



RNI No. GUJENG/2014/57876

ગરવી ગુજરાત

GARVI GUJARAT

Published Daily from Ahmedabad

Volume.12

Issue:275

Dt. 08-05-2026

Friday

Pages-04

Rs.00.50 paisa

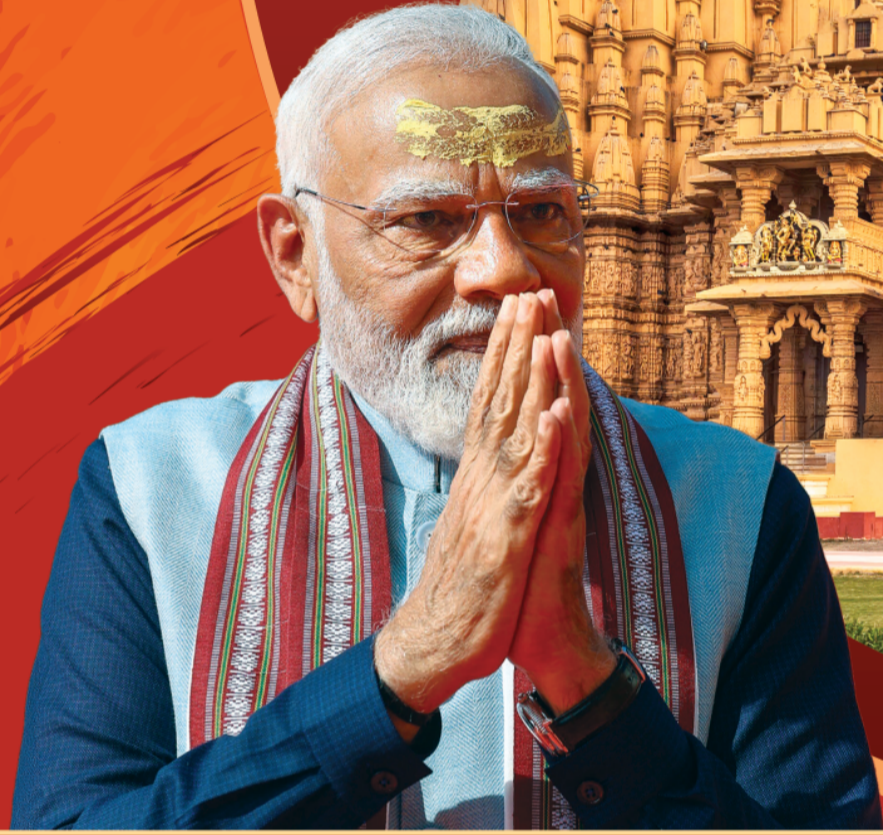


સોમલિઙ્ગં નરો દષ્ટ્વા સર્વપાપેઃ પ્રમુચ્યતે।
લભતે ફલં મનોવાચ્છિતં મૃતઃ સ્વર્ગ સમાશ્રયેત્॥



SOMNATH

Virasat Ke 75 Saal



Somnath is a symbol of India's indomitable civilisation. Even after facing destructive attacks for over 1000 years, Somnath continues to stand tall as an embodiment of our pride and courage.

75 years ago, the resolve of the Iron Man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, paved the way for the modern revival of Somnath. Today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, this sacred land proudly heralds India's cultural renaissance.

Be a witness to this golden occasion

Key Activities

Kalash Yatra | Bhajan Sandhya | Chanting of the Omkar Mantra
Mantra Writing in the Somnath Booklet | Narration of Stories Associated with Somnath

“Somnath is that song of hope which teaches us that the power of creation is far greater than the power of destruction.”

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (Chairman, Shri Somnath Trust)

Shri Somnath Temple Complex, Prabhas Patan | 8th –11th May 2026

“Somnath is the symbol of our invincible cultural identity.
Let us participate in celebrating 75 years of this divine heritage.”

- Harsh Sanghavi, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



Scan here

To contribute to the divinity and grandeur of Somnath,
and become a part of its glorious history.

