

THE DHANBAD RESISTANCE

Wielding the Pen with Responsibility

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Future to be dramatic with far-reaching advances expected in Artificial Intelligence: President

Ranchi: President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday asserted that with far-reaching advances in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, the future is going to be dramatic.

She said the Centre was taking steps to integrate AI into higher education, and it was a matter of pride that Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi was ahead of the curve with related courses launched in 2023.

"Ours is the age of technology. New advances in the field of information technology have changed the way we live. What was unthinkable till yesterday has become reality today. The coming years are going to be even more dramatic with far-reaching advances expected particularly in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

"As AI rapidly transforms economies, the Government of India has been quick in responding to the emerging scenario. Several initiatives are being taken to integrate AI in higher education institutions," Murmu said while addressing the platinum jubilee celebrations of BIT Mesra here.

She, however, cautioned innovators and entrepreneurs not to ignore the knowledge base of traditional communities, saying, "Often, problems do not need big technological interventions." The President said that as technology creates



great disruptions in societies, one should remain concerned about its impact on marginalised groups.

"The great opportunities being created should be available to all; the great transformations being brought about should benefit all," she emphasised.

Congratulating faculty and students, Murmu said she was proud of the rich legacy of BIT Mesra which completed 70 years of academic excellence, research and technological innovation, and said the institute is a pioneer in space engineering and rocketry and has launched a plethora of new courses.

"Enthusiasm and commitment of youth will be key to making 'viksit Bharat'," she said.

She also said that she was proud of "our daughters" who are not lagging behind in science, engineering, technology and mathematics.

The President said that the Platinum Jubilee is an apt occasion to celebrate and honour the contributions of BIT Mesra to education, research and

innovation in engineering, technology and allied fields.

She lauded the institute for being a pioneer in a number of fields.

The first Department of Space Engineering and Rocketry in the country was established here in 1964 besides one of the first Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Parks (STEP) to promote engineering entrepreneurship was also set up here in 1975.

She expressed confidence that BIT Mesra will continue to make rich contributions to the continuing evolution of science and technology in India.

The President inaugurated an exhibition showcasing science, technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship, which included AI-enabled robots and self-driven cars.

President Murmu arrived on a two-day visit to Jharkhand on Friday and stayed overnight at Raj Bhavan. Security had been tightened in the Jharkhand capital in view of her visit. (PTI)

Airstrikes after Pulwama terror attack befitting reply to terrorists: Amit Shah

Haldwani: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Friday paid homage to the martyrs of the Pulwama terror attack and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving a befitting reply through airstrikes in Pakistan.

Forty jawans were killed when a Jaish-e-Mohammad suicide bomber rammed an explosive-laden car into a CRPF convoy at Lethpora-Pulwama on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on February 14, 2019.

Days later, Indian Air Force fighter jets bombed terror training camps in Balakot, deep inside



Amit Shah (File Photo)

Pakistan.

On the anniversary of the terror attack, Shah said the martyrdom of the jawans made the country's borders safe.

Addressing an event at the conclusion of the 38th National Games here, the

Union home minister said, "On this day in 2019, our 40 jawans were martyred in Pulwama. But their martyrdom made the country's borders safe.

"I pay tribute to them with all my heart. But through the airstrikes that followed Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a fitting reply to terrorists," he said.

The Pulwama attack and the airstrikes that followed have changed the way the world looked at India, he said. "It sent out a message to terrorists all over the world not to play with our troops or our borders." (PTI)

CBSE Class 10, 12 board exams begin, over 42 lakh students set to appear at 7,800 centres

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) board exams for Class 10 and 12 began on Saturday with over 42 lakh students set to appear for them at over 7,800 centres across the country and abroad.

According to board officials, a total of 24.12 lakh Class 10 students will appear for exams in 84 subjects, while over 17.88 lakh students will appear for Class 12 exams across 120 subjects.

The exams are scheduled at 7,842 centres in India and

26 centres abroad.

On the first day of the CBSE Board exams, Class 10 students appeared for English (Communicative) and English (Language and Literature) papers, while Class 12 students appeared for Entrepreneurship exam.

The Class 10 exams are scheduled to end on March 18 while Class 12 board exams will conclude on April 4.

The CBSE also began its annual counselling service ahead of board exams to alleviate examination-related stress and support students as they prepare for their theory

exams.

"A team of 66 trained professionals principals, counsellors, special educators from CBSE-affiliated schools, and psychologists will offer voluntary support to students. The services are available between 9.30 am to 5.30 pm from Monday to Saturday," a senior board official said.

"Fifty-one counsellors are based in India, while 15 counsellors will connect from Nepal, Japan, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates to guide students," he added. (PTI)

Decline of Regional Parties After Congress

Ajay Kumar

Lucknow : The rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the country's politics and the decline of several regional parties, including Congress, speaks volumes. Even though leaders opposing Modi and the BJP, frustrated by their defeat, are accusing the elections of rigging and misuse of government machinery, it is not that these opponents are unaware of their political weaknesses and immaturity. However, these repeatedly defeated leaders are unwilling to accept the truth. The truth is that apart from the BJP, no political party in the country has a democratic structure. This includes the country's oldest party, Congress, along with a long list of other parties such as Bahujan Samaj Party,

Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Biju Janata Dal, Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena, Sharad Pawar's NCP, Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress, and now even the supposedly honest 'Aam Aadmi Party'. Although the convenor of Aam Aadmi Party, Arvind Kejriwal, has not yet accused the EVM machines or government machinery of rigging following his loss in Delhi, the Samajwadi Party continues to rant after their huge defeat in the high-profile Milkpur Assembly seat in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, Congress President Kharge, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, and many other leaders from their party continue to raise similar concerns. The situation is such that, frustrated by their defeat, Modi's critics keep lashing out

not just at him and the BJP, but also at agencies like the Election Commission, CBI, and ED. These leaders do not hesitate to tarnish the image of the country to defame Modi and the BJP. Among them are educated leaders like Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, who studied abroad, and Arvind Kejriwal, a former IRS officer, as well as Tejashwi Yadav, son of Lalu Yadav, who too is stuck in a politics of accusations and counter-accusations.

In Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal has completely tarnished his image. The Kejriwal who emerged as a youth icon 12 years ago now lies in the dust. The same Kejriwal, who had made arrogant statements like "I am the master of Delhi" in the assembly and had embarrassed himself by accusing the

Haryana government of poisoning the Yamuna River, had dreamt of becoming Prime Minister after serving as Chief Minister of a half-developed state like Delhi, but now he has even lost his legislative seat. Political analysts say that just as quickly as Kejriwal rose in politics, he has fallen from grace. His future seems bleak, and the reason for this is his boastful attitude, failure to engage in trustworthy politics, and opportunism. In Delhi, Rahul Gandhi's failure has been even more embarrassing than Kejriwal's. For several elections now, Rahul Gandhi and Congress hold the record of zero seats in Delhi.

Just like Arvind Kejriwal, Akhilesh Yadav, who inherited the political legacy of his father Mulayam Singh Yadav, has also failed to live up to expectations.

After winning the 2012 assembly elections, the then Samajwadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav handed over the chief minister's chair to his son, Akhilesh Yadav, despite Akhilesh having no experience. Though Akhilesh has failed to make a significant impact on his own in politics, he has made a name for himself with his boastfulness and expertise in blaming others for his failures. When it comes to controversial statements, Akhilesh Yadav once mocked Lord Ram and his followers by calling Samajwadi Party's Member of Parliament from Ayodhya, Avdhesh Prasad, the new king of Ayodhya. He used to flaunt him like a trophy, but after the loss in the Milkpur Assembly election, Akhilesh has lost his composure. The Samajwadi Party leaders are so frustrated by the loss that the

party's general secretary, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, started advising Uttar Pradesh government officials to ignore Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's orders and instead lecture him. From Akhilesh Yadav to Shivpal Yadav and Ram Gopal Yadav, they are sinking deeper into despair. Ram Gopal has even called the Ram Lalla temple in Ayodhya useless. Samajwadi Party leaders have been relentlessly attacking the Chief Minister regarding alleged mismanagement during the Mahakumbh, but it remains unclear what the party is gaining from this, as the Samajwadi Party's public support base is completely shattered. In Milkpur, even the Yadav votes eluded the Samajwadi Party.

Robert F Kennedy Jr confirmed as Trump's health secretary after close Senate vote

Washington: The Senate on Thursday confirmed Robert F Kennedy Jr. as President Donald Trump's health secretary, putting the prominent vaccine sceptic in control of USD 1.7 trillion in federal spending, vaccine recommendations and food safety as well as health insurance programmes for roughly half the country.

Republicans fell in line behind Trump despite hesitancy over Kennedy views on vaccines, voting 52-48 to elevate the scion of one of America's most storied political — and Democratic — families to secretary of the Health and Human Services Department.

Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, who had polio as a child, was the only "no" vote among Republicans, mirroring his stands against Trump's picks for the Pentagon chief and director of national intelligence. All Democrats opposed Kennedy.

The GOP has largely embraced Kennedy's vision to "Make America Healthy Again" by directing the public health agencies to focus on chronic diseases such as obesity.

Kennedy, 71, whose name and family tragedies have put him in the national spotlight since he was a child, has earned a formidable following with his

populist and sometimes extreme views on food, chemicals and vaccines.

His audience only grew during the COVID-19 pandemic, when Kennedy devoted much of his time to a nonprofit that sued vaccine makers and harnessed social media campaigns to erode trust in vaccines as well as the government agencies that promote them.

With Trump's backing, Kennedy insisted he was "uniquely positioned" to revive trust in those public health agencies, which include the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes for Health.

Last week, Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., said he hoped Kennedy "goes wild" in reining in health care costs and improving Americans' health. But before agreeing to support Kennedy, potential holdout Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., a doctor who leads the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, required assurances that Kennedy would not make changes to existing vaccine recommendations.

During Senate hearings, Democrats tried to prod Kennedy to deny a long-discredited theory that vaccines cause autism. Some lawmakers also raised alarms

about Kennedy financially benefiting from changing vaccine guidelines or weakening federal lawsuit protections against vaccine makers.

Kennedy made more than USD 850,000 last year from an arrangement referring clients to a law firm that has sued the makers of Gardasil, a human papillomavirus vaccine that protects against cervical cancer. If confirmed as health secretary, he promised to reroute fees collected from the arrangement to his son.

Kennedy will take over the agency in the midst of a massive federal government shakeup, led by billionaire Elon Musk, that has shut off — even if temporarily — billions of taxpayer dollars in public health funding and left thousands of federal workers unsure about their jobs.

On Friday, the NIH announced it would cap billions of dollars in medical research given to universities and cancer being used to develop treatments for diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's.

Kennedy, too, has called for a staffing overhaul at the NIH, FDA and CDC. Last year, he promised to fire 600 employees at the NIH, the nation's largest funder of biomedical research. (PTI)

OpenAI board unanimously rejects Elon Musk's \$97.4 billion proposal



San Francisco: OpenAI says its board of directors has unanimously rejected a \$97.4 billion takeover bid by Elon Musk.

"OpenAI is not for sale, and the board has unanimously rejected Mr. Musk's latest attempt to disrupt his competition," said a statement Friday from Bret Taylor, chair of OpenAI's board.

OpenAI attorney William Savitt in a letter to Musk's attorney Friday said the proposal "is not in the best interests of OAI's mission and is rejected."

Musk, an early OpenAI investor, began a legal offensive against the ChatGPT-maker nearly a year ago, suing for breach of contract over what he said was the betrayal of

its founding aims as a nonprofit he helped found a decade ago.

Then on Monday, while that case was still awaiting a key ruling, Musk and his own AI startup, xAI, and a group of investment firms announced a bid to buy the nonprofit that controls OpenAI. Musk in a court filing Wednesday expanded on the proposal to acquire the nonprofit's controlling stake in the for-profit OpenAI subsidiary.

Savitt's letter Friday said that filing added "new material conditions to the proposal. As a result of that filing, it is now apparent that your clients' much-publicized bid is in fact not a bid at all." In any event, "even as first presented," the board has unanimously rejected it, Savitt said.

Musk has alleged in the lawsuit that the companies are violating the terms of his foundational contributions to the charity. Musk had invested about \$45 million in the startup from its founding until 2018, his lawyer has said.

He escalated the legal dispute late last year, adding new claims and defendants, including OpenAI's business partner Microsoft, and asking for a court order that would halt OpenAI's plans to more fully convert itself into a for-profit business. Musk also added xAI as a plaintiff, claiming that OpenAI was also unfairly stifling business competition.

