

Inscriptions dating back to 12th, 16th centuries in Dharashiv village successfully deciphered

LATUR: Two inscriptions that were discovered at Kavtha village in Dharashiv's Omerga tehsil have been successfully deciphered, a researcher said on Sunday. Located near an old Mahadev temple in Kavtha, these comprise a 77-line inscription written in Hale Kannada script and a smaller, previously unnoticed inscription in Devanagari, researcher Krishna Gudade told PTI.

The Kannada inscription, measuring about 210 cm in height, was deciphered by noted historian Dr Devarakonda Reddy, president of the Karnataka History Academy, while the Devanagari inscription, along with fieldwork and research on both inscriptions, was carried out by Gudade.

"The Kannada inscription begins with an eulogy to Lord Shiva and provides valuable insights into the Chalukya dynasty. It traces the lineage from Satyashraya to Taila, who is credited with defeating Parmar ruler

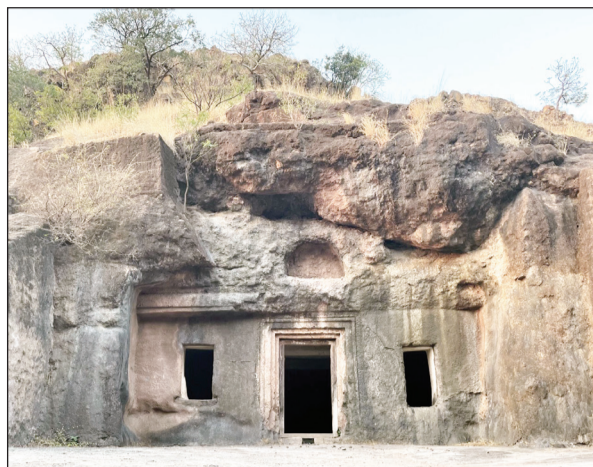
Munja. It further mentions successors like Sattimdev, Aayan, Jaysingh, and Trailokyamalla (Ahavamalla), eventually leading to Vikramaditya VI," Gudade said.

Under Vikramaditya VI's rule, a Brahmin minister named Machiraja played a key role in administration, and the inscription highlights his contribution to public welfare, including construction of lakes, wells, temples, and rest houses, Gudade added.

The inscription records that Vikramaditya VI built a stone temple dedicated to Kalideva and made significant land grants on the occasion of a solar eclipse on October 24, 1101, and additional donations, including tax revenues from nearby villages, were also granted to the deity, he said.

The inscription further credits poet Kalidas with narrating the content, while it was inscribed by Jogan Shetty and engraved on stone by Madaras.

The second inscription,



in Devanagari script, dates to January 9, 1516 and records that a person named Ramdas constructed a stepwell (barav) named 'Shivalaya' near the temple and also undertook renovation work.

The inscription notes that the work was carried out generously and dedicated to Lord Krishna, Gudade said.

"The findings significantly enrich the documented history of Kavtha

and offer fresh insights into Chalukya rule, administrative system, taxation, religious practices, and local governance. It also sheds light on temple traditions and contributions made by local patrons over centuries," he said.

The research project was supported by contributors Amol Bankar, Vikrant Mandpe, Ajinkya Shahane, Dr. Madhavi Mahake, Gajanan Bhosale, and Shrikrishna Bevanale.

Illegal to conduct age-check test on minor if proper documents are available: Allahabad HC

LUCKNOW: The Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court has said that it is illegal to conduct a medical examination (ossification test) to determine a minor's age when certificates from a school, board, municipal corporation, municipality, or panchayat are available.

Holding this, the high court set aside the orders of the Juvenile Justice Board and the Special POCSCO Court and granted bail to a minor accused of molesting and threatening a 15-year-old girl. A bench of Justice Manish Kumar passed the order on Saturday on a revision petition filed by a minor.