Beyond politics, concerned only with life: This is the Red Cross

Dilip Kumar Pathak

In today's hectic lives, when we barely have time for our loved ones, there's an organization operating in the world that seeks neither fame nor reward. Their sole purpose is to reach out and offer help wherever there's a crisis. We're talking about the Red Cross. Every year on May 8th, when we celebrate World Red Cross Day, it's not just a date on the calendar, but a day to salute the spirit that stands as a shield for humanity, from the battlefield to the fury of nature. The story of this organization's founding is also fascinating. About 165 years ago, a fierce war was raging in Italy, thousands of soldiers were wounded and suffering. A passing Swiss businessman, Henry

Dunant, couldn't bear to see this suffering. He abandoned all his work, rallied the villagers, and began serving the wounded. He said only one thing: "We are all brothers." This simple thought later became the world's largest humanitarian organization, the Red Cross.

Today, on Henry Dunant's birthday, the whole world remembers him. The journey of this great organization in India has also been truly inspiring. The Indian Red Cross Society was formed in 1920, and since then, it has remained a symbol of trust in every major crisis our country faces. Whether it was the difficult times of 1947, the Kedarnath tragedy, or the Bhuj earthquake, Red Cross volunteers have always

taken the lead.

Statistics show that today the Red Cross's reach extends to 192 countries around the world. More than 16 million volunteers are associated with this mission. In India alone, over 1,100 branches work day and night. We all remember the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, when people were afraid to even shake hands. During that difficult time, it was Red Cross colleagues who risked their lives to deliver rations and medicines to every home. The Red Cross's work is based not only on enthusiasm, but on seven strong principles, which are considered its soul. These principles are humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service,

unity, and universality. These words may sound daunting, but their meaning is quite simple. When helping someone, the Red Cross does not consider their religion or nationality. For it, every suffering person is equal.

This organization doesn't get involved in any political controversy, allowing it to travel fearlessly everywhere. The Red Cross isn't just visible in times of disaster, but is always present around us like a silent soldier. Whether it's providing affordable medicines for the poor, safe blood for children suffering from thalassemia, or first aid during accidents—the Red Cross is there at every turn. The organization's greatest strength is its neutrality. Even when two countries are at

war, the Red Cross's white flag and its red symbol have the courage to serve the wounded on both sides. It's a bridge that the walls of politics or religion have never been able to break. But we must also understand that the Red Cross thrives not on grand promises but on small, individual contributions. If we make up our minds to donate blood just once on this May 8th, believe me, we too can be a part of this great work. A little of our blood can give a dying person a new life. The truth is, the Red Cross isn't just a government office, but a feeling that shows humanity still lives on. This day reminds us that even if we aren't high-ranking officials or wealthy, all it takes is a kind heart to help someone.

Editorial

The vicious cycle of post-election violence

The shooting of Chandranath Rath, personal assistant of senior BJP leader and Chief Ministerial candidate Suwendu Adhikari, is a horrifying proof of how during the violent elements creating terror in Bengal are.

West Bengal escaped violence before and during the elections, but it is unable to escape it after the elections. The violence that continues despite the deployment of central security forces brings to mind the horrific violence that followed the last assembly elections. Mamata Banerjee returned to power, and her leaders and workers unleashed a relentless crackdown on opposition party supporters.

At that time, Mamata Banerjee had washed her hands off the matter, saying she hadn't yet been sworn in. This time, she seems to be hiding behind the hollow argument that since the BJP won, it is their responsibility to stop the violence. However, it should be noted that the new government hasn't been formed yet. There are good reasons to believe that the violence in Bengal is happening because Trinamool Congress leaders and workers are venting their frustration over the defeat on BJP supporters.

Mamata Banerjee has, in a way, incited her supporters by saying that she did not lose, but was defeated, and therefore will not resign. Clearly, she cannot escape accusations of inciting post-election violence. It is also clear that the terrorizing violence being displayed by Trinamool supporters is a product of the violent political culture that Mamata Banerjee has fostered over the past 15 years, just as the Left parties once did.