A judge is still considering Musk's request but expressed scepticism about some of his claims in a court hearing last week. (PTI)

BUSINESS

Income Tax department activates section wise mapping of I-T Act, Tax bill

New Delhi: Income Tax payers can now match the sections of the I-Tax Act, 1961, with the corresponding clauses in the simplified I-T Bill, 2025, on the tax department portal.

Also, Section to Section mapping as per Income Tax Act, 1961 and Section number as per New Income Tax Bill has been uploaded on the I-T department's website.

A simplified Income Tax Bill, 2025, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on February 13 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The Bill, once enacted, will replace the 64 years old Income Tax Act which has become bulky over time with its traditional style of drafting and numerous amendments.

The simplified Bill has a word count of 2.6 lakh, lower than 5.12 lakh in the I-T Act. The number of Sections is 536, as against 819 effective sections in the existing law.

The number of chapters also have been halved to 23 from 47 currently. The Bill

has 57 tables, compared to 18 in the existing act, besides formulae which make it easier for a taxpayer to calculate tax liability. It has removed 1,200 provisos and 900 explanations.

In a post on X, the department on February 14 said it has activated the utility to check Section of the Income Tax Act, 1961, vis-a-vis corresponding clause of the new Income Tax Bill. A taxpayer can select the section of I-T Act, 1961, from a drop down menu and accordingly the corresponding clause in the I-T Bill will appear.

Besides, a section wise mapping has been given in tabular format for taxpayer convenience.

The Bill uses shorter sentences and has been made reader-friendly with the use of tables and formulae. Tables have been provided for provisions relating to TDS, presumptive taxation, salaries, and deductions for bad debt.

The Bill introduces a new concept of 'tax year' as the 12-month period beginning from April 1. This would replace the present concept of assessment and previous year. Currently, income earned in the previous year (PY) say in the year April 2024 to March 2025 will be assessed in assessment year (AY) 2025-26.

The Bill will come into effect from April 1, 2026, after it is vetted by a Select Committee of the Lok Sabha and cleared by Parliament.

The new bill has omitted redundant sections, like those relating to Fringe Benefit Tax. The Bill is free from 'explanations or provisos', thereby making it easier to read and comprehend.

Also, the word 'notwithstanding', which was used excessively in the Income Tax Act, 1961, has been done away with in the new Bill and almost everywhere replaced with the term 'irrespective'. (PTI)

PNB scam: Court allows auction of properties owned by Mehul Choksi's firm

Mumbai: A special court in Mumbai on Thursday allowed the auction of 13 properties of Gitanjali Gems Limited, a firm of fugitive diamond trader Mehul Choksi, the prime accused in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) loan fraud case.

Judge S M Menjoge of the special court hearing cases related to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), while allowing the official liquidator's plea, held that if the properties are kept idle without maintenance then it will definitely reduce the value.

These properties are: seven flats in Kheni Tower in Mumbai's Santacruz, a commercial unit in Bharat Diamond Bourse, four office units at Diamond Park in Gujarat's Surat and a shop there.

The liquidator had last week moved a plea, seeking to get a valuation of these properties which are not secured and later sell them by way of auction.

The Enforcement



Directorate (ED), in its response, had said that it has no objection if the plea was allowed.

The court then ruled that after undertaking the valuation process, the liquidator is allowed to auction the unsecured properties which are held by Gitanjali Gems Ltd.

It said the liquidators be allowed to open fixed deposits with ICICI Bank with respect to sale proceeds from the sale of assets.

The sale proceeds deposited in the form of fixed deposits (FDs) will be in favour of this court, the special judge said.

Choksi has been staying in Antigua since 2018 after leaving India.

His lawyer recently informed the court that Choksi is suspected to be suffering from cancer and is

undergoing treatment in Belgium.

Choksi, his nephew - fugitive diamond trader Nirav Modi - their family members, employees, PNB officials and others were booked by the ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 2018 for perpetrating the alleged loan fraud at the Brady House branch of the PNB in Mumbai.

It was alleged that Choksi, his firm Gitanjali Gems, and others "committed the offence of cheating against PNB in connivance with certain bank officials by fraudulently getting the LoUs (letters of undertaking) issued and got the FLCs (foreign letter of credit) enhanced without following prescribed procedure".

The anti money-laundering agency filed three charge sheets against Choksi till now.

The ED in 2019 told the Bombay High Court that Choksi was a "fugitive and absconder". (PTI)

State-of-the-Art Cath Lab Services Launched at Patliputra Hospital, Dhanbad

Priyanka

Dhanbad : Patliputra Hospital, located at Joraphatak, has introduced an advanced Cath Lab to enhance patient care. Addressing a gathering at the hospital auditorium, Director Dr. Nirmal Drolia stated that the hospital is continuously working towards providing better treatment for patients. As part of this initiative, the newly launched Cath Lab will facilitate the treatment of heart diseases. Additionally, this machine will offer brain angiography and



other neurological medical procedures.

The official inauguration of this Cath Lab is scheduled for February 16, 2025, and will be done by the Chief Guest Dhanbad MP Dhullu Mahto,

with Dhanbad MLA Raj Sinha as the distinguished guest.

Dr. Nikhil Drolia emphasized that with the installation of Philips' advanced Cath Lab, Patliputra Hospital will now offer treatment across

multiple specialties. The lab will enable angiography, angioplasty, pacemaker implantation, and other heart-related procedures. Patients will no longer need to travel outside the city for treatment, significantly reducing medical expenses.

Cardiologist Dr. Rahul advised that individuals experiencing symptoms such as chest heaviness, pain, or excessive sweating should not ignore them and should consult a doctor immediately.

Exclusive Handloom Expo in Dhanbad Extended for One More Week



Handloom Expo at Blessings Banquet Hall, featuring silk, cotton sarees, dupattas, and home furnishings, extended until Feb 21.

Sneha Chourasia

Dhanbad : The Exclusive Handloom Expo organised by the Weavers Service Center, Ranchi, at Blessings Banquet Hall, Bekarbandh near Polytechnic More, has been extended for one more week due to popular demand. The expo, which started on February 8, will now continue until February 21, offering customers a unique opportunity to purchase high-quality handloom products at discounted prices.

A total of 40 stalls have been set up, featuring handloom products from Jharkhand and other states. Customers can buy silk and cotton sarees, dupattas, dress materials, and home furnishing items at prices significantly lower than market rates.

Deputy Director of the Weavers Service Center, Ranchi, Manoj Kumar, highlighted that all products are being sold directly by the weavers, ensuring authenticity and affordability.

The expo remains open daily from 10 AM to 8 PM, providing ample time for shoppers to explore and purchase handloom products. Special discounts are being offered, making this a golden opportunity for Dhanbad residents to support artisans and grab exclusive handloom collections at the best prices.

With just a week left, customers are encouraged to visit and make the most of this handloom shopping festival, celebrating India's rich textile heritage while supporting traditional artisans.

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad Secures First Prize at Pan-India IIT FIPI Hackathon; Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Felicitates Team in Delhi

Priyanka

Dhanbad : A team of brilliant innovators from IIT (ISM) Dhanbad has achieved a remarkable milestone by winning the first prize at the prestigious Pan-India IIT Hackathon, organized by the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI) as part of India Energy Week 2025.

The award was presented today at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, Delhi, by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, in the presence of Shri Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

The winning team comprised Sayantika Thandar (M.Tech, Chemical), Riya Jaisawal (M.Tech, Chemical), Mohammad Faheem (B.Tech,



Chemical), and Md. Modassir Ashraf (B.Tech, Chemical). Under the mentorship of Prof. Ejaz Ahmad from the Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, they developed a patented process for the low-cost production of nitrogen-doped multilayer graphene nanopowder designed for CO adsorption and conversion.

This groundbreaking research utilizes bamboo

powder to create advanced graphene materials through an eco-friendly and sustainable process. The innovative technology offers a cost-effective solution for capturing and converting carbon dioxide, contributing to India's sustainable energy goals.

The hackathon, which focused on two key themes—Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) and the Development of Cost-Effective Renewable Energy Solutions—witnessed participation from premier IITs, including IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras, and IIT Roorkee.

Prof. Ejaz Ahmad expressed pride in the team's achievement, stating, "This recognition highlights the innovative potential of IIT

(ISM) Dhanbad students. Their invention is a step forward in sustainable energy solutions, aligning with India's energy transition objectives."

This victory further cements IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's reputation for excellence in technological innovation. Notably, in 2024, another team from the institute, Energy Nexus, won the Switch Energy Alliance Competition, outperforming participants from 31 countries in a rigorous three-round challenge.

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's consistent success in global and national competitions underscores its commitment to research-driven innovation and sustainable solutions, solidifying its leadership in the energy and environmental sectors.

Three-Day Free Specially-Abled Camp by MAYUM Dhanbad Koylanchal Branch Concludes

Priyanka

Dhanbad : The Marwari Yuva Manch (MAYUM) Dhanbad Koylanchal Branch, in collaboration with Shri Shri Shri Bhagwati Jagran Committee Shakti Mandir Dhanbad and Shri Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayata Samiti, successfully concluded its three-day free camp for specially-abled individuals. Initially planned as a two-day event, the overwhelming response and need led to its extension for a third day, held on February 9, 10, and 11, 2025, at Shakti Mandir, Joraphatak, Dhanbad.

During the camp, specially-abled individuals from different regions received



A total of 177 Specially-Abled Individuals Benefited

free prosthetic limbs, calipers, hearing aids, crutches, and wheelchairs. The inauguration on February 9, 2025, was graced by MAYUM National President Surendra Bhattar, Arun Gupta, Ajay Tayal, Vikas Patwari, Dhanbad Koylanchal Branch President Neeraj Agarwal, and Shakti Mandir Committee President S.P. Soundhi. They also distributed assistive devices to beneficiaries.

As part of the camp, limb

measurements were taken on the first day, and prosthetics were provided on February 10 and 11. A total of 177 specially-abled individuals benefited from the initiative, with 67 on February 9, 102 on February 10, and 8 on February 11.

The event was successfully conducted with the efforts of Surendra Bhattar (MAYUM National President), Arun Gupta (Jharkhand State President), General Secretary Sarthak Agarwal, Vice President Ajay Tayal, Assistant Minister Vikas Patwari, Provincial Coordinator Subhash Likhmania, Former Provincial President Praveen Goyal, Former Provincial Vice President Lalit Agarwal, Vivek Lilha, Neeraj Agarwal

(Dhanbad Koylanchal Branch President), Program Coordinator Shubham Mittal, Ankit Kathuria, Vice President Shiv Shankar Chaudhary (Advocate), Sanjay Agarwal, Secretary Sunita Agarwal, Treasurer Radha Kathuria, along with other MAYUM members.

Members of Shakti Mandir Committee, including President S.P. Soundhi, Arun Kumar Bhandari, Surendra Pal Arora, and representatives from Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayata Samiti, including Prabhakar Kumar Agarwal and Ritesh Patwari, also contributed significantly to the camp's success.

Baghmara MLA Shatrughan Mahto Inaugurates Free Cataract Surgery Camp in Malkera South Panchayat

Priyanka

Baghmara: MLA Shatrughan Mahto, along with Tata Steel Jamadoba General Manager Sanjay Rajoria, inaugurated a free eye check-up and cataract surgery camp in Malkera South Panchayat. The camp, organised by Tata Steel Foundation, featured renowned



ophthalmologists from the world-famous Shankar Nethralaya, Chennai. The inauguration took place with a

ribbon-cutting ceremony and the lighting of the ceremonial lamp.

During the event, Tata Steel Foundation extended a warm welcome to the MLA. Addressing the gathering, Shatrughan Mahto stated that people from remote rural areas often find it difficult to access advanced medical facilities in

cities like Chennai. To address this issue, Tata Steel Foundation, in collaboration with Shankar Nethralaya's expert team, brought a Mobile Eye Surgical Unit Van to the region. He encouraged people suffering from eye ailments to take advantage of this opportunity for free treatment.

Firing Incident in Gomoh: Woman Shot Dead, Husband in Custody

Sneha Chourasia

Gomoh : A tragic firing incident occurred in Gomoh Hatiatand, under the Hariharpur police station area, on Thursday evening, resulting in the death of 23-year-old Pratima Gupta. She sustained a gunshot wound to the head and succumbed to her injuries while being transferred from Topchanchi CHC to Dhanbad Medical College Hospital (SNMMCH).

Following the incident, Pratima's family accused her husband, Raunak Varnwal, of her murder. Chaos erupted at SNMMCH, where her father, brother, and relatives engaged in a heated confrontation with Raunak, who insisted that Pratima had shot herself. Saraidhela police intervened to control the situation and took Raunak into custody.

Hariharpur police station in-charge Rahul Jha arrived at Saraidhela police station to take custody of the accused. According to reports, after the shooting, Raunak and his family locked their house and took Pratima to a nearby nursing home in Saraidhela before transferring her to SNMMCH due to her critical condition.