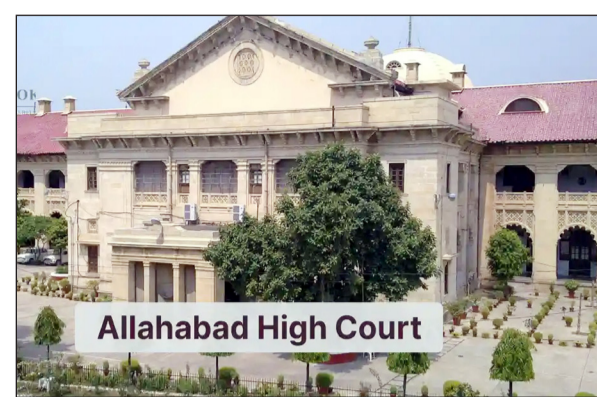
The case is from Pratnagarh district, where an FIR was lodged with Leelapur police station on March 11, 2025, charging the minor under sections

of the POCSCO Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. It was argued on behalf of the minor petitioner that he was under 16 years of age at the time of the incident.

His high school certificate mentioned his date of birth as January 1, 2010, while his primary school records stated his date of birth as May 13, 2009.

Despite this, the Juvenile Justice Board ordered a medical examination to determine his age, which was upheld by the appellate court of the Special Judge, POCSCO Act, Pratnagarh. Both orders were challenged in a revision petition filed before the high court.

The high court said that, according to Section 94 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, school or board certificates should be con-



Allahabad High Court

sidered first for determining age. Birth certificates issued by municipal corporations, municipalities, or panchayats should be considered next. Only in the absence of these documents, a medical examination can be conducted.

The high court observed that both available documents showed that the accused petitioner was

a minor and that ordering a medical examination was against the law.

While granting conditional bail to the minor petitioner, the high court directed him to appear before the district probation officer along with his guardian on the 10th of every month for one year and to stay away from any criminal activity.

Shooter of Rohit Godara-Goldy Brar-Virender Charan gang arrested in Delhi

NEW DELHI: A team of the Special Cell of Delhi Police has arrested a shooter associated with the Rohit Godara-Goldy Brar-Virender Charan gang from the Sainik Vihar area of the national capital, officials said today.

The accused, identified as Deepak alias Dilawar, was apprehended following a targeted operation by the New Delhi Range of the Special Cell. A semi-automatic pistol loaded with five live cartridges was recovered from his hideout, police said.

According to officials, the gang has been involved in a series of al-

leged extortion activities across multiple states. During the investigation, the accused was identified as one of the shooters involved in a firing incident at a business establishment in Punjab earlier this year.

Police said the accused had gone underground after the incident and was traced through sustained surveillance and human intelligence inputs. Teams were deployed to different states before he was eventually nabbed from Delhi.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that he was in contact with gang members through encrypted communi-

cation platforms and had received the weapon from an associate. He was also allegedly instructed to establish a base in Delhi for further operations.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Praveen Kumar Tripathi said, "The arrest of the accused is a significant step in curbing the activities of organised criminal gangs operating across states."

Further investigation is underway to identify other associates and dismantle the network."

A case under the Arms Act has been registered and further investigation is in progress.

National Akali Dal flags inflation, black marketing concerns

NEW DELHI: The National Akali Dal Sunday raised concerns over rising inflation and alleged black marketing of essential commodities, urging the government to take action at a "war footing" to address the situation. In a statement issued during the announcement of the party's Delhi unit, National President Paramjeet Singh Pamma said that global developments, particularly tensions between the United States and Iran, have contributed to price rise in India. He pointed to increases in the cost of LPG cylinders, vegetables, pulses and other daily essentials, saying the issue directly impacts common citizens.

Pamma said the government should treat inflation and black marketing as a serious public issue.

Father kills 12-yr-old daughter for 'stealing' candy from grocery store

BULANDSHAHR: Police on Sunday arrested a man for allegedly beating his 12-year-old daughter to death with a stick for "stealing" a packet of candy from a grocery store here, officials said.

According to police, a complaint was lodged at Ratanpur village on March 27 by the girl's mother, Aarti, who alleged that her husband, Pushpendra alias Pappu Sharma, beat their daughter with a stick, leading to her death.

According to police, Pushpendra was enraged after a local shopkeeper complained to him that his daughter had stolen a packet of candy from his shop.

Based on the complaint, police registered an FIR at the Narora police station and arrested Pushpendra on Sunday.

"The stick used in the crime has been recovered at the instance of the accused," SHO Ganga Prasad Arya said.