The shooting death of Chandranath Rath, personal assistant to senior BJP leader and Chief Ministerial candidate Suwendu Adhikari, is a chilling testament to the audacity of the violent elements wreaking havoc in Bengal. If Suwendu's allegations are true, it's no surprise that Rath was targeted for defeating Mamata Banerjee in the election. There is a strong suspicion that Trinamool supporters are behind this murder, as well as other violent incidents targeting BJP supporters, because they have perpetrated such violence in the past, and everyone knows that Mamata Banerjee never cared.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, a beacon of hope in the darkness of suffering

Sunil Kumar Mahala

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is celebrated every year on May 8th, dedicated to the spirit of humanity, service, compassion, and selfless assistance. This day reminds us that selfless service is the greatest religion in times of crisis, war, disaster, or epidemic. The Red Cross's mission is to provide assistance to those in need without any discrimination and to protect human life. This day conveys the message of strengthening the spirit of humanity, cooperation, and sensitivity in society. Let me inform you that this day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Jean-Henri Dunant, the founder of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, a renowned organization for humanitarian service and relief work, and also considered the father of the Red Cross Movement. Few people know that Henry Dunant was awarded the world's first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901 for his unprecedented humanitarian work. It is also known that the Red Cross is the only organization in history to have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize not once or twice, but three times. For example, it has been awarded in 1917 (for humanitarian work during World War I), 1944 (for outstanding services during World War II), and 1963 (on the organization's 100th anniversary). Furthermore, including the first Nobel Prize (1901) awarded to its founder, Henry Dunant, the movement has a total of four Nobel Prizes to its credit.

In fact, the main purpose behind celebrating this day is to honor those who serve humanity during times of war, disaster, and crisis. Simply put, this day is celebrated annually to honor the millions of volunteers and workers who help people in times of disaster, war, epidemic, and crisis around the world. It would not be wrong to say that even today, many people around the world are suffering from disasters, war, and

stress, and this day inspires and encourages ordinary people to help and support such people. It is dedicated to encouraging people to donate blood, provide first aid to those affected by epidemics or war, and protect their health, providing them with timely access to various health services. It honors and recognizes the contributions of volunteers.

Humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality are the core and important principles of this day. Overall, it can be said that this day is dedicated to the protection of humanity.

However, if we look at the history of this day, Henry Dunant was deeply distressed by the sight of thousands of wounded soldiers suffering during the Battle of Solferino in Italy in 1859. In 1859, Jean-Henri Dunant, a young Swiss businessman, was on his way to meet Napoleon III on business. On his way, he witnessed the Battle of Solferino in Italy. He saw nearly 40,000 soldiers lying dead or in agony on the battlefield, with no one to care for them. This horrific scene shocked Dunant, who gathered local villagers and, without regard to the nationality of the wounded soldier, raised the slogan, "We are all brothers." In fact, this incident later laid the foundation for the Red Cross. Dunant, with the help of local people, cared for the wounded and later wrote a book, "A Memory of Solferino." This idea led to the founding of the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1863 and the subsequent Geneva Conventions. Later, in 1948, May 8 was officially declared World Red Cross Day. In other words, the first International Red Cross Day was officially celebrated on May 8, 1948. Later, in 1984, it was

renamed World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.

Very few people would know that the Red Cross Movement is considered to be the world's largest humanitarian network, in which millions of volunteers from all over the world are associated. According to available information, about 16 million active volunteers are involved in it. Let me tell the readers that the Red Cross is primarily responsible for implementing and monitoring the international law of war (Geneva Convention), which stipulates that humanity should be preserved even during war. Under its rules, even during war, Red Cross workers have the legal right to directly meet prisoners of war and assess their condition.

The Red Cross emblem is protected under the Geneva Conventions, and its misuse could be considered a violation of international law. While the Red Cross is familiar with the red plus (+) symbol, it has three official symbols that are internationally recognized. The Red Cross is essentially a red cross on a white background. It was created by inverting the colors of the Swiss flag to honor the country of its founder, Henry Dunant. The Red Crescent, on the other hand, is a red crescent. It was adopted during the Ottoman Empire due to sensitivities in Muslim countries. The Red Crystal is a third neutral symbol, adopted to protect humanitarian work without any religious or cultural affiliation. It's worth noting that in many Muslim countries, the Red Crescent symbol is used instead of the Red Cross. It's worth noting that the Red Crescent, part of

the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, is a humanitarian symbol and aid organization used primarily in Muslim countries. It's similar in function and purpose to the Red Cross, with a different symbol. It is also worth noting that the Red Crescent symbol is a red crescent (moon) on a white background. It is used to provide medical and relief services during war, natural disasters, epidemics, and crises. In fact, as mentioned above, during the Russo-Turkish War in 1876, the Ottoman Empire (present-day Turkey) began using the Red Crescent symbol instead of the Red Cross symbol. It later gained international recognition. I should also inform readers that both the Red Crescent and the Red Cross operate on similar principles, with the sole purpose of serving humanity and having no connection to any religion or politics. Today, Red Crescent Societies are active in many Islamic countries around the world, and their operations are based on principles such as humanity, impartiality, and neutrality. It is also worth noting that the Indian Red Cross Society, founded in 1920, has been among the first organizations to provide relief in war zones, earthquakes, floods, epidemics, and refugee crises.