The police are investigating Pratima's father, Krishna Prasad, and brother, Raj, as the father has allegedly

changed his statements multiple times, initially blaming Raunak and later claiming no one was responsible for the incident. Authorities will proceed based on the final statement from Pratima's family.

Pratima and Raunak had a love marriage in 2017, but their relationship reportedly turned sour after a few months. Frequent domestic disputes were well-known in their locality, though many residents claim they were unaware of any firing.

Raunak, who works as a computer operator in Jharia, told police that Pratima had called him before the incident, saying she was "going very far." Fearing trouble, he rushed home and claimed to have found her with a gunshot wound. However, the police have not yet recovered the pistol or bullet, as the house was locked at the time of their arrival. Investigators are questioning Raunak about the weapon's source and how it entered their home.

There are suspicions about Raunak's involvement in the coal business, which has prompted the police to explore whether illegal firearms were accessible to him. Authorities are working to trace the weapon used and gather forensic evidence to determine whether it was suicide or murder.

Discussion on Feminism, Translation Studies, and Critical Methodologies at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad

Priyanka

Dhanbad : IIT (ISM) Dhanbad successfully hosted a thought-provoking virtual workshop on "Women Writers and Thinkers in Modern Critical Tradition" under the prestigious GIAN (Global Initiative of Academic Networks) program of the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The workshop, held from February 10 to 14, was coordinated by Prof. Rajni Singh from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. Renowned scholars from across the world engaged in in-depth discussions on key topics, including feminism, translation studies, and critical methodologies.

The keynote speakers included Prof. Mena Mitrano from Ca' Foscari University, Venice, Prof. Rashmi Gaur from IIT Roorkee, and Prof. Rajni Singh. They contributed to a rich intellectual dialogue on modern critical traditions and feminist thought.



On the second day of the GIAN course, Prof. Rajni Singh delivered an enlightening lecture on Gertrude Stein's significant contributions to women's critical thinking. She highlighted Stein's pivotal role in modern critical traditions and her impact on modernist literature through her innovative writing and philosophical ideas. The discussion also explored Stein's feminist ideology and her legacy in modernist literature.

Prof. Singh's session further delved into Dalit women

writers and Dalit feminist epistemology, analyzing themes such as representation, power structures, and knowledge production. The lecture addressed crucial issues, including the contested definition of humanity, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's critique of Dalit representation, and Sandra Harding's challenge to objectivity in knowledge. The discourse underscored the intersectionality of caste and gender oppression and emphasized the need for collective identity and solidarity. Prof. Singh stressed that Dalit struggles should not be seen as their struggle but as our struggle, advocating for life-writing and interdisciplinary analysis as essential tools to challenge oppression and establish autonomy.

The workshop also featured interactive tutorials, allowing participants to engage in discussions, ask critical questions, and receive in-depth responses from the speakers.

The primary objective of the event was to provide a comprehensive understanding of significant shifts within the humanities, with a central focus on critical thinking. Participants were encouraged to interpret, discuss, and evaluate classical texts in literary criticism, critical theory, and literary theory while exploring their interdisciplinary relevance.

With over 150 participants, the workshop successfully achieved its goals, equipping attendees with advanced critical methodologies applicable across various disciplines. It provided an opportunity for participants to deepen their academic knowledge, enhance their research skills, and refine their understanding of literary and cultural criticism. The event reaffirmed IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's commitment to academic excellence and its crucial role in promoting humanities and critical thought within the Indian higher education system.

HURL Sindri organises Camp Under 100-Day Tuberculosis Campaign



The camp was attended by:

- **Dr. B. Sudarshan (WHO Doctor)- Kaushalendra Kumar Singh (Chairman, Indian Red Cross Society & DOT Plus Supervisor)**
- **Naushad Alam (STLS)- Tanveer Alam (TBHV)**
- **Suresh Pramanik (HURL Plant Manager)**
- **Dr. Jayesh Prasad (Physician)**
- **Other HURL officials and employees**

Priyanka

Sindri : HURL Sindri organised a health camp as part of the 100-Day Tuberculosis Campaign. The camp witnessed the participation of HURL officials, employees, and labourers, where 50 workers underwent TB screening.

During the event, participants took an oath to work towards eradicating tuberculosis

in their lifetime. They pledged to protect themselves, their families, colleagues, and neighbors from TB by following proper cough etiquette and to contribute towards making their villages, blocks, districts, states, and the entire nation TB-free.

The camp was inaugurated by HURL Project Head Suresh Pramanik, Dr. B. Sudarshan, and Indian Red Cross Society Chairman Kaushalendra Kumar Singh.

Manipur CM N. Biren Singh Resigns Amid Ethnic Violence; BJP Faces Tough Challenge in Finding a Successor

Ashok Kumar

Dhanbad : Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh resigned on Sunday, preventing a potential split in the BJP. However, the selection of a new chief minister remains a significant challenge for the party. The bigger challenge will be for the new leader to restore law and order in the state, which has been grappling with ethnic violence for nearly two years. Controlling the unrest will be a daunting task, and regaining the trust of the people will require tremendous effort.

Manipur shares a border with Myanmar, and accusations have been made that China has been instigating insurgent groups and tribal communities in the region. The current ethnic strife can be traced back to an order issued by the Manipur High Court on April 19, 2023, which granted Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the Meitei community, the state's majority group. The court directed the government to implement a decade-old recommendation for the inclusion of Meiteis in the ST category. This order triggered opposition from the Kuki community, leading to a series of violent clashes.

Manipur has 16 distriManipur has 16 districts, but it is broadly divided into two regions – Imphal Valley, dominated by the Meitei community, and the hilly districts, where Naga and Kuki tribes hold sway. The state's population is around 2.8 million, with Meiteis making up 53%, primarily residing in 10% of the state's land area. The Kuki community, comprising 30% of the population, strongly opposed the Meitei reservation, fearing it would deprive them of government jobs and educational opportunities.



Biren Singh (File Photo)

For nearly a decade, the Meitei community had been demanding Scheduled Tribe status. After failing to receive a favorable response from the government, the Meitei Tribe Committee approached the court, which ruled in their favor. Following this, the All Tribal Students' Union of Manipur (ATSUM) launched protests against the decision. Violence erupted in Imphal and Kuki-majority districts on May 3 and 4, 2023, during an "Solidarity March" organized by the tribal students' union.

The Manipur government responded by suspending mobile internet services for five days across the state and imposing curfews in eight districts. On May 4, 2023, BJP MLA Vungzagin Valte was attacked by a mob, and nearly 9,000 people were evacuated from violence-affected areas. As the ethnic conflict worsened, the Indian Army was deployed, and the Governor issued shoot-at-sight orders.

By May 8, 2023, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh announced that 60 innocent people had been killed, over 200 injured, and 35,000 displaced. Around 1,700 houses were burned, and looters stole 1,041 weapons and 7,460 rounds of ammunition from police armories. The central government formed a three-member judicial inquiry

commission, led by former Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Ajay Lamba, to investigate the violence.

On June 10, 2023, the Centre established a 51-member Peace Committee, headed by the Governor and N. Biren Singh, to restore harmony among different ethnic groups. However, the situation continued to deteriorate. On June 14 and 15, 2023, the official residence of Manipur's only woman minister, Nemcha Kipgen, was set ablaze in Imphal.

By June 24, 2023, the violence had intensified, with mobs targeting BJP leaders and offices. The residence of Union Minister R.K. Ranjan was set on fire, and armed groups attacked the BJP Mandal office in Imphal. Timely intervention by the Army and Rapid Action Force (RAF) prevented further destruction of BJP offices and residences of senior party leaders. On the same day, a mob set fire to the warehouse and farmhouse of Cabinet Minister L. Susindro in Imphal East district.

On August 4, 2023, the situation reached a new low when an armed mob stormed the 2nd India Reserve Battalion (IRB) headquarters in Bishnupur district. They looted LMGs, mortars, grenades, 298 SLR rifles, and over 16,000 rounds of ammunition.

Despite judicial interventions, violence persisted.

As the law-and-order situation worsened, the Manipur Congress announced plans to introduce a no-confidence motion against Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on February 10, 2025. However, a day before the motion, on February 9, 2025, N. Biren Singh resigned from his post, ending his tenure nearly two years after the violence began.

By November 2024, the ethnic conflict in Manipur had claimed 258 lives, and over 60,000 people had been displaced. The crisis also exposed deep rifts within the 60-member Manipur Assembly. Despite the BJP having 37 MLAs, internal dissent grew. This was evident when, on November 19, 2024, the party called an emergency meeting, which several BJP MLAs boycotted.

The National People's Party (NPP), a BJP ally with six MLAs, withdrew its support, with Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma openly expressing dissatisfaction with Biren Singh's leadership. Additionally, ten BJP MLAs from the Kuki community resigned, citing the government's failure to restore peace and security.

With N. Biren Singh stepping down, the BJP now faces the challenge of selecting a new leader who can navigate the deep-seated ethnic tensions. The new Chief Minister will have to restore public trust, rebuild security mechanisms, and bring peace to a state ravaged by violence.

Finding a leader who can unite the divided communities and establish lasting peace will be a daunting task. The BJP must act swiftly to prevent further political instability and ensure that Manipur moves towards stability and reconciliation.

Deputy Postmaster Caught Red-Handed Taking Bribe in Dhanbad



Sneha Chourasia

Dhanbad : In a major crackdown on corruption, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Deputy Postmaster Prabhat Ranjan of Koyla Nagar Township Post Office, Dhanbad, for allegedly accepting a ₹30,000 bribe in exchange for a promotion. The arrest took place at his Saraidhela residence on Wednesday night, causing an uproar in the postal department.

According to sources, an organized syndicate is allegedly active within the post office system, particularly in matters related to transfer and posting. Investigators believe that Prabhat Ranjan played a key role in these

activities. The CBI has launched a detailed investigation and is currently interrogating the accused to uncover further details.

The arrest has rattled officials not just in Dhanbad, but also in Ranchi and Patna. Authorities suspect that several other postal department officials may be involved in the bribery network. The CBI is conducting an in-depth probe, and a major revelation is expected soon.

The arrest highlights the CBI's ongoing efforts to curb corruption in government offices and ensure transparency in the promotion and transfer process. Officials have warned that strict action will be taken against anyone found guilty of malpractice.

Elderly Jharkhand man, two sons held for killing daughter

Koderma : A 73-year-old man and his two sons were arrested in Jharkhand's Koderma district allegedly for killing his teenage daughter who used to interact with a boy of the same village, much to the chagrin of her family, a police officer said on Friday.

The family was charged with strangulating the 18-year-old to death, first dumping the body inside the septic chamber of their house and then burying it on a river bank after beheading the corpse.

It is alleged that the teenager was killed by her 20-year-old brother, while others hid the body in those

two places.

Superintendent of Police Anudeep Singh said the family had lodged a missing report of the victim, who was supposed to appear for the Class 12 (intermediate) board examinations, with the police on February 5.

In the course of the investigation, the police found a headless female body buried under the sand on the bank of the Panchkhero river Markacho area on February 12.

When the family members were called, they claimed they did not recognise the body, the SP said.

The police, however, suspected foul play while talking to them as their versions did not match.

During a search in the septic tank in their residence in Brahmotoli village, a bunch of the victim's hair was found, Singh said.

They broke down during intense interrogation and admitted that on February 2, the younger of the victim's two brothers caught her sister talking over phone with the boy and strangled her in a fit of rage, the SP said.

At that time, only the two siblings were present at home.

The police officer said

that the family kept the body in the septic tank initially, but became afraid that the stench would reveal the crime. The corpse was there for eight days.

"So, they put the body in a sack, took it to the riverside on a bicycle and buried it under the sand after severing the head with an axe," the SP said.

Later, the head of the victim was also found near the river bank.

The police arrested the victim's father and two brothers on Thursday.

The bicycle and the axe used in the crime were also recovered. (PTI)

Jharkhand forest department confirms presence of tiger in Dalma forest range

Jamshedpur : Jharkhand officials on Friday confirmed the presence of a tiger in Dalma forest range near Jamshedpur after it was captured by a trap camera installed by the forest department.

The presence of the tiger was confirmed after it was captured on a camera in Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, divisional forest officer (DFO) Saba Alam Ansari said.

"We installed 40 trap cameras in the forest range since the tiger's presence was first reported on December 31," he said.

The tiger is believed to have entered the forest range from Palamu, he added.

Asked if any steps had been taken to capture the tiger, Ansari said, "We are closely monitoring its movement. There's no need to cage it as it is staying within its



natural habitat, and will likely return to where it came from."

The forest department is vigilant and continuing to watch the big cat's movement, he said.

