAS officer. It's this dream that helped her fight through weakness and pain every time she felt the life-threatening illness trying to overtake her.

Ishika's father said he was proud of his daughter; and her inspiring fightback has left everyone who has seen her

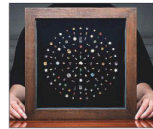
battle in awe of her.

In a remarkable coincidence, the Class XII topper, Akhil Sen, is also from Kanker. He scored 98.2% marks (49/50 in commerce). His father runs a newspaper agency and he too would distribute papers every morning while preparing for his board exams. Eight of the 85 students who made it to the top 10 list are from Bastar division, which has been battling Maoist insurgency for the past 25 years.

Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai, who announced the board exam results, extended his wishes to all successful candidates, their families, and teachers. "To those who couldn't succeed this time don't lose heart. Failure is often the first step toward success. Prepare for the next attempt with even greater resolve," he said.

Sotheby's delays Buddhist relics auction post India's intervention

New Delhi: Sotheby's Hong Kong postponed auction of Piprahwa Buddhist Relics scheduled for Wednesday following intervention by India's govt. Culture ministry in a statement, said it will now engage all stakeholders to advance talks on repatriation of the relics.



The ministry on Monday said it has issued a "legal notice" to Sotheby's Hong Kong, seeking "cessation of the auction". On Tuesday, a high-level delegation told Sotheby's the relics rightfully belong to India, from where they were taken during the colonial era.

Hong Kong informed via email that auction of Piprahwa relics was being postponed, "the ministry said, now."



विश्वेश्वरय्या राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, नागपुर-440 010 (भारत)
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Easing Business Through Logistics

Stay out of BBMB's daily affairs, go to Centre: HC to Punjab

Pleas For Dam To Be Freed Of Cops

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh: Punjab and Haryana high court has restrained Punjab govt from interfering in the day-to-day functioning of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), asking the state to approach the Centre to settle any grievance against BBMB's decision.

The court directed Punjab to abide by the decision of the May 2 meeting, under the chairmanship of the Union home secretary in which it was decided that BBMB will release 4,500 cusecs of extra water to Haryana for the next eight days to meet its urgent need.

A division bench of chief justice Sheel Nagu and justice Sumet Goe passed the order on three petitions filed by BBMB and others to remove Punjab police deployed at Bhakra Nangal Dam and Lohand control room water regulation off-



HC asked Punjab to abide by decision of May 2 meeting that BBMB will release 4,500 cusecs of extra water to Haryana for the next eight days.

ces. "Punjab police are free to provide security to BBMB and its personnel but cannot interfere in the day-to-day functioning of BBMB so as to obstruct the operation and management of Bhakra Dam and water-related works," HC observed in its order released on Wednesday. On additional solicitor general Satya Pal Jain's suggestion to deploy paramilitary to secure the dam, HC said BBMB could take it up with the Centre.

Cabinet nod for ₹11.8K-cr project to expand 5 IITs, add 6,500 seats

New Delhi: The Union cabinet has approved the expansion of academic and infrastructure capacity of IITs in Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati, Chhattisgarh's Bhillai, J&K's Jammu, Karnataka's Dharwad and Kerala's Palakkad.

The expansion is aimed at facilitating education of more than 6,500 additional students in these institutions. Five new state-of-the-art research parks are also planned to enhance industry-academia collaboration. The cabinet has cleared Phase-B construction for these IITs, with a total estimated cost of Rs 11,828.79 crore over four years—2025-26 to 2028-29. The initiative will enable these institutions to nearly double their capacity from the current 7,111 students to 13,687 across undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes.

As part of the approved plan, 130 new faculty positions at the professor level (level 14 and above) will be created. The phased expansion in student intake will be implemented over the four years—1,364 in the first year, 1,738 in the second, 1,767 in the third, and 1,707 in the fourth.

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BLECH India and Fastener Fair India will serve as a one-stop destination to explore the future of metalworking and fastening solutions

Two of India's leading industrial trade fairs, BLECH India and Fastener Fair India, are set to host a grand fair, bringing together innovation, technology, and business opportunities under one roof. Starting today, the exhibition will continue till May 10 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre in Mumbai. This joint platform is set to cater to the complete value chain of the sheet metal and fastening industry.

Organised by RX India, the 8th BLECH India will again serve as a focused platform for advanced sheet metal processing, forming, and fabrication technologies. At the same time, Fastener Fair India, the country's leading fastener and fixing exhibition, will showcase a broad range of solutions in industrial fasteners, construction fixings, assembly systems, and related manufacturing technologies.

In its 2025 edition, BLECH India is proudly supported by Laser Technologies as the Registration Partner and Durmazlar Maki-na Sanayi Ve Tica.S. as the Visitor Lanyard and Badge Partner, a testimony to the show's growing stature within the industry. These collaborations aim to further enhance the visitor experience while underlining the trust and value BLECH India offers to the community.

The combined event will host 500+ exhibitors from India and international markets including the U.S., China, Italy, Turkey, Taiwan, Israel, Germany, and South Korea, highlighting its global appeal and expanding international presence.

Speaking about the exhibition announcement Umang Gupta, country general manager of RX India said, "We are thrilled to bring BLECH India and Fastener Fair India back to Mumbai, providing a unique platform for industry professionals to explore cutting-edge innovations and



forge valuable connections. This event serves as a crucial meeting point for the global sheet metal and fastener industries, fostering collaboration and driving technological advancements across key sectors. With the metal fabrication equipment market expected to grow at a CAGR of 5.7 per cent during 2024-2031, BLECH India and Fastener Fair India aim to provide valuable insights and opportunities for businesses to stay ahead in this dynamic industry."

Adding to this, Vicky Kumar, project director of Blech India & Fastener Fair India, shared his vision. Kumar said, "The 2025 editions will set a new benchmark for industry trade shows in the metal and fastener segments. With a sharper focus on smart manufacturing, automation, and sustainable solutions, we are curating a show experience that meets the evolving demands of India's industrial backbone. We look forward to welcoming both long time participants and new-age disruptors."

The joint format is expected to draw over 22,000 industry profes-

sionals from India and abroad, offering a powerful networking and sourcing opportunity for OEMs, suppliers, distributors, engineers, and decision-makers. Exhibitors will span across key sectors such as automotive, aerospace, electronics,

heavy engineering, and more. Together, BLECH India and Fastener Fair India 2025 will serve as a one-stop destination to explore the future of metalworking and fastening solutions.

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