However, if we discuss the theme of this day, last year, in 2025, the theme of this day was "Keeping Humanity Alive," and the campaign message "On the Side of Humanity" was also launched in many countries. The objective was to keep humanity alive amid growing conflicts, health crises, and inequalities. This year's theme is "United in Humanity." This theme reflects the unity and service of volunteers and staff who stand with communities during times of crisis. Simply put, this theme salutes the spirit of the millions of volunteers and staff who stand with communities during times of crisis, not as outsiders but as part of them.



Election Verdict: What is the weakness of the opposition

Prof. Pradeep Mathur

In our democratic system, especially since the advent of the Modi era, politics has become election-by-election. The buzz surrounding the results of the five state assembly elections announced this week has barely subsided, and talk of next year's elections in seven states and the 2029 Lok Sabha elections has already begun.

But whether it's the recent elections or next year's, one question is being asked everywhere—why are opposition parties performing so dismally in assembly elections since the 2024 Lok Sabha results? Serious questions are being raised about the fairness of

the elections, and in West Bengal, the entire election campaign centered on the issue of the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists.

There is little doubt that during the Narendra Modi-Amit Shah regime, there has been immense pressure on the judiciary, the media and constitutional institutions like the Election Commission and the Governor's office, affecting their independent functioning.

While it's difficult to comment on the fairness of the electoral process, it would be unfair to place the entire blame for the opposition's poor performance solely on

electoral fraud or manipulation. There are many other reasons.

The opposition's constant criticism of this situation is justified to some extent, but it alone is not enough to garner the public support necessary to oust a strong and entrenched BJP regime. This is why, after the election results in five states, the question is being raised in political circles: if Mamata Banerjee, despite exerting all her strength, could not stop the BJP in West Bengal, how will the opposition stop the BJP's juggernaut in other states? More than the defeat, the difference in seats has strengthened these fears. Although opposition leaders

may not openly express this, many of them themselves are not confident about their ability to oust the BJP from power in the near future.

In fact, the opposition's biggest weakness is a lack of self-confidence. Many opposition leaders have developed a defeatist mindset and a fatalistic mentality. The long-term comfort in power has weakened their fighting spirit. Non-Congress opposition leaders have failed to understand that the era of staying in power through manipulation and compromise is over. The BJP has systematically exploited such parties and subsequently pushed them to the political margins. Mayawati's BSP, Naveen

Patnaik's BJD, Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, and Nitish Kumar's JDU are examples of this.

Beyond a lack of self-confidence and combativeness, the opposition faces two other serious weaknesses. First, it lacks the ability to rationally and objectively assess changing political realities and make necessary reforms; and second, it lacks ideological commitment even in the face of adversity. These two factors pose the greatest obstacles to the opposition's ability to challenge BJP-RSS rule.

Why the opposition alliance "India," formed after considerable effort and extensive campaigning, failed to effectively challenge

the BJP is a matter for serious introspection. It is even more surprising that, despite the Modi government's failures on numerous fronts, the opposition has failed to craft a strong narrative that could effectively challenge BJP rule. Clearly, the opposition needs a serious SWOT analysis to assess its position and prospects. It must engage in deep introspection to determine where it is going wrong. The opposition must learn two fundamental lessons. First, when faced with a powerful and organized opponent like the RSS-BJP, a loose coalition of self-interested parties gathered solely for electoral gain cannot succeed.

New Delhi tops in crime against women in Metros: Data

New Delhi(GNS): The national capital recorded the highest number of cases in crime against women with the city recorded a total of 13,396 cases, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) that was released on Wednesday. As per the data, the city saw a minute increase in the cases to 13,396 in 2024 in comparison to 13,366 in 2023 and a decrease from 14,158 cases in 2022.

The data was recorded of 19 cities in the country that has more than 2 million population. However, the rate of total crime against women in the city stood at 176.8 which was lower than 199 in Jaipur, 186 in Lucknow and 181.5 at Indore. Crimes like rape and dowry remained a major concern in 2024, with 1,058 cases registered for rape. The total number of dowry deaths remained at 109, according to the report.