SAD will form next govt in Pnb, turn Mohali-New Chandigarh-Kharar belt into financial hub, says Badal

DERA BASSI: Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Sunday said that his party will form the next government in Punjab and turn the Mohali-Zirakpur-Dera Bassi-New Chandigarh-Kharar belt into a financial hub, like Mumbai and Gurugram.

Addressing a rally here, Badal said, "We will create an IT hub in this area besides bringing in tourism projects and establishing an industrial hub in Dera Bassi." "The entire area would be linked with a metro rail system besides upgradation of the road infrastructure and establishment of world-class solid waste management systems," he said.

He also detailed how the previous SAD government had put Mohali "on the world map by establishing an international airport, and that the party was committed to taking it to the next level post 2027 (if SAD comes to power)".

According to a party statement, Badal also spoke on how the AAP and the Congress had earlier teamed up to support each other in local body elections, making it clear that



they would jointly contest the 2027 Assembly election. Alleging that both these parties were responsible for taking Punjab back by decades, Badal said, "I'm confident they (people) will shun both these Delhi-based parties and vote and support their own regional party - the SAD."

Badal also took on AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal for allegedly lying that welfare schemes of Bhagwant Mann would be stopped if anyone except the AAP came to power in 2027.

"Everyone knows that all welfare schemes currently running in Punjab were started by the SAD. AAP has, in fact, either scrapped or drastically reduced bene-

fits under various schemes, including old age pension, Aata-Dal, Shagan and SC scholarship," the SAD president said.

The SAD president also agreed to take up the issues raised by his party's senior leader N K Sharma, after the party comes to power.

Sharma, who spoke before Badal at the event, spoke about establishing a hospital at Zirakpur, providing canal water for drinking purposes, creating a tourist attraction in Chhatbir, making Handesra a sub-Tehsil and establishing a Girls College at Lahr.

"N K Sharma will be given the finance portfolio in the next SAD government," Badal said.

BJP will score hat-trick in Assam, come to power for third term in row: Nitin Nabin

TINSUKIA/DHEMAJI: BJP chief Nitin Nabin on Sunday asserted that the party will score a hat-trick in Assam by forming the government in the state for the third consecutive term.

Addressing an election rally in support of Margherita candidate and sitting BJP MLA Bhaskar Sharma, Nabin also attacked the previous Congress governments for allegedly engaging in vote-bank politics instead of developing the state and said there was a need to remember the "black chapter".

"The BJP is going for a hat-trick after the assembly elections. We first formed the government under Sarbananda Sonowal's leadership, followed by Himanta Biswa Sarma's

tenure. This time, we will form our third government under the leadership of Sarma," he said.

Nabin said he has been visiting Assam since 2009-10 for various party work and has travelled extensively across the state.

"We need to remember the black chapter. At that time, there was no talk of development at all. There was tension. People used to discuss only violence and agitation," he claimed.

However, the entire situation changed after the BJP-led NDA came to power in 2016, and the entire nation started talking about Assam's development, the BJP chief asserted.

"Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Assam has become a state of opportunities," he

added.

Nabin also said that the previous state government, led by the Congress, worked only for vote-bank politics and did not create any milestone in the state during its tenure.

The BJP national president further said that its government works only for the people of the country, and not for the infiltrators.

"We do not form governments for the infiltrators. Only people of Assam and the country have all rights in the state, not the illegal immigrants. Our government will protect the mothers and sisters of Assam, and will never compromise with the infiltrators," he added.

Nabin said the BJP government took bold steps for the nation's secu-

urity, Assam's identity and eliminating corruption from the system.

"No one from the Opposition could level any corruption charge against any minister in the last 12 years. This is how the BJP functions," he claimed.

The BJP leader said the previous Congress government had neither any policy nor clear intentions to work for Assam.

"For them, the population of the country was a challenge. But PM Modi says 140 crore people are his strength and inspiration," he added.

Talking about the war situation in West Asia, Nabin alleged that a few are spreading rumours that essential goods will not be available in the coming days.

20% constable posts reserved for ex-Agniveers in Delhi Police

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police will reserve 20 per cent of constable (executive) posts for former Agniveers, with exemptions from the physical efficiency test and relaxation in the upper age limit, according to a Ministry of Home Affairs notification.