Ansari added that the tiger's movement has been detected in various areas including Dalma, Ghatsila, Chakulia (in East Singhbhum district), and Purulia (West Bengal) before it returned to Dalma forest range.

The department has alerted villagers living near the forest range, advising them not to venture out alone at night, Ansari said. (PTI)

India's Fastest Skater, Dhanush Babu, Inspires Youth in Dhanbad

Priyanka

Dhanbad : India's fastest skater and Asia's third-fastest skater, Dhanush Babu, attended a special event at GD Goenka Public School, Dhanbad on Saturday. During the event, he shared insights into his remarkable journey, hard work, and success, inspiring young skaters to strive for excellence.

The event witnessed the presence of aspiring skaters, sports enthusiasts, teachers, and dignitaries from Dhanbad. Students engaged in an interactive session with Dhanush Babu, learning about his training methods, techniques, and mental preparation.

During the event, Dhanush Babu conducted a demonstration session, showcasing his skating techniques to Dhanbad's skating enthusiasts. He also



Key Achievements of Dhanush Babu:

- * India's fastest and Asia's third-fastest skater
- * Multiple national and international record holder
- * National champion in the 100-meter dash 2015 & national record holder* Famous as the "Triple Crown King of the 100-meter"
- * Six-time national champion and awarded India's Best Skater title
- * Represented India in international skating tournaments

emphasized the importance of discipline, consistent practice, and self-confidence in achieving success.

The management of GD

Goenka Public School, Dhanbad, expressed great joy in hosting this special event. They stated: "It is a moment of immense pride for us to

welcome India's fastest skater, Dhanush Babu, to our school. His journey and achievements serve as an inspiration for our students and young athletes. We hope that his experiences and guidance will motivate our students to excel in sports and other fields. GD Goenka Public School has always encouraged both academic excellence and co-curricular activities, and we will continue to do so."

This event was not just a historic moment for sports enthusiasts in Dhanbad but also an inspiration for the city's young athletes to aim for greater heights in the field of sports.

Dhanush Babu will be available in Dhanbad for the next six days. Those interested in seeking his guidance and mentorship can contact GD Goenka Public School, Dhanbad.

Dhanbad DC Inspects Loco Tank Renovation, Orders Speedy Completion

Sneha Chourasia

Dhanbad : Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate Madhavi Mishra conducted an inspection of the Loco Tank renovation and beautification project under Amrit 2.0 on Thursday. She reviewed the progress of construction work, including the boundary wall, ticket house, toilets, and steps, and instructed officials to expedite the project for timely completion.

During the site visit, contractor Manmohan Grover informed that a morning walk track will be constructed around three sides of the Loco Tank, excluding the railway-side stretch. Additional facilities such as parks, gazebos, open gyms, streetlights, and a designated parking area will also be developed to enhance the public utility of the space. Adequate lighting arrangements will be made to ensure safety and accessibility.

Several senior officials accompanied the Deputy



Madhavi Mishra inspecting Loco Tank Renovation

Commissioner during the inspection, including Sub-Divisional Officer Rajesh Kumar, Zonal Officer Shashikant Sinkar, Additional Municipal Commissioner Kamleshwar Narayan, Assistant Municipal Commissioner Prasun Kaushik, District Public Relations Officer Sunil Kumar Singh, and Executive Engineer of the Municipal Corporation.

The Loco Tank redevelopment under Amrit 2.0 is aimed at revitalizing urban spaces in Dhanbad, ensuring better public amenities and infrastructure. The administration has assured that the work will be completed in a time-bound manner to provide citizens with an improved recreational space.

School principal killed in bomb attack in Jharkhand's Deoghar

Deoghar: The principal of a middle school in Jharkhand's Deoghar district was on Thursday killed in a bomb attack by unidentified persons, a police officer said.

Sanjay Kumar Das, principal of Mahuadabar Middle School was on his way for some work from school on a two-wheeler when unidentified persons hurled bombs at him, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (Madhurpur) Satyendra Prasad

said.

Das was rushed to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead by doctors.

The SDPO said a police team rushed to the spot and began an investigation.

The reason behind the attack and the number of perpetrators was not yet ascertained, he said.

The police have launched a manhunt to trace the culprits, the officer added. (PTI)

Entrepreneurship Development Training Program organised for Bamboo Artisans

Priyanka

Bokaro : A six-day Entrepreneurship Development Training Program (EDP) sponsored by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, was inaugurated on February 9, 2025, and will continue until February 14, 2025. The event is being organised by Birsa Craft Producer Company Limited in collaboration with Jan Jagran Kendra, Hazaribagh.

The inauguration ceremony was marked by the lighting of the traditional lamp by chief guest Abid Hussain (LMD), Bank of India, Bokaro, special guest Bhuwan Bhaskar, Assistant Director, Handicrafts, Government of India (Deoghar Division), and Sanjay Kumar Singh, Secretary, Jan Jagran Kendra.

Addressing the artisans,



Participants at the inauguration of the six-day Entrepreneurship Development Training Program in Bokaro, aimed at empowering bamboo artisans, with chief guest Abid Hussain (LMD)

chief guest Abid Hussain encouraged them to take full advantage of the training program and strive to become successful entrepreneurs. He assured that artisans associated with Birsa Craft Producer Company Limited could avail low-interest loans under the MUDRA scheme through Bank of India to expand their businesses. He also pledged full support in promoting self-employment.

Bhuwan Bhaskar, Assistant Director, Handicrafts,

emphasized that the Handicrafts Department, through Birsa Craft Producer Company, is working towards empowering and making 300 bamboo artisans in Chandankiyari block, Bokaro, self-reliant. The workshop will provide detailed insights on business expansion and market connectivity. He added that such programs are regularly conducted by the Ministry to boost income and bring economic and social transformation.

Sanjay Kumar Singh,

Secretary of Jan Jagran Kendra, elaborated on the institution's efforts in the field of handicrafts and highlighted the role of participants in achieving the goals of Birsa Craft Producer Company Limited.

Vishal Kant, District Coordinator of Jan Jagran Kendra, shared valuable insights on how entrepreneurs can enhance their businesses, ensure quality production, and increase market demand for their products. Social worker Rajesh Singh appreciated the efforts of the Handicrafts Department and Jan Jagran Kendra in organising such programs in Bokaro for the growth of entrepreneurs.

The training program is being conducted by Ashwini Kumar and Bhupendra Upadhyay. A total of 20 bamboo artisans are undergoing training in this six-day program.

Delhi Assembly Election 2025: A Defining Shift in the Capital's Political Landscape

The 2025 Delhi Assembly elections have resulted in a significant political transformation, ending the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) decade-long rule and bringing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) back to power in the national capital after 27 years. According to the Election Commission of India, the BJP secured a strong lead with 44 out of 70 seats, while AAP trailed with 26 seats. Meanwhile, the Congress remained a marginal player in the contest, failing to make an impact.

The BJP's election strategy, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, revolved around two major themes: ensuring the continuation of AAP's welfare schemes and promising "double engine development," which focused on better collaboration between the state and central governments. At the same time, the party strongly attacked AAP over allegations of corruption, a factor that played a significant role in weakening the ruling party's standing among voters.

AAP, on the other hand, struggled against rising anti-incumbency sentiments and internal challenges. Several key leaders were embroiled in legal battles, with some spending considerable time in jail.

Additionally, the party seemed to have distanced itself from the middle-class voters who had once been its backbone, leading to growing dissatisfaction over governance, infrastructure, and civic management.

AAP initially rose to power in 2013 by appealing to middle-class frustrations with corruption and administrative inefficiencies. However, over time, the party's governance model became heavily centered around welfare politics,

prioritizing free electricity, water, and bus travel for women. While these schemes benefitted lower-income groups, middle-class residents felt neglected, particularly as civic amenities and urban infrastructure deteriorated.

In contrast, the BJP made concerted efforts to engage with middle-class voters through outreach initiatives, such as meetings with Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and assurances of better governance. Additionally, tax relief measures introduced in the Union Budget further strengthened BJP's appeal among this demographic, which constitutes approximately 67.16% of Delhi's population, as per a 2022 study by the People Research on India's Consumer Economy.

Recognizing the success of AAP's welfare policies in previous elections, the BJP strategically reassured voters that these social benefits, including free electricity and bus travel, would continue under its administration. By positioning itself as an improved version of AAP—committed to both welfare programs and better governance—the BJP successfully countered AAP's claim that a vote for the BJP would result in the continuation of these benefits.

One of the biggest concerns for Delhi residents was the worsening condition of infrastructure, particularly roads, drainage systems, and waste management. Under AAP's leadership, frequent complaints about overflowing sewers, pothole-ridden streets, and irregular garbage collection emerged. While AAP tried to blame the BJP-led Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the Lieutenant Governor (LG) for

these issues, voters ultimately held the state government responsible for failing to address them effectively. The BJP capitalized on this dissatisfaction, promising to streamline governance and bring much-needed improvements to Delhi's urban infrastructure.

AAP's tenure was also marked by continuous conflicts with the Lieutenant Governor, resulting in administrative deadlocks. The party frequently accused the LG—who represents the central government—of obstructing its initiatives. However, this prolonged tussle created an impression of ineffective governance. The BJP's promise of a "double engine government"—where both the Centre and Delhi's administration would work in coordination—resonated strongly with voters, especially those frustrated with delays in infrastructure development and civic management.

After nearly a decade in power, AAP faced inevitable anti-incumbency pressures. In an attempt to counter this, the party replaced several unpopular MLAs, but the move proved insufficient. Additionally, the party was grappling with a leadership crisis, as multiple senior figures were either imprisoned or entangled in legal proceedings. Arvind Kejriwal, once AAP's biggest political asset, saw his credibility erode due to these controversies. The BJP leveraged this situation, framing the election as a choice between a stable, corruption-free government and an administration bogged down by legal troubles and mismanagement.

With its return to power, the BJP now faces the responsibility of delivering on

its promises. The party must strike a balance between maintaining the popular welfare schemes introduced by AAP and implementing its vision for development. Additionally, the new administration will need to address pressing civic issues—such as poor road conditions and ineffective waste management—which significantly contributed to AAP's electoral decline.


For AAP, these election results highlight the need for deep introspection and strategic realignment. The party must rebuild its lost connection with the middle class, focus on governance improvements, and restore its credibility if it hopes to remain a key player in Delhi's political landscape.

Meanwhile, the Congress's continued decline in the capital signals an urgent need for restructuring and a fresh political approach. If the party hopes to stage a comeback, it must redefine its strategy and reconnect with Delhi's electorate.

The 2025 Delhi Assembly elections have ushered in a major political shift, reflecting a change in voter priorities from welfare-centric politics to demands for better governance and infrastructure development. The BJP's ability to secure a majority, despite AAP's decade-long dominance, underscores the electorate's desire for change.


The coming five years will be a crucial test for the BJP as it seeks to meet public expectations and transform governance in Delhi. Whether the party can successfully deliver on its promises and improve the city's administration remains to be seen.

HOROSCOPE



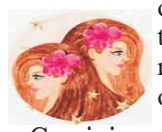
Your energy is just right for getting started on something big. It could be a new work initiative, a new lease, or even a new relationship. Whatever it is, you don't need to think twice this time.

Aries
Mar 21 - Apr 19




You've got to cultivate better relationships with colleagues and neighbors today, and that's easy for you! Just let them know you're listening and you're at least a little sympathetic to their needs.

Taurus
Apr 20 - May 20




Try not to worry too much about getting things done today. Much of that should take care of itself thanks to your great energy. It's a really good time for you to take on new work.

Gemini
May 21 - Jun 20



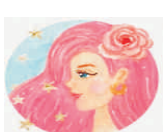
No matter what seems most important to you lately, your home life requires quite a bit more of your attention now. See if you can get your friends to leave you alone for a bit while you tackle it.

Cancer
Jun 21 - Jul 22




It's a really good time to sit down with that difficult coworker or preteen and tell them how it is, with kindness, of course! Your ability to communicate difficult truths is heightened now.

Leo
Jul 23 - Aug 22




It might not be all that easy for either of you, but it's time for a big talk with someone close. You almost certainly know what it's all about, so it's up to you to get the ball rolling.

Virgo
Aug 23 - Sep 22




Aesthetic and artistic matters should be foremost on your mind today, though of course, a few little practical issues may get in the way from time to time. Get your friends to handle them for you.

Libra
Sep 23 - Oct 22




Something is just beyond your grasp and it's driving you crazy! The good news is that you should either get your hands on it soon or just decide that you need to focus your efforts elsewhere.

Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 21




You can clearly see what needs to happen in order for you to keep moving in the right direction today, so make sure that you've got it going on! It's a really good day for exploration.