No more bulk e-rickshaw registrations for firms; Delhi govt backs owner-drivers

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi govt has withdrawn its earlier circular that allowed firms to register multiple e-carts and e-rickshaws limited to lithium-ion battery models in their names, officials said on Wednesday. A senior official said the revised decision aims to ensure that the benefits of e-rickshaw registration are distributed more widely among Delhi's residents, rather than being concentrated with a few corporate entities. Transport minister Pankaj Singh said the move was intended to promote self-employment and protect economically weaker sections involved in last-mile connectivity. "By preventing the concentration of ownership in the hands of a few companies, the govt aims to reduce exploitation and strengthen the livelihood base of individual drivers, who form the backbone of the city's last-mile transport system," Singh said. Officials said the decision would create greater economic opportunities for owner-drivers, reduce the risk of monopolistic control in the e-rickshaw sector and reinforce self-reliant employment models. The move is expected to help thousands of individual operators retain their independence and earn a dignified livelihood, rather than being reduced to employees of large fleet owners. "This decision reinforces our commitment to equitable livelihood opportunities," Singh said. "By putting the vehicle back in the hands of the individual driver, we are strengthening self-employment and safeguarding the backbone of Delhi's last-mile connectivity," said an official.

CBI charges builder, bankers with fraud

New Delhi(GNS): Claiming to have exposed a builder-banker nexus, CBI has filed a chargesheet against AVJ Developers Pvt Ltd, its directors and officials from Bank of India, ICICI and UCO Bank for a coordinated fraud on banks and homebuyers. Its investigation revealed bank employees bypassed norms to provide undue financial advantages to builders. The scheme, CBI found, involved using "proxy" buyers to secure fraudulent loans and routing funds through sister concerns.

This case is part of a Supreme Court-mandated probe into 50 builders nationwide. Charges include criminal conspiracy, cheating and corruption. Earlier, three chargesheets were filed against Jaypee Infratech, Rudra Buildwell Constructions and Dream Procon. The latest legal action follows an extensive probe into allegations of large-scale cheating and criminal misconduct that have impacted numerous homebuyers and several major financial institutions. The probe centres on AVJ Developers Pvt Ltd, and its sister concern, Kesar Builders Pvt Ltd. According to CBI, directors of these firms collaborated with officials from the three banks to orchestrate a fraudulent scheme designed to secure undue financial gains through the exploitation of the housing market. The investigative findings detail a pattern of institutional bypass and betrayal of fiduciary duties. CBI has alleged that the bank officials abused their official capacities to facilitate the builder's activities, violating established regulatory norms and procedures to extend pecuniary advantages to the companies.

This conduct resulted in significant wrongful losses for the banks and individual investors who had placed their savings into these projects based on false assurances.

A key component of the alleged conspiracy involved the recruitment of "proxy" or fictitious homebuyers. These individuals reportedly conspired with the developers to misrepresent facts to lending institutions, obtaining home loans under false pretences.

The funds generated through these fraudulent applications were then routed through sister concerns like M/s Kesar Builders to obscure their origin and use. The chargesheet, filed before a court, includes several counts under Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act, specifically targeting criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery and criminal misconduct.

As blazes surge, Delhi Govt asks officials to prepare firefighting master plan

New Delhi(GNS): Amid rising fire incidents in the Capital, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday directed officials to prepare a comprehensive firefighting master plan, asking all departments to submit a detailed blueprint within 10 days to strengthen prevention and response mechanisms.

Chairing a high-level meeting at the Delhi Secretariat, Gupta said fire safety must be treated as a top priority and warned that any negligence leading to loss of life or property would invite strict action. The meeting was attended by Home and Power Minister Ashish Sood, Chief Secretary Rajiv Verma and senior officials from multiple agencies, including the Delhi Fire Service, MCD and DDMA.



ing the Delhi Fire Service, MCD and DDMA.

