



RTE Fee Reimbursement Transferred by CM | Madhya Pradesh | 30 Sep 2025

Why in News?

Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav transferred ₹489 crore in a single click to 20,652 private schools as fee reimbursement for 8.45 lakh students admitted under the [Right to Education \(RTE\) Act, 2009](#).

- From the next academic session, **RTE students** in private schools will also **receive free textbooks and school bags**.
- **The state has set up the Sandipani School and continues other welfare measures like free bicycles, uniforms, textbooks, scooties for toppers, and laptops for students scoring 75% and above.**

Key Provisions of RTE Act, 2009

- **Right to Free and Compulsory Elementary Education:** Children aged 6-14 years are entitled to free, compulsory education in local schools, with enrollment in an age-appropriate class for those above 6 not in school.
 - Aided schools must also offer education for free, proportionate to their funding, **but not less than 25%.**
 - **Elementary education is free until completion,** and no child can be held back, expelled, or required to pass a board exam before finishing [elementary education](#).
- **Curriculum and Recognition:** An academic authority designated by the central or state government must develop the curriculum and evaluation procedure for elementary education.
 - All schools are required to adhere to **pupil-teacher ratio norms** and meet prescribed standards before establishment or recognition
 - Teacher qualification is to be ensured by the **Teacher Eligibility Test (TET)** conducted by the appropriate government.
- **Responsibilities of Schools and Teachers:** Teachers are forbidden from giving private tuition or performing non-teaching tasks, except for census, disaster relief, and election duties.
 - Schools must establish **School Management Committees (SMCs)** consisting of local authority representatives, parents, guardians, and teachers to oversee the school's use of government funds and create a school development plan.
- **Grievance Redressal:** The [National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights](#) reviews safeguards and investigates complaints, with powers akin to a civil court; the state government may also establish a State Commission for similar functions.

Palomar Observatory Gets 1st Woman Head | Madhya Pradesh | 30 Sep 2025

Why in News?

Prof. Mansi Manoj Kasliwal has made history by becoming the **first woman and second [Person of Indian Origin \(PIO\)](#)** to be appointed as the new director of **[Palomar Observatory](#)**, following **Shrinivas Kulkarni**, who was the **first PIO** to lead the observatory from 2006 to 2018.



Key Points

- **About:** Born in Indore, India, she moved to the **United States** at the age of 15. She earned her **Bachelor's degree from Cornell University** in 2005 and completed her **PhD in Astronomy at Caltech** in 2011. After a postdoctoral stint at **Carnegie Observatories**, she returned to Caltech, where she is now a tenured professor.
- **Recognition:** Prof. Kasliwal, a professor of astronomy at Caltech, is internationally recognised for her pioneering work on explosive cosmic events such as [supernovae](#) and **neutron star collisions**. She received the **New Horizons in Physics Prize** in 2022 for her leadership in electromagnetic follow-ups of cosmic phenomena.
- **Key Contributions and Achievements:**
 - **GROWTH Project:** Leads the **Global Relay of Observatories Watching Transients Happen (GROWTH)**, a global network of telescopes capturing transient cosmic events.
 - **Palomar Transient Factory & Zwicky Transient Facility:** Played a key role in the design of both facilities, uncovering thousands of supernovae and other astronomical phenomena.
 - **Multi-Messenger Astronomy:** Contributed significantly to follow-up observations of [gravitational waves](#) detected by the **Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory**.

Palomar Observatory

- **Location and Ownership:** Palomar Observatory, situated on **Palomar Mountain in north San Diego County, California**, is an astronomical research centre owned and operated by Caltech.
- **Research Telescopes:** The Observatory houses three active [research telescopes](#): the 200-inch Hale Telescope, the 48-inch Samuel Oschin Telescope, and the 60-inch telescope, serving a diverse community of astronomers from Caltech and partner institutions.
- **Historical and Ongoing Contribution:** Established nearly a century ago, Palomar Observatory

has been a **leader in astronomical research**, operating nightly for scientific advancement, instrument development, and student training.

Shirish Chandra Murmu Appointed RBI Deputy Governor | National Current Affairs | 30 Sep 2025

Why in News?

The Government of India has appointed **Shirish Chandra Murmu** as the **new Deputy Governor** of the [Reserve Bank of India \(RBI\)](#), effective 9th October 2025, succeeding **M. Rajeshwar Rao**.



Key Points

- **About:** Shirish Chandra Murmu, currently serving as the Executive Director at RBI, has been appointed to the post for a period of three years.
 - He joined the RBI in 1991 and has held important positions such as Regional Director, as well as senior management roles in Banking Regulation, Currency Management, and Information Technology.
- **Function:** In his new role, he is expected to handle key portfolios, including banking regulation, financial markets, and [monetary policy](#).
- **Appointment:** His appointment was approved by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
 - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by the [Prime Minister](#) with the **Minister of Home Affairs** as a member, is responsible for making senior government appointments.
- **Structure:** According to the [RBI Act of 1934](#), the central bank is required to have four deputy governors: two from within RBI, one from the commercial banking sector, and one economist to head the monetary policy department.

- The current deputy governors, in addition to Shirish Chandra Murmu, include T. Rabi Sankar, Swaminathan J, and Poonam Gupta.

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