Sagittarius
Nov 22 - Dec 21




Now is the best time for you to start off in a new direction. You may leave a toxic relationship, tackle that big new career move or even decide to live in another country for a while. Go for it!

Capricorn
Dec 22 - Jan 19



You enjoy exploring different cultures and contrasting your own base assumptions with other ways of seeing the world, and right now, you've got a golden opportunity to do just that.

Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 18



Direct at least some of your energy outward today. Your people are in desperate need, but if you can figure out what they need, you can get it to them pretty quickly.

Pisces
Feb 19 - Mar 20

President rule imposed to settle internal conflicts within ruling coalition parties: Manipur CPI(M)

Imphal: CPI(M)'s Manipur Unit on Friday claimed that President's rule was imposed not in the interest of the state, but to buy time to settle the internal conflicts within the ruling coalition, particularly the BJP.

In a statement, party's state secretary Ksh Shanta said, "Chief minister, the main culprit, who was backed all along by the BJP-RSS, was forced to resign because his partisan role was being examined by a court, where evidence was presented of his sectarian role, leaving him with no choice but to quit."

President's rule was imposed in the state and the assembly put under suspended animation on February 13, days after chief minister N



Biren Singh resigned from his post which led to political uncertainty in the state.

"In all these developments, the central leadership of the ruling party and the central government refused to take required action to alleviate the deep suffering inflicted on the people of

Manipur, symbolised by the Prime Minister's callous refusal to even visit the troubled state," it added.

The party asserted that central rule was no solution.

"However, now the central government cannot escape its responsibility. It must immediately initiate

measures to heal the deep divisions through negotiations with representatives of different communities, taking all political parties into confidence to arrive at just solutions to bring normalcy, peace, and harmony while protecting the democratic rights of the people of the state, including the holding of elections within a time frame," it said.

Hours after President's rule was imposed in the strife-torn state on Thursday evening, Shanta said it should be immediately revoked and fresh elections held at the earliest.

He also claimed that the selfish quest for power among legislators brought the state to such a situation. (PTI)

MLA's men beat me up, made me drink urine: JD(U) leader



Purnea (Bihar): A JD(U) leader in Bihar's Purnea district on Thursday alleged that he was beaten up and forced to drink urine by supporters of a local MLA belonging to the RJD, the main opposition party.

According to Aditya Kumar, the Deputy Superintendent in charge for Baisi sub-division, an FIR has been lodged on the basis of the complaint of Rehan Fazal, who is undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

"Fazal has alleged that he was abducted by the henchmen of the MLA from Baisi on Wednesday night and taken to the latter's residence," said the official.

"He suspects that the MLA was upset with him as he had been exposing his

misdeeds like land-grabbing and fake MGNREGA job cards made in the name of family members," Kumar said.

Fazal has alleged that he was beaten up with a stick and a motorcycle shock absorber. He suffered a fracture in an arm and a leg, said the SDPO.

The complainant also claimed "when I asked for water, I was made to drink urine. The MLA's supporters had taken out a dagger to stab me. But they fled the spot as my wife, other family members and local villagers reached the spot and raised an alarm".

The legislator could not be reached over phone for comments.

Investigation is underway, police said. (PTI)

Does Centre owe Rs 1.7 lakh crore to Bengal, yes or no? Derek O'Brien asks FM

New Delhi: Trinamool Congress MPs on Thursday slammed the central government over West Bengal's "pending" dues and asked Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to clarify if the Centre owed around Rs 1.7 lakh crore to the state or not.

TMC Parliamentary party leader Derek O'Brien raised the issue during the finance minister's reply on the Budget in the Rajya Sabha.

Sitharaman said the 'PM Awas Yojana-Gramin' was implemented in West Bengal in 2016-17.

"The government has released Rs 25,798 crores as central share to the state since 2016-17. However, complaints of irregularities in the PM Awas Yojana, including the selection of

ineligible households for the Awas Plus 2018 list, removal of eligible households, and branding violations, were received. Similar things happened about MNREGA also," she said.

"We want Bengal also to know there is no discrimination..." she added.

O'Brien raised a point of order and questioned if the Centre owed Rs 7,500 crore to West Bengal under the MGNREGS and over Rs 8,000 crore for Awas Yojana.

He said 99 per cent compliance has been met by the state but the dues have not been paid. He also asked the minister to give a "yes or no" reply to whether the Centre owed a total of Rs 1.7 lakh crore to West Bengal.

Leader of the House J P Nadda intervened and accused the TMC of trying to

politicise the issue.

"You raise an issue and try to give an impression that injustice is being done with the state," Nadda said.

"The Union finance minister is answering one by one how the Modi government has done justice with their state and how the corrupt government of West Bengal is not responding to the norms and rules," he said.

TMC MPs then staged a walkout from the House.

Talking to reporters after the walkout, TMC deputy leader in Rajya Sabha Sagarika Ghose said the Centre owes West Bengal Rs 1,75,000 crore.

"Today, during the finance minister's reply speech in the Rajya Sabha, we, the Trinamool Congress, raised three very specific points. Rs 1,75,000 crore is

what the Centre owes to Bengal in terms of dues," Ghose said.

"We have received nil amount of money for the Awas Yojana since 2021. The Centre has blocked funds to Bengal for the Awas Yojana scheme since 2021. On the MGNREGA scheme, the Centre owes Rs 7,500 crores," she said.

"What the central government, what the Modi government is doing to Bengal is an economic blockade," she said.

"Therefore, we reject what the finance minister is saying about states, about what she is saying in her speech because of the central government. The Modi government is denying funds to Bengal," she said. (PTI)

Kumbh pilgrim dies as bus catches fire in UP's Firozabad

Firozabad (UP): A 33-year-old man from Rajasthan returning from Maha Kumbh died after a bus he was travelling in caught fire on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway here Firozabad district in the early hours of Saturday, police said.

According to the police, other passengers are safe.

Superintendent of Police (City) Ravi Shankar Prasad said the passengers had gone to attend the Maha Kumbh. After taking a dip at the Sangam, they went to Ayodhya for darshan and were returning from there.

Pawan Sharma, from Rajasthan's Nagaur, was

among the 52 passengers on board the ill-fated bus, the police said.

On Friday night, the bus left for Nagaur from Ayodhya. On the Lucknow-Agra Expressway at around 4 am, the vehicle caught fire, he said.

All the other passengers immediately got off the bus. However, Sharma who was sleeping when the incident happened, got stuck inside and died.

The body has been sent for post-mortem examination, the police said, adding that all the passengers were sent to their respective destinations by another bus. (PTI)

Man shot dead by brother over property dispute in Delhi

New Delhi: A man allegedly shot dead his 35-year-old brother over a property dispute in Delhi's Dwarka area, police said on Thursday.

The accused was identified as Ravinder Dalal, they said.

According to police, the incident occurred on Monday in Matiala village. They received a PCR call around 10 pm about the murder of Dharminder Dalal behind his house.

The police arrived at the scene and found that the victim had been shot twice, they said.

During the initial investigation, the police found that the brothers had been involved in the rental property business and had ongoing conflicts over property division and rental income, police said.




On Monday, an argument broke out between them and Ravinder killed Dharminder.

Ravinder, along with his associates -- Satinder, Zahid, and Amneesh, was arrested. During interrogation, they admitted to committing the crime, police said.

Ravinder also told the police that they had tried to resolve the issue in the gram panchayat but failed.

A case was registered and further investigation is underway, police added. (PTI)



BABA BAIDYANATH INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES & RESEARCH
(A unit of BABA BAIDYANATH MEDICAL TRUST)
Village - Mohanpur, Dardmara, P.S. - Jasidih, Tehsil & District - Deoghar, Jharkhand - 814112

REQUIREMENT

PROFESSORS / ASSO.C. PROF. / ASST. PROF. / SR. RESIDENTS / JR. RESIDENTS for the following departments (as per NMC/DCI/INC Norms) :-

PRE & PARA CLINICAL : Anatomy, Physiology, Bio - Chemistry, Pathology, Microbiology, Forensic Medicine, Pharmacology, Community Medicine

CLINICAL: General Medicine, Pediatrics, Respiratory Medicine, Psychiatry, Dermatology & Emergency Medicine, General Surgery, Orthopedics, ENT, Ophthalmology, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Radio Diagnosis, Anesthesiology & Hospital Administration (MGA), Dental Surgeons (MDS)

SUPPORT STAFF : Librarian, Pharmacist, Staff Nurses, Refractionist, Audiometry Technicians, Radiographic Technicians, CSSD Technician, OT Technician, Dental Technicians, Speech Therapist, Physiotherapist & Lab Technicians, Nurses, Driver, Attendant, Peon, Sweeper, Gardener, Multi Rehabilitation Worker (MRE), Workshop Workers, Dark Room Assistant, Steno-Typists, Store Keeper, Record Clerks, ECG Technician, Medical/Psychiatric Social Worker, Public Health Nurse, Drivers, Class V Staff, etc.

Qualifications, experience and pay and allowances for all the above positions: As per NMS, INC, DCI & Govt. of Jharkhand Guidelines

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Akhilesh's Arrogance is Becoming a 'Danger Bell' for SP

Ajay Kumar

Lucknow : After the defeat of the Aam Aadmi Party in the Delhi Legislative Assembly elections and the defeat of the Samajwadi Party in the Milkipur Assembly by-election in Ayodhya, the political mood in Uttar Pradesh is changing. This shifting atmosphere seems to be benefiting the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), while the Samajwadi Party (SP) is again confronted with the crucial question of how much trust it can place in the backward, Dalit, and minority (PDA) vote bank. While the SP leader was shaken by the loss in Milkipur, the more shocking aspect for Akhilesh is that even the Yadav community, alongside the PDA, turned their back on the Samajwadi Party. Milkipur has around 65,000 Yadav voters, and the reason for their shift away from the SP is attributed more to Akhilesh's handling than to anyone else, particularly

Awadhesh Prasad. Milkipur was once a seat dominated by the influence of Mitrasen Yadav, but in 2012 it was declared a Scheduled Caste (SC) seat, changing the political dynamics. Since then, Dalit leaders have emerged, with Awadhesh Prasad being one of them, who hails from the Pasi community. Moreover, Awadhesh Prasad never paid much attention to the Yadav voters in Milkipur. His relationships with the prominent SP leaders, Mitrasen Yadav and his son, were also strained.

While the BJP's victory in Milkipur seemed unlikely, the party made it easier through its political acumen. First, the BJP fielded a leader from Awadhesh's own community, Chandrabhan Paswan, against him. Second, the BJP succeeded in sending the message to the public that the Samajwadi Party is a family-run party, which is why it couldn't find a candidate

other than Awadhesh Prasad's son, despite having many prominent leaders in the area. Several Yadav leaders were on the list of candidates seeking tickets, and Akhilesh's decisions left them disappointed. As a result, the Yadav voters were eager to teach the Samajwadi Party a lesson. This is why the BJP's victory was decisive. After the results, the message among the public was clear: the SP's PDA vote bank had fallen apart.

Akhilesh had to personally step forward to tell his workers that the party would not back away from the PDA formula. The 2027 UP Assembly elections would still be fought with the support of the PDA, but after Milkipur's humiliating defeat, the SP was now concerned about increasing its vote bank. Before the 2027 elections, the SP might also try to align with smaller parties and their leaders who have a strong hold over their respective communities. Additionally,

Akhilesh has decided to continue raising Muslim issues in Parliament and on the streets to strengthen the Muslim vote bank, while staying silent on matters when necessary. This became evident during the incidents involving two Dalit girls in Ayodhya, where the SP's different stance was observed. In the first case, the accused was a Muslim community-linked SP leader, and the party, along with Ayodhya's SP MP Awadhesh Prasad, appeared to protect the accused. In the second case, when no such connection was found, the SP shed crocodile tears for the victim publicly. However, none of these tactics worked, as Dalits, backward classes, and Yadavs completely rejected the SP candidate. Only Muslims appeared to stand with the party. This is why, in Milkipur, Akhilesh's PDA, combined with BJP's Hindutva and Yogi's aggressive stance, caused significant damage.