The Chief Minister asked departments to identify vulnerable zones, analyse causes behind recurring fire incidents and plug gaps in existing systems. She emphasised the need for better coordination among agencies and called for enhanced accountability and preparedness. Directing the Fire

Department to scale up capacity, Gupta said manpower should be increased, new fire stations opened and modern equipment procured, assuring adequate budgetary support. She also instructed officials to study past incidents and develop a more effective emergency response framework. Highlighting civic challenges, the Chief Minister asked the Municipal Corporation to act against illegal constructions and ensure roads remain free of encroachments to allow smooth movement of fire tenders. Power Department officials were directed to exercise caution while granting connections and regularly inspect electrical infrastructure in vulnerable areas.

MCD Mayor Wahi directs crack-down on poor sanitation

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi Mayor Pravesh Wahi on Wednesday directed officials to strengthen sanitation systems across the Capital, warning that any negligence in cleanliness would not be tolerated and accountability would be fixed on erring private waste management agencies. Chairing a meeting with all zonal deputy commissioners of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the Mayor called for immediate improvements in sanitation and asked officials to identify vulnerable points in each zone and carry out regular as well as special cleanliness drives.



Gurugram to Jaipur in 90 minutes:

New Paniyala-Barodamev Expressway to connect Delhi-Mumbai corridor from September

New Delhi(GNS): Commuters travelling between the Delhi and Jaipur have a major reason to cheer. Starting this September, the travel time from Delhi to Jaipur will be slashed to just two hours, while those travelling from Gurugram can reach Jaipur in 90 minutes.

The massive reduction in the travel time is attributed to the upcoming completion of Rajasthan's 86-km new greenfield expressway, officially known as the Paniyala-Barodamev Expressway.

This strategic link is set to transform regional connectivity by acting as a high-speed



bridge between two major existing arteries, the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and the Ambala-Kotputli Corridor.

Beyond daily commuters, the new expressway is expected to provide a significant fillip to the "Golden Triangle"

tourism circuit connecting Delhi, Agra and Jaipur.

By streamlining the transit between these historical hubs, the project will allow tourists to cover the distance with unprecedented ease, encouraging more frequent weekend

trips and smoother international tour itineraries. Built at an estimated cost of Rs 2,000 crore, the 86-km greenfield project is a critical component of the regional infrastructure overhaul. Key highlights of the project include: Land Acquisition: Approximately 600 hectares of land have been acquired for the project, with Rs 600 crore already distributed as compensation to landholders.

Infrastructure Features: To ensure seamless high-speed travel, the stretch will feature seven major junctions, three flyovers, 50 underpasses and 125 crossings.

Safety and Technology: The expressway will be equipped with an Intelligent Transport System (ITS) and advanced speed monitoring cameras. To maintain high speeds and safety, slow-moving vehicles such as tractors and two-wheelers will be restricted from entering the main carriageway.

Economic Impact: Authorities expect the corridor to attract over Rs 5,000 crore in private investments. It is projected to create more than 500 permanent jobs, alongside thousands of indirect opportunities in the logistics, warehousing and hospitality sectors.

Rs 2000-crore Sohna Highway's 6th cave-in since 2023 exposes Gurugram's sewer crisis

New Delhi(GNS): A portion of the Rs 2,000-crore Sohna Highway caved in yet again on Wednesday, marking the sixth major cave-in on the crucial Gurugram corridor since 2023 and reigniting concerns over the crumbling sewer infrastructure beneath one of NCR's busiest roads.

The latest collapse created a massive pit nearly 10 feet wide and 20 feet deep, just metres away from the site where a similar sinkhole had appeared in June last year. Authorities immediately barricaded the affected stretch to prevent accidents, while officials from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) said further action would be taken in coordination with the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA).

Officials said the recurring cave-ins had been repeatedly



linked to a damaged 1,800-mm master sewer line running beneath the highway. Though the sewer network was officially handed over to GMDA in 2022, the critically damaged master pipeline still has not undergone complete rehabilitation.

The issue traces back nearly a decade. In 2017, the then Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA), now Haryana Shehri Vikas

Pradhikaran (HSVP), had proposed a comprehensive rehabilitation of the sewer line using cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) technology at an estimated cost of Rs 28.75 crore. The proposal also included laying a new 900-mm sewer line from Subhash Chowk towards Sector 48 and strengthening sewer manholes along the stretch. NHAI was expected to execute the project under HUDA's supervision.

Money motive behind triple murder in Peeragarhi

New Delhi(GNS): Monetary gain was the motive behind the triple murder inside a car in west Delhi's Peeragarhi, mentions the chargesheet filed by Delhi Police in the Rohini court against self-proclaimed occultist Kamruddin on Wednesday.