The move comes as part of amendments to the Delhi Police (Appointment and Recruitment) Rules, 1980, notified on Friday, formalising the force's recruitment policy in line with the Centre's broader plan to absorb Agniveers into security forces after their four-year tenure in the armed forces.

Detailed procedures for conducting recruitment tests, including written examinations and physical measurements, will be issued separately by the Commissioner of Police.

As per the notification, ex-Agniveers will get a three-year relaxation in the prescribed upper age limit for recruitment to the post

of constable (executive), which currently stands at 18-25 years. Additionally, candidates from the first batch of the Agniveer scheme will be eligible for a further five-year relaxation, effectively extending their upper age limit to 30 years.

In a significant concession, ex-Agniveers will also be exempted from the Physical Efficiency Test (PET), one of the most competitive stages of the recruitment process that typically includes endurance events such as running.

However, they will still have to meet prescribed physical measurement and medical standards, which remain unchanged for all candidates.

The notification institutionalises an earlier decision approved by then Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena, who had cleared 20 per cent reservation for ex-Agniveers in Delhi Police's constable recruitment.

Install new statues of freedom fighters, demands outfit on Shahjahanpur demolition row

SHAHJAHANPUR: The row over the demolition of statues of Kakori Train Action martyrs shows no signs of settling as an organisation has now written to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath opposing the reinstatement of the "damaged" figurines of the freedom fighters and demanding that new ones be put in their place.

Also, questions are being raised over the suspension of junior engineer Pramod Kumar and assistant engineer Manoj Kumar over the demolition of the statues by a construction firm during road widening/beautification work due to claims that the duo were on leave when the incident occurred.

The statues of martyrs Ashfaulla Khan, Roshan Lal, and Pandit Ram Prasad Bismil --- located within the Municipal Corporation office complex at the city's Town Hall --- were demolished on the night of March 22, sparking outrage. Following directives from the chief minister, the statues were installed at the site on March 26.

However, it is claimed that in-

stead of installing new statues, the administration merely repaired the old figures and re-erected them.

In this matter, an organisation of the descendants of the freedom fighters --- Swatantrata Sangram Senani Uttaradhikari Sangathan --- has written to CM Adityanath demanding the installation of new statues.

In the letter, Rajiv Kumar (president) and Vijay Tanha (general secretary) of the Sangathan said that the martyrs' statues were demolished under the cover of darkness, and within just 24 hours, those very same statues were repaired and reinstalled.

According to tradition, damaged or broken statues are not worshipped; therefore, out of respect and reverence to the martyrs, new statues should be installed, they said.

An FIR had been filed against the company on Tuesday evening over the demolition of the statues of the three freedom fighters, who hailed from Shahjahanpur.

District-level Congress lead-

er Pawan Kumar Singh on Sunday told PTI that junior engineer Pramod Kumar and assistant engineer Manoj Kumar, who were suspended in connection with this matter based on the District Magistrate's recommendation, were on leave at the time of the incident and their suspension is not justified.

Singh alleged that in a hasty move aimed at shielding his own officials, the District Magistrate recommended the suspension of the two engineers without ascertaining the facts. He alleged that all of this was done to divert public attention away from the matter.

Asked about the allegations made by the Congress leader, District Magistrate Dharmendra Pratap Singh said that he had not made any recommendation on his own initiative, but had merely forwarded the recommendation made by Municipal Commissioner Vipin Kumar Mishra.

However, Municipal Commissioner Vipin Kumar Mishra said that he had sent a letter to the



government regarding this issue, a copy of which was also forwarded to the District Magistrate.

He said that the District Magistrate had forwarded the letter to the government on his own behalf.

Meanwhile, suspended Junior Engineer Pramod Kumar said that on the day the statues were demolished, he was on leave and staying with his children in Ghaziabad.

He pointed out that he himself does not appear anywhere in the

video showing the demolition of the statues, and that the tender issued was not for breaking the statues, but rather for relocating and reinstalling them.

He said that had he been informed, he would never have allowed the statues to be broken.

Freedom fighters Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaulla Khan and Roshan Singh were hanged by the British on December 19, 1927, for looting a train that was carrying government funds in August 1925 near Kakori, Lucknow.