While Akhilesh could not

forget the pain of Milkipur, his unease was further exacerbated by the huge crowds gathering daily at the Maha Kumbh. While people broke caste barriers to honor Sanatan's glory at the Kumbh, Akhilesh seemed to be working on discrediting the Kumbh and scaring people away. He seemed to believe that Yogi's Hindutva was overpowering the SP's PDA, and thus he tried to undermine the Kumbh's arrangements to deter people from attending. During the Mouni Amavasya, when a stampede led to casualties, Akhilesh intensified his political rhetoric, accusing the Yogi government of hiding the death toll. People began asking Akhilesh to clarify the death toll during the 1990 Ayodhya incident when his father, then Chief Minister Mulayam Singh, ordered police to open fire on unarmed karsevaks, turning the Sarayu river red with blood. However, Akhilesh does not

engage in answering such questions. At present, he is solely focused on criticizing Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Given all this, it would not be surprising if the Samajwadi Party faces even greater political losses in the future. Akhilesh seems to be focusing on securing 20% of the Muslim vote by defaming and dividing 80% of Hindus. But so far, he has not been successful in managing this delicate balance. Although his performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections was commendable, he knows that the victory was more due to internal conflicts within BJP than his own political prowess. Overall, Akhilesh is increasingly being seen as an arrogant leader. The biggest issue with Akhilesh is that in situations where he could have helped his party by staying silent, he continues to spew venom with his words.

Kiren Rijju reiterates Centre's resolve to restore statehood to J-K in due course

Srinagar: Union minister Kiren Rijju on Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have made it clear that statehood to Jammu and Kashmir will be restored in due course of time.

However, Rijju, who holds the parliamentary affairs and minority affairs portfolios, declined to give a timeline for the restoration of statehood to the Union Territory.

"The prime minister and the home minister made clear indications in the past that in due course of time, statehood will be restored (to Jammu and Kashmir) and the powers and functions will be demarcated very clearly," Rijju told reporters here.

The Lok Sabha MP from Arunachal West said he would not like to comment on the timeline for restoration of

statehood or division of powers between the lieutenant governor and the elected chief minister at this time as his visit to Kashmir was confined to the Union Budget.

"Therefore, I would not like to venture into the political and governance side... I can only say that Jammu and Kashmir is within the status of a Union Territory at this time. The lieutenant governor is the administrative head of the UT but we have also elected a government. We have a very successful government which was elected very recently," he said.

On the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, Rijju claimed that Andhra Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his Bihar counterpart Nitish Kumar were on board with the government's decision.

"The Waqf bill is for transparent management of properties for the benefit of Muslims. There is no way that anyone can snatch the properties," he said.

Asked if Naidu and Kumar were supportive of the bill, the minister replied in the affirmative saying several Muslim MPs too have privately supported it.

"Several Muslim MPs have expressed support (for the bill) while thousands of Muslims, including women, have welcomed it," Rijju said.

On the reduction in budgetary allocation for Jammu and Kashmir for the 2025-26 fiscal, Rijju said the provisions have been made as per the spending capacity of the Union Territory in the current fiscal.

The budgetary allocations are according to the Union Territory status. The

finance minister has made it clear that the allocation is as per spending capacity. She also said whatever money is needed will be provided. It does not include the centrally-sponsored schemes. There is no dearth of resources," he said.

The minister also said that there was relief for horticulture farmers and handicraft artisans of Jammu and Kashmir in the Budget.

"J-K has a special situation. There is a lot of relief for horticulture and handicrafts. Special mission mode announcements have been made to enhance exports of handicrafts and Kashmiri art," Rijju said.

After this Budget, small-scale and medium-scale industries will get a boost in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.(PTI)

Electrician dies while working on new power line in UP's Mathura

Mathura (UP): An electrician working on a new power line died while installing wires on an electricity pole near the Agricultural Market Square in the Highway police station area of Mathura on Friday, officials said.

Police have sent the body for post-mortem to determine the exact cause of death.

"A worker died while installing wires on a pole near Mandi Square connected to the Narsi Vihar feeder under the Highway police station area. His colleagues climbed the pole, brought him down using a rope and rushed him to the hospital, where doctors declared him dead," said Urban Electricity Department Superintending Engineer Suresh Chandra Rawat.

"Since a new power line was being installed, there was



no electricity flow in it. However, the worker's death suggests that he might have suffered a heart attack. The exact cause will be determined after the post-mortem report is available," he added.

Highway Police Station SHO Anand Kumar Shahi identified the deceased as Rahul, a resident of Santruk village in Rajasthan's Deeg district.

"He was working with a contractor for power line installation. His body has been sent for post-mortem and further action will be taken based on the report," he stated.(PTI)

Mysterious deaths in J&K: 350 villagers returned home in Rajouri after 22 days

Jammu: At least 350 members of 70 families, who were shifted to two separation facilities last month owing to mysterious deaths in their village, returned home in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, officials said.

Seventeen members of three families, including 13 children, died under mysterious circumstances after falling sick in remote Badhaal village of Kotranka Sub-division between December 7 and January 19.

After spending 22 days in the separation centres – Government Nursing College Building in Rajouri and

Government Boys' Higher Secondary School Rajouri – all the 350 members of 70 families were sent back to their homes on Thursday, the officials said.

However, over 30 more persons belonging to victim families, who are under observation at Government Medical College hospital in Rajouri, are not moving out for the time being, the officials said.

Though the exact cause of the deaths in the village remained unclear so far despite authorities roping in experts from premier health institutions across the country, some neurotoxin in the food chain is

suspected as the main cause for the mysterious disease.

While people were provided all kinds of facilities at the separation facilities, dedicated teams of officials were also stationed in the village to take care of livestock of the shifted families.

Rajouri Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma personally saw the return of the villagers to their homes on the advise of the experts.

"Our task is not completed yet, we will continue our monitoring mechanism at the village till the Special

Investigation Team (SIT) of police submits its report. Over 180 government officials are posted in the village, monitoring daily activities," he said.

Sharma said over 700 other households in the village are under watch, while all the pesticide shops in the entire district were closed as a precautionary measure.

He said all the stock of grains and dry ration in the houses were replaced by the food, civil supplies and consumer affairs department by fresh stocks.(PTI)

Navi Mumbai: Unidentified persons fire two rounds at construction site; no one hurt

Thane: Two rounds were fired at a construction site in Airoli in Navi Mumbai on Thursday, though no one was injured in the incident, a police official said.

The incident took place near Shiv Colony in Airoli Sector 1, the Rabale police station official added.

"Two rounds were fired on a wall at the site. No one was injured. It seems the motive was to intimidate people there. It may be the fallout of a monetary dispute. A police team is at the site and further probe is underway to nab the accused," he said.(PTI)

NIT America's 23-Member Team reaches Chatrutanr Panchayat Secretariat for Polio Drive in Baghmara

Ashok Kumar

Dhanbad : A 23-member team from NIT America arrived at Chatrutanr Panchayat Secretariat as part of an ongoing project under the Rotary Club Dhanbad. The initiative, known as the

"1,000 Days Project," focuses on maternal and child care from pregnancy until a child turns two years old. As part of the project, young women conduct awareness camps to educate mothers on proper child-

nurturing practices. During today's visit, the NIT America team distributed protein supplements to pregnant women and administered polio drops to children under two years of age.

Asangathit Majdoor Morcha Sindri Submitted Eight-Point Charter of demands to HURL Management

Priyanka

Sindri : The Sindri branch of the Asangathit Majdoor Morcha organised a public meeting near the main gate of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL) factory to raise its seven-point demand. Following the meeting, a delegation led by the central president of the Asangathit Majdoor Morcha and CPI(ML) MLA from Nirsa, Arup Chatterjee, met HURL Sindri's General Manager (VP), Suresh Pramanik, and submitted an eight-point demand letter.

The submitted demands include providing employment opportunities to local unemployed youth, offering



MLA Arup Chatterjee submitting Eight Point demand to HURL Sindri's General manager

housing to former employees of FCIL and PDIL and their dependents at reasonable rates, or first implementing a proper rehabilitation plan before vacating houses. It also demanded that wages of workers employed at HURL Sindri be determined based on skill levels, training be provided to youth under the

Apprentices Act, and a fully equipped hospital with modern medical facilities be established for the health benefits of former FCIL and PDIL employees and their dependents. Additionally, the charter urged for the reopening of Sindri's pride, Rajendra School.

Dhanbad Administration Organises Workshop on Safe Internet Use

Sneha Chourasia

Dhanbad : Emphasizing the importance of cybersecurity and digital awareness, the Dhanbad district administration organised a workshop on Safe Internet Day at the Collectorate auditorium on Tuesday. The session, chaired by Deputy Commissioner cum District Magistrate Madhavi Mishra, focused on safe internet practices, preventing cyber fraud, and raising awareness about digital threats.

Addressing the gathering, Madhavi Mishra highlighted that while the internet has simplified daily life, it also presents significant risks. She warned against shortcuts to earning money and falling into financial traps set by cybercriminals, including:

- ✓ Digital Arrest Scams
- ✓ Fraudulent Investment Schemes
- ✓ Online Gaming Scams
- ✓ Phishing and WhatsApp Fraud

She urged residents to remain vigilant and informed, ensuring safe transactions and avoiding public charging stations, public WiFi, and unknown WhatsApp calls or video calls.

Cyber Police Station In-charge Akshay Kumar Ram advised people not to panic if they receive threats of digital arrest or false legal action. He explained that cybercriminals exploit fear and ignorance to commit fraud.



Participants were given practical tips to stay safe online, including:

- Never share OTPs, Aadhaar, PAN, or bank details with unknown people
- Avoid clicking on suspicious links
- Do not scan QR codes to receive payments from strangers
- Use strong passwords and enable two-factor authentication
- Stay alert about AI-driven frauds, deepfakes, and social media scams

Victims should immediately call 1930 and report incidents on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal to freeze fraudulent transactions.

The workshop saw participation from senior officials, including Deputy Development Commissioner Sadat Anwar, ADM Law and Order Piyush Sinha, Sub-Divisional Officer Rajesh Kumar, ADM Supply Ziaul Ansari, District Social Welfare Officer

Anita Kujur, District Public Relations Officer Sunil Kumar Singh, Cyber Police Station In-charge Akshay Kumar Ram, DPM JSLPS Shailesh Ranjan, DIO Sunita Tulsyan, CSC Manager Anjar Hussain

With the growing threat of cybercrime, the Dhanbad administration is committed to spreading digital awareness and cybersecurity education to protect citizens from online fraud.

Electricity Theft Crackdown in Dhanbad: 85 Caught, ₹14.74 Lakh Fine Imposed

Sneha Chourasia

Dhanbad : In a major crackdown against electricity theft, 85 people were caught on Tuesday during a raid conducted at 663 locations across Dhanbad and Chas Circles. The Dhanbad Area Board led the campaign, imposing a total fine of ₹14.74 lakh on violators.

According to officials, the operation was carried out under the supervision of Junior Engineers (JE), Assistant Engineers, and

Executive Engineers. In the Dhanbad Circle, 32 people were caught stealing electricity from 343 locations, leading to a fine of ₹4.99 lakh. The breakdown of arrests includes 11 in Dhanbad Division, 5 in Govindpur, 8 in Nirsa, and 8 in Jharia Division.

Similarly, in the Chas Circle, authorities conducted raids at 310 locations, caught 53 offenders and imposed a hefty fine of ₹9.75 lakh. Among those caught, 19 were from Chas, 16 from Loyabad, and 18 from Tenughat.

The police force was actively deployed during the raids to ensure law and order. Superintending Engineer SK Kashyap confirmed the success of the operation and emphasized that strict action would continue against electricity theft.

Authorities have urged residents to refrain from illegal electricity usage and warned that future offenders could face legal action in addition to heavy fines.

Uncontrolled Car Creates Chaos in Jharia, Half a Dozen Injured



Locals checking the car after the accident

Sneha Chourasia

Dhanbad : A speeding, out-of-control car wreaked havoc on the roads of Kulhi area, Jharia on Wednesday, injuring about six people. The accident led to chaos at the scene, with locals rushing to help the injured, who were immediately taken to the hospital for medical attention.

Vishal Kumar, a resident of Jamadoba, recounted that he was on his way to work around 9:00 AM when suddenly a high-speed car lost control and hit several

pedestrians. Among the injured were Bittu Ansari of Belgaria and a few others, who suffered serious injuries in the mishap.

Following the incident, the victims were taken to Shaheed Nirmal Mahto Medical College Hospital (SNMMCH) for treatment. However, due to the severity of their injuries, some were referred to higher medical facilities for better care.

Taking swift action, the Jharia police managed to seize the vehicle and detain the driver in the Jharia police

station area. Authorities have launched an investigation to determine whether the accident was caused by negligent driving, mechanical failure, or other reasons.

The incident has sparked concern among local residents, who are demanding strict traffic regulations and better enforcement of road safety measures to prevent such reckless driving accidents in the future.

JEE Mains January 2025 Results Out: Dhanbad's Abhimanyu Tebriwal Tops Jharkhand with 99.99 Percentile

Sneha

Dhanbad : The results for the January session of JEE Mains 2025 were released on Tuesday, with several students from Jharkhand securing top ranks. However, no student from Jharkhand made it to the national top 10. Abhimanyu Tebriwal of Dhanbad emerged as the state topper, securing an impressive 99.99 percentile.