The 500-plus-page document cites 47 witnesses, including those duped by him, and charges Kamruddin with murder. CCTV footage showing Kamruddin with the victims, along with his movement across multiple locations, helped investigators establish his involvement.

Kamruddin, a resident of Firozabad, allegedly lured people on the pretext of offering 'Dhanvarsha' through tantric rituals, gained their trust and exerted psychological influence. He would then offer poi-



son-mixed laddoos and subsequently rob them of cash and valuables. Police have also cited two prior murder cases against him.

On Feb 8, three people, later identified as Randhir (76), Shiv Naresh (42) and Laxmi (40), were found unconscious inside a car. All three were declared dead. The analysis of call detail records and CCTV footage established that the victims were in contact with Kamruddin. Investigators also found that all three had visited Loni in Ghaziabad a day before the incident and again on the very day.

After Delay, Light At End Of Pragati Maidan Tunnel

New Delhi(GNS): Public Works Department (PWD) has set a Feb 2027 deadline to complete the construction of the much-delayed Bhairon Marg underpass - a crucial part of the Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor. PWD minister Parvesh Verma has said that the "box issue" has almost been solved and the agency will complete the project by next Feb. Railways has given its in-principle approval for halting train movement for some days, after which the work on the stretch will further progress, he added.

The issue with the Pragati Maidan underpass No. 5 involves structural failures: Precast concrete boxes pushed under active railway lines via the "box-pushing" method sank, cracked and stalled in 2023 due to severe water seepage from and flooding of the Yamuna.

The underpass is designed to provide signal-free connectivity between Sarai Kale Khan and Mathura Road. It



also aims at slashing transit times and improving overall traffic flow between east, central and southeast Delhi, including key stretches near ITO, Rajghat and Laxmi Nagar, by reducing heavy traffic at the ITO intersection and surrounding areas. Once completed, it will allow commuters to bypass the congested Ring Road-Bhairon Marg junction.

"It is set to ease travel for daily commuters from Noida and central Delhi who use Ring Road and the Mathura Road corridor," said an official. Officials said that since the stretch passes directly underneath operational railway tracks, PWD had requested stopping train movement to prevent concrete boxes under the railway lines from sinking and also because

intensive ground stabilisation work cannot be performed while trains run.

The transit corridor project, inaugurated in June 2022, is a 1.36-km-long, six-lane main tunnel designed to decongest central Delhi by connecting Mathura Road to Ring Road. It features six underground underpasses: four on Mathura Road, one on Bhairon Marg and another connecting

Bhairon Marg with Ring Road. Underpass No. 5, also known as the Bhairon Marg-Ring Road underpass, is the only incomplete portion of the project.

PWD has been struggling to fully operationalise the Bhairon Marg underpass for more than three years now. However, with Railways giving its permission, PWD is hopeful of completing it by next Feb, said Verma.

The project, funded by Union govt, was built at a cost of more than Rs 920 crore. It is also aimed at providing hassle-free and smooth access to the new world-class exhibition and convention centre at Pragati Maidan, thereby facilitating easy participation of exhibitors and visitors.

The main tunnel connects Ring Road with India Gate via Purana Qila Road and passes through Pragati Maidan. The six-lane divided tunnel has multiple purposes, including allowing access to the huge basement parking of Pragati Maidan.

At Delhi Assembly, 'Apne Apne Ram' blends devotion with reflection

New Delhi(GNS): As the Delhi Legislative Assembly was illuminated for a special cultural evening on Wednesday, its usually formal corridors took on a different character - one of quiet reflection, poetry and civilisational memory. A packed audience gathered to witness 'Apne Apne Ram', a Ram Katha by poet-orator Kumar Vishwas, in an event that blended devotion with thoughtful discourse.

Presiding over the programme, Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta set the tone early. "Ram is not merely a figure of reverence, but a living principle of conduct," he said, framing the evening not just as a cultural presentation



but as a reflection on ethics, duty and justice in contemporary life.

Among those present were Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, senior officials and legislators,

their presence underscoring the significance of an event that sought to bring India's philosophical traditions into a modern institutional space.