Following closely behind, Yash Kumar from Hazaribagh, who is preparing in Ranchi, scored 99.98 percentile, along with Sahil Akash, who also secured 99.98 percentile. Their outstanding performance has

Other top scorers from the state include:

- **Arnab Pandey** - 99.94 percentile
- **Vishesh** - 99.93 percentile
- **Aditya Mishra (Dhanbad)** - 99.93 percentile
- **Lavanya Bhaskar** - 99.7 percentile

brought pride to Jharkhand.

In the first session of JEE Mains 2025, 14 students secured a perfect 100 percentile. Among them, 12 are from the general

category, one from OBC, and one from the SC category. More than 12.58 lakh candidates appeared for this highly competitive exam across the country.

With his remarkable performance, Abhimanyu Tebriwal has not only topped Jharkhand but also made a mark at the national level, bringing pride to Dhanbad and the entire state.

After the JEE Mains results, the focus now shifts to JEE Advanced 2025, which will determine admissions to prestigious IITs across India. Students who have cleared the cutoff will now gear up for the next level of the examination.

Valentine's Day, Gen Z, and the Fading Love: How the Digital Generation Is Redefining Romance

Sneha Chourasia



Valentine's Day, once synonymous with grand romantic gestures, love letters, and face-to-face confessions, is witnessing a transformation in the digital age. Gen Z, the first generation to grow up entirely in the era of the internet and social media, is redefining love, relationships, and dating in ways that previous generations never imagined. While traditional notions of romance still persist, they are increasingly being shaped by technology, changing societal values, and a shift towards individualism. Unlike the generations before them, Gen Z has embraced online dating apps, social media, and digital communication as primary ways of forming and maintaining relationships. Platforms like Tinder, Bumble, Hinge, and even Instagram and Snapchat serve as modern matchmaking tools, replacing the traditional meet-cute moments of the past.

For Gen Z, texting, video calls, and DMs (direct messages) have become just as meaningful as face-to-face interactions. Expressions of love now include Snapchat streaks, late-night FaceTime calls, Spotify playlist sharing, and even TikTok trends that celebrate relationships in quirky ways. In a way, digital love languages have evolved alongside traditional romantic gestures, making relationships more dynamic and accessible.

One of the most significant shifts in Gen Z's approach to love is the redefinition of commitment. While long-term relationships and marriage were once seen as the ultimate goals of romance, younger individuals prioritize self-growth, career ambitions, and mental well-being before settling down.

Many prefer situationships—a term describing romantic connections that lack clear labels or long-term expectations. Unlike past generations that often sought stability through marriage at a younger age, Gen Z is more open to fluidity in relationships, exploring love in their own time and terms. Social media has both strengthened and complicated modern romance. On the one hand, it allows couples to stay connected, celebrate love publicly, and express emotions creatively. On the other, it has introduced new challenges like comparison culture, digital jealousy, and the pressure to maintain a 'perfect' relationship online.

Scrolling through Instagram, Gen Z is bombarded with curated images of "ideal" relationships, often setting unrealistic expectations. The fear of being "ghosted" (suddenly ignored), breadcrumbing (leading someone on with minimal effort), or orbiting (watching someone's posts without engaging) are new-age romantic dilemmas that didn't exist in the pre-digital era.

Unlike previous generations, Gen Z places a greater emphasis on mental health in relationships. They are more aware of red flags, toxic behaviors, and the

importance of boundaries. Terms like "love bombing," "gaslighting," and "attachment styles" are widely discussed, showing a more informed approach to love and emotional well-being.

Moreover, self-love and personal development are seen as prerequisites for a successful relationship. Many Gen Z individuals choose to stay single longer or prioritize friendships and personal goals over traditional romance. This shift signifies a move towards more intentional and meaningful connections, rather than rushing into relationships due to societal expectations. While Valentine's Day remains popular, its celebration has evolved. Instead of just couple-centric traditions, Gen Z has expanded the day to include self-love, platonic appreciation, and group celebrations. Concepts like "Galentine's Day" (celebrating female friendships), "Palentine's Day" (appreciating all friends), and self-care rituals have gained popularity.

E-commerce and social media have also transformed how gifts are exchanged, with personalized gifts, digital surprises, and experience-based gifts (travel, concerts, or adventure activities) replacing conventional chocolates and roses.

As technology continues to evolve, so will the way Gen Z approaches relationships. The rise of AI-driven dating platforms, virtual reality meetups, and long-distance digital love might further redefine romance. However, one thing remains unchanged—the human desire for connection and affection.

While love may look different in the Gen Z era, its essence remains the same. Whether expressed through a heartfelt text, a meme, a playlist, romance continues to thrive—just in new, untraditional ways.

Shree Ram Mahayagya Concludes at Chitahi Dham with Purnahuti Havan and Mahabhandara

Sneha Chourasia

Dhanbad : The nine-day-long Shri Ram Mahayagya at Chitahi Dham concluded with the Purnahuti Havan and a grand Mahabhandara, where over one lakh devotees received Mahaprasad. The annual festival, organised at the Shree Shree Ramraj Temple, witnessed large-scale participation from devotees, saints, and dignitaries.

The main host of the Mahayagya, Savitri Devi, wife of Dhanbad MP Dhullu Mahto, along with Baghmara MLA Shatrughan Mahto and his wife Doli Devi, actively participated in the sacred rituals. Other key devotees, including Ramprasad Mahato, Laxman Mahato, and Bharat Mahato, were also



Dhullu Mahto and his wife performing Purnahuti Havan at Chitahi Dham present with their families.

The rituals were conducted under the guidance of Acharya Rajendra Prasad Pandey, along with Acharya Pandit Ashish Ayodhya and a group of Vedic scholars. The ceremony included Mandap Pujan, Navgrah Pujan, Vastu Pujan, Kshetrapal Pujan, Panchvedi Pujan, and sacrificial

offerings in the Navkund.

The Purnahuti of the Mahayagya was performed with the prayers for the victory of righteousness, the destruction of unrighteousness, universal goodwill, and world peace. The spiritual atmosphere resonated with Vedic chants and devotional fervor, drawing thousands of devotees to seek blessings.

Following the completion of rituals, a Mahabhandara was organised, where over one lakh devotees were served Mahaprasad by the Yagya sevaks. The enthusiasm among the devotees was evident as long queues for Mahaprasad extended till late evening.

The event saw a huge turnout of devotees from across the region, including members of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

Dhanbad's Asian Hospital Successfully Treats Severe Lung Condition for the First Time

Priyanka

Dhanbad : In a significant medical achievement, Dr. Bandika Prithviraj, an experienced pulmonologist at Asian Hospital Dhanbad Center, successfully treated a 60-year-old patient suffering from a severe lung condition for the past two years. The patient had been struggling with fluid accumulation in the lungs and had consulted multiple hospitals across different cities but found no permanent relief.

Taking on this challenging case, Dr. Prithviraj performed an advanced Minimally Invasive Medical Thoracoscopy to diagnose the source of the fluid accumulation. The diagnosis enabled precise, evidence-based treatment, making the patient completely healthy. This was the first time such a procedure was successfully conducted in Dhanbad.

Dr. Bandika Prithviraj emphasized that lung health is crucial in highly polluted cities



Pollution in highly polluted cities like Dhanbad makes lung health a priority: Dr. Bandika Prithviraj

like Dhanbad. She pointed out that fluid in the lungs can have hundreds of causes, and symptoms such as persistent cough, breathlessness, coughing up blood, and unexplained weight loss should not be ignored. She urged people to consult a specialist pulmonologist at the earliest for proper diagnosis and treatment.

She further stressed the importance of avoiding smoking, wearing masks in dusty areas, maintaining a balanced diet, and practicing regular yoga and exercise for lung health.

Asian Hospital Dhanbad Center, located in Bartand, now offers comprehensive respiratory and pulmonology treatments, including a specialized respiratory ICU, under the leadership of Dr. Bandika Prithviraj and Dr. Dinesh, Head of Critical Care. With expert doctors and advanced diagnostic facilities, patients no longer need to travel to bigger cities for lung treatment.

To share this vital information with the public, Asian Hospital Center Head C. Rajan and official Md. Tajuddin were also present.

14 Students of DAV Koyla Nagar Score Above 90% in JEE Main 2025

Sneha Chourasia

Dhanbad: DAV Public School, Koyla Nagar, has once again showcased its academic excellence as 14 students secured more than 90% marks in the JEE Main 2025 Session-1 examination.

Among the achievers, Sachin Mandal topped the school with an impressive 99.77 percentile, followed by Tusar Kanti Singh (98.02), Sachin Kumar (97.93), Dhruv Chaudhary (97.89), Rahul Raj (97.73), Ritisha Kandve (97.30), and Somya Raj (97.16). Other high scorers included Premmoj (95.64), Karan Kumar Jha (95.27), Pankaj Kumar

(95.25), Monal Kumar Verma (95.24), Aditi Kumari (93.53), Ayush Kumar Chauhan (91.16), and Alok Anand (90.00).

On this remarkable achievement, Principal and Regional Officer of DAV

Jharkhand Region-C, NN Srivastava, expressed his joy, stating, "There is an atmosphere of happiness in the school. I heartily congratulate all the students and wish them even greater success in JEE Main 2025 Session-2." He further extended his gratitude to the parents, emphasizing that this success is the result of discipline, dedication, and strong values instilled in the students.

The outstanding results have brought immense pride to the school, reinforcing its commitment to academic excellence and holistic development.

Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati's 201st Birth Anniversary Celebrated with Enthusiasm at DAV Koyla Nagar

Sneha Chourasia

Dhanbad : The 201st birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, the founder of Arya Samaj, was celebrated with great zeal at DAV Public School, Koyla Nagar. The event began with Vedic chanting, followed by floral tributes to the great reformer.

On this occasion, Principal and Regional Officer of DAV Jharkhand Region-C, NN Srivastava, highlighted Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati's immense contribution to India's social and educational reforms. He emphasized how Dayanand Saraswati played a crucial role in the 19th-century social



Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati's 201st Birth Anniversary Celebration at DAV Koyla Nagar

reform movements and was a strong advocate of women's education and rights. The Principal also spoke about Dayanand ji's famous book, "Satyarth Prakash", which remains relevant even today.

To mark the occasion, an inter-house sports competition was organized, in which Nalanda House emerged victorious over Vallabhi House

with a 2-0 win in the final. Addressing the students, the Principal stressed the importance of balancing academics with sports for overall growth and well-being.

The program concluded with enthusiastic participation from students and teachers, reaffirming the legacy of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati's teachings and ideals.

Shreyas Iyer: India's middle-order hustler and calming element

Bengaluru: Shreyas Iyer is fidgety at the crease, almost Steve Smith-like. He keeps swinging the bat up and down against pacers, and walks across the stumps against the spinners. He often adopts different stances too.

It gives his batting a touch of restlessness. But behind that exterior disquiet, works a steady, calculative brain focused on finding run-making ways, and it will be India's biggest asset going into the Champions Trophy.

India will have varied threats to negate in the ICC showpiece's league stages — spin from Bangladesh and New Zealand and pace from Pakistan.

In No. 4 Shreyas, India has the best possible candidate for that job.

Let's go through how the 30-year-old fares against spin in the ODIs, and he will face left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner and off-spinner Michael Bracewell while playing against New Zealand.

The Kiwis spin twins had applied breaks on Pakistan batters in the middle passage, where Shreyas too will bat, during the tri-series final at Karachi on Friday.

The Mumbai man will also have to negate a set of slow bowlers from Bangladesh like veteran left-arm spinner Mahmudullah.

Shreyas has made 432 runs against left-arm variety from 29 innings at a stunning average of 144 and his control percentage is 88.4%. He has been dismissed three times by left-arm spinners.

The numbers are less spectacular against off-spinners but in 25 innings he



India's Shreyas Iyer plays a shot during the third One Day International

has made 290 runs against that iteration at an average of 72.5 but strikes at 118 as against 97 against the southpaws.

His control against off-spinners touches 90.2%, but he was dismissed four times by them.

His most productive phase against spin is between overs 21 and 30, where he has made 363 runs at an average of 90.8 and the tweekers have managed to jettison him 14 times across 65 ODIs.

Shreyas has not played much against Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf, but has taken 29 runs out of them in two matches at an average of 50.

But overall, the right-hander has 1531 runs against quick bowlers in ODIs, at an average of 40 and at a strike-

rate of 101.7.

He often gets trolled for his inability to deal with snorters, but Shreyas has made some improvements in that department since 2022.

Now, he has a strike-rate of 170 while employing that particular shot against pacers in the last three years, and does not often get into awkward positions in the attempt to play the pull or hook.

He has an overall strike-rate of 102.49 in ODIs, vindicating his bold approach in the 50-over format.

But that downright aggression is one facet of his game. He can knock the ball around a bit for singles and twos when the bowlers are on top of their game.

He can also find unusual scoring areas to frustrate

bowlers, a quick rewind to India's tour to New Zealand in 2022 will reveal that.

Pacer Blair Tuckener tried to cramp him with a delivery aimed at his toes, but Shreyas gave himself some room, twisted his wrists and carved the ball through the covers for a four in a delicious arc of the bat, as the bowler walked back with a shake of his head.

He made a 29-ball 58 at Auckland in India's six-wicket win in the first T20I.

Former India coach Rahul Dravid was impressed.

"Shreyas is the backbone of the middle-order. You just look at some of his knocks under pressure, how he's able to actually bring the best out of himself under those pressure situations," Dravid had said.

In fact, Shreyas' presence at No.4 is a huge relief for Virat Kohli (No. 3) and KL Rahul (No. 5), as they can pursue their own game methods without worrying much about the run flow.

At once, Shreyas is the ruffler and the calming element in this Indian lineup.

It is the result of his desire to improve and evolve, and he has also learned to value his place in the team a tad more after the omission from the central contract last year.

Now, there is a visible hunger to exploit every opportunity that comes his way, and standing at the podium on March 9 will be a glittering addition to his growing legacy. (PTI)

Gukesh loses to Firouzja, ends last in Freestyle play-off



Hamburg (Germany): World champion D Gukesh finished last after losing to Iranian-French grandmaster Alireza Firouzja in the second game of their seventh-place playoff match at the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam here.

Gukesh thus concluded his forgettable campaign in the tournament at Weissenhaus resort without a single win.

After a lost battle that ended in a draw on the first day, the ball was in Gukesh's court to do well as the white pieces, but clearly, the world champion had run out of steam to lose in 30 moves.

The test of time started in the middle game when Gukesh made a mistake and had to part with his queen for two pieces. While Firouzja made good use of his material advantage.

Meanwhile, local favourite Vincent Keymer won the first edition despite being touted as a rookie at the start.

The German winning the first leg over many of his fancied rivals is good news for the event's sponsors who started it keeping in mind the chess connoisseurs.

It is no secret that FIDE, the world's apex chess body, does not like Chess 960, also known as Fischer Random Chess, or the

Freestyle Chess. But it is here to stay.

Pre-tournament favourite Magnus Carlsen won his second game on the trot at the expense of Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan — the other big find of the tournament.

Sindarov had gotten in after the withdrawal of Viswanathan Anand and proved himself more than worthy of the invite by reaching the Semis.

However with Carlsen on song, the Uzbek did not stand a chance and was punished for the second day in a row by the world's best player.

Hikaru Nakamura won his mini-match 2-0 against another Uzbek Nodirbek Abdusattorov to end on the fifth spot.

Results: Vincent Keymer (Ger) beat Fabiano Caruana (Usa) 1.5-0.5; Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb) lost to Hikaru Nakamura (Usa) 0-2; Alireza Firouzja (Fra) beat D Gukesh (Ind) 1.5-0.5; Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) lost to Magnus Carlsen (Nor) 0-2.

Final standings: 1. Vincent Keymer; 2. Fabiano Caruana; 3. Magnus Carlsen; 4. Javokhir Sindarov; 5. Hikaru Nakamura; 6. Nodirbek Abdusattorov; 7. Alireza Firouzja; 8. D Gukesh. (PTI)

Last-minute own goal gives Bologna 3-2 win over Torino in Serie A thriller

Bologna (Italy): As debuts go they don't come much more unfortunate than this.

Cristiano Biraghi scored a last-minute own goal on his first appearance for Torino and gave Bologna a 3-2 win in Serie A on Friday.

With just seconds remaining, the ball hit the retreating defender and spun past his helpless goalkeeper.

It was a disaster for the recent signing from Fiorentina and marked the first defeat in eight games for Torino, which, after a shaky run in the final weeks of 2024, stabilized its form with six draws and a win in its

previous seven games.

The match at Stadio Renato Dall'Ara had a bit of everything, including a double from Dan Ndoye.

A moment of inspiration from Eljif Elmas gave Torino a 2-1 lead 20 minutes into the second half, the on-loan striker from Leipzig nutmegging a defender and dinking the ball over the keeper.

Five minutes later, Ndoye took advantage of a penalty award to level the scores.

The result lifted Bologna one place into seventh and left Torino in 11th spot. (PTI)

Olympic 800m champion Keely Hodgkinson out 6 weeks with hamstring tear

Birmingham (England): Olympic champion Keely Hodgkinson will be sidelined for six weeks with a hamstring tear that ended her hopes of breaking the women's indoor 800 meter world record at an event Saturday.

The 22-year-old British runner revealed the extent of the injury Friday, telling Sky Sports that she has a "Grade C" tear.

"It's going to be the outdoor season now, probably, until I do race again, which is a bit of a shame," Hodgkinson said.

Hodgkinson sustained the injury this week in a training session for



Saturday's "Keely Klassic," an event she helped create and where she hoped to break Jolanda Ceplak's 800 meter indoor world record of 1 minute, 55.82 seconds set in

2002.

The world indoor championships will be held March 21-23 in Nanjing, China.

"Hamstrings are quite

temperamental and they're not to be messed with," she said. "I'm not going to be ready for a little while, unfortunately. Up to six weeks, it could be quicker, it could be longer, but it shouldn't affect my outdoor season."

Hodgkinson won gold in the 800 meters at the Paris Olympics, three years after taking silver in Tokyo. She was the BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2024.

The Manchester native is a two-time silver medalist in the 800 at the world outdoor championships. (PTI)

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Dhanbad's Anita Majumdar Continues to Shine in International Modeling and Acting

Priyanka

Dhanbad : Anita Majumdar, a rising star from Dhanbad, is making significant strides in the world of modeling and acting, bringing pride to her hometown. She has been invited as a celebrity guest at Lakmé Fashion Week, India's most prestigious fashion show.

In an exclusive interview, Anita Majumdar expressed her gratitude, stating, "Lakmé Fashion Week honoured me with an invitation, and I will be performing a ramp walk alongside Bollywood actress Ananya Panday and other renowned models in the upcoming edition."

Earlier this month, she participated in Egypt's biggest fashion event, the International LYA Ramp Show, where she was selected as the top performer. Her outfits were designed by Neeta Khandelwal, an internationally acclaimed designer and her personal stylist.

With her growing success and the unwavering support of Dhanbad residents and her mother, Anita is now



receiving offers for multiple web series, music albums, and films. She was also invited to Japan to endorse the Love Killan Perfume brand. The company selected her as its official model after reviewing her profile and past

performances. Anita attributes her achievements to hard work, dedication, and the continuous support and blessings from the people of Dhanbad.

'Aandhi' should be re-released: Javed Akhtar on 50 years of Gulzar's 1975 classic

Mumbai: Veteran lyricist-scriptwriter Javed Akhtar says Gulzar's 1975 "Aandhi", starring Sanjeev Kumar and Suchitra Sen, will do "extremely well" today it is re-released in theatres.

The film, which turns 50 this week, is considered a modern classic and is perhaps the best known film in lyricist-poet Gulzar's filmography as a director that also includes movies such as "Mausam", "Parichay", "Mere Apne", "Khushboo" and "Lekin" among others.

"It's a really nice film. It needs to be re-released today in multiplexes. There is a certain disadvantage to films that are subtle, intelligent and of a higher IQ. They perhaps don't get that kind of audience in big theatres. I think a film like 'Aandhi', if it re-releases, will do extremely well today," Akhtar told PTI.

"Aandhi" had a great soundtrack by RD Burman with singers in Kishore Kumar and Lata Mangeshkar. Its songs "Tere Bina", "Tum Aa Gaye Ho", and "Iss Mod Se Jaate Hai" are popular even today.

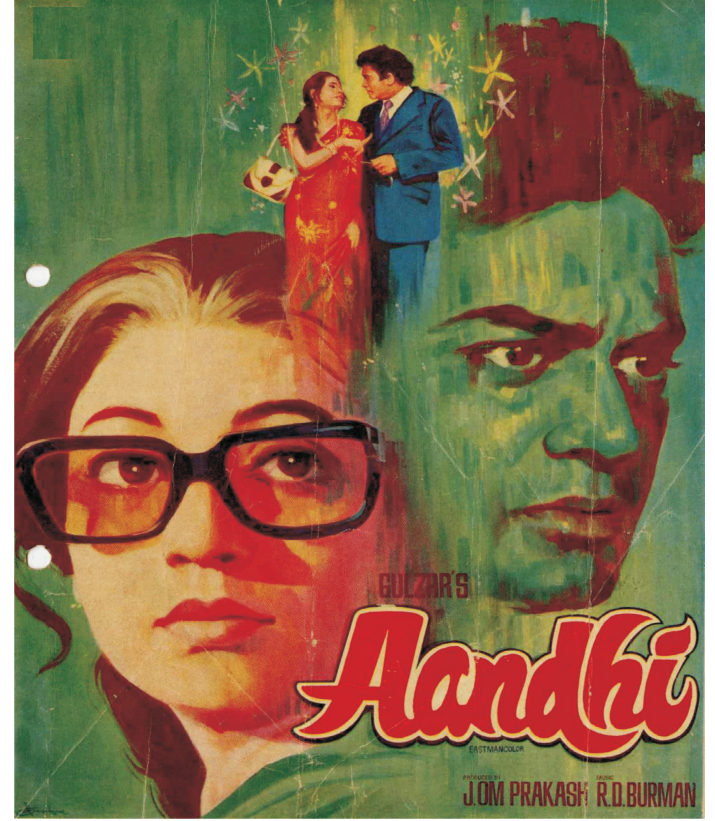
The Hindi film, written by famous Hindi author Kamleshwar, revolved around a couple whose relationship suffers because of different ambitions. Sen played Aarti Devi, a woman from a political family while Kumar was in the role of JK, a hotel manager.

"Aandhi", which reportedly ran for just weeks in theatres, was banned during the Emergency as many believed Sen's character resembled the then prime minister Indira Gandhi. It was re-released later.

Not just Akhtar, the film holds a special place in the heart of filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt, directors Sooraj Barjatya and Karan Johar, actor Pratik Gandhi and producer Harman Baweja.

Bhatt, who has explored the many layers of man-woman relationship in films such as "Arth" and "Zakhm", said while people talk about politics when they speak about "Aandhi", for him, it is a film about "lost love".

"It's the irony of life that two human beings meet again to realise that some distances can never be crossed. It is a meditation on love and



ambition. At that time for a woman to be ambitious was unheard of, very bold, and she paid the price for it. It's a deeply personal story. It was very brave of Gulzar sahab to have a character like that and go against the diktat that a woman must sacrifice.

"Also, 'Tere Bina Zindagi Se...' is RD Burman's timeless song, and that captures the ache of what life could've been had they stayed together," Bhatt told PTI.

"Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story" star Gandhi says "Aandhi" is among his all time favourite movies as it featured Sanjeev Kumar.

"His range and the way he's created comedy, intense performances and drama and everything. So he's my all time favourite actor and we happen to share the same city. He also comes from Surat," Gandhi told PTI.

Johar said he remembers watching all of Gulzar's films on VHS cassettes.

"I was one of those old soul kids that wasn't reading comics, that wasn't watching, what the kids that age were watching. I was obsessed with the vintage magic of Guru Dutt, with the glory and social commentary of Raj Kapoor, with Gulzar Saab's ethos and pathos in cinema," Johar told PTI, adding that though one cannot match the masters, he is always inspired by Gulzar's body of work that he discovered at a young age.

Barjatya, known for his family dramas such as "Hum Aapke Hain Koun...!", "Hum Saath Saath Hain" and "Vivaah", said Gulzar is "all passion".

"Knowing how Gulzar sahab works, 'Aandhi' is pure passion, a pure creation. It is not about what sells and what works. Otherwise, it's impossible to create something free. I guess that's why they are masterpieces," he told PTI.

Baweja said it was only recently that he kept listening to Gulzar's music while on a recce in Uttarakhand.

"And then we started talking about Gulzar sahib for a while because we were driving around and we had like 50 minutes to the next location. And the entire conversation was about the kind of work that he's done.

"It is amazing that 'Aandhi' is 50 years. It is important to celebrate him and everything that he's brought to literature and to the industry. And it's so wide. His impact is so beautiful," Baweja told PTI.

Producer Boney Kapoor also remembers the songs of the film and how it has stayed with people even today.

"The relationship between a husband and wife is something that caught my attention. I love the songs of the film. My favourite song is 'Tum Aa Gaye Ho Noor Aa Gaya'," he said. (PTI)

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