At the heart of the evening

was Vishwas's distinctive narrative style - part poetry, part storytelling, part introspection. Moving across episodes from the Ramayana, he presented Lord Ram not only as Maryada Purushottam but as a timeless moral compass. His narration explored dilemmas as much as devotion-choices made in moments of conflict, the weight of responsibility, and the idea of dharma as a guiding force even at personal cost. The audience, filling the Assembly hall to capacity, remained absorbed as the narrative unfolded. There were stretches of stillness, punctuated by moments of resonance as themes of sacrifice, compassion and integrity came to the fore.

Gurugram : Patwari among 3 killed as truck collides with car

New Delhi(GNS): Three people, including a patwari, were killed in a head-on collision between a truck and a car on the Pachgaon-Jamalpur road in Bilaspur on Wednesday evening. The truck driver fled after abandoning the vehicle at the spot. Police registered an FIR and seized the truck.

The deceased were identified as 40-year-old Kuldeep, 68-year-old Naval Singh and 70-year-old Samay Singh, all residents of Pukharpur village. Kuldeep was posted as a patwari with HSIIDC, Naval was a retired Army personnel and Samay was a farmer.

According to police, the three had gone to Jamalpur for some work and were returning to Pukharpur when their car collided head-on with an oncoming truck near Moklas village. Kuldeep was driving the vehicle.

The impact completely mangled the car, trapping all three occupants inside. Passersby alerted the police, pulled the victims out of the vehicle



and rushed them to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared them dead. Eyewitnesses said the accident triggered a long traffic jam on Jamalpur Road. Amid the chaos, the truck driver managed to flee the scene. A senior police officer said the truck was registered in Daman and Diu and had arrived in Bilaspur carrying cargo.

"The bodies were sent for post-mortem examination, which will be conducted on Thursday. Efforts are on to trace and arrest the truck driver," said Sub-Inspector Amit Kumar, the investigating officer.

Crime Branch nets 3 absconding accused after 3,300-km hunt across Bihar, Jharkhand

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi Police's Crime Branch has apprehended three absconders involved in long-pending cases, including attempted murder and sexual assault. Executed over a six-day period ending May 4, the operation involved a four-member team tracking the fugitives across 3,300 kilometres through Bihar and Jharkhand.

Deputy commissioner of police (crime) Sanjeev Yadav said the first arrest involved Yudhishthir, wanted in a 2014 Pocco case in Rajouri Garden. The team conducted ground verification at over 30 transport hubs, finally locating him in Dumka,



Jharkhand.

"After identifying him as a passenger tempo driver, cops rented a vehicle and posed as drivers and passengers to map

his route. His location was pinpointed, and he was arrested on May 2," he said.

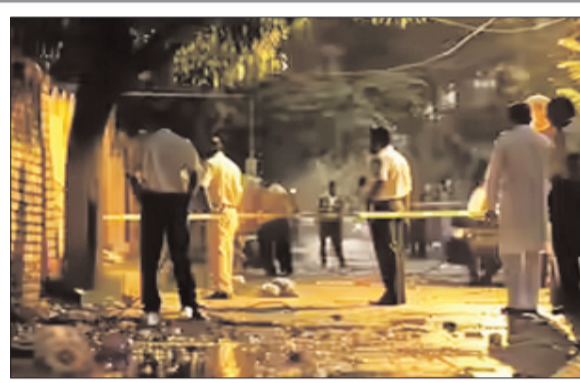
He worked as a stone polisher in Delhi. After the inci-

dent, his wife left him; he later remarried and has three children. To evade arrest for 12 years, he frequently moved between Delhi and Jharkhand.

The team then moved to Purnia, Bihar, to apprehend Mohammad Akhlakh, wanted since 2014 in a sexual assault case in Ranhola. Akhlakh had spent over a decade working as a mason in Kerala, frequently changing mobile numbers and avoiding his native village. Following intelligence that he had returned home due to his mother's illness, the team conducted a raid. Despite his attempt to flee across rooftops, cops apprehended him following a

three-kilometre chase.

The final operation targeted Ram Kumar, who had been absconding for 21 years after an attempted murder case in 2005. Kumar had maintained a highly mobile lifestyle as a vegetable vendor in Bhojpur, Bihar, avoiding fixed residences or traceable communication. The police team found him by posing as vegetable vendors in a local market, allowing them to identify and detain him in Aarah. This mission was characterised by continuous operational activity, with the team managing legal documentation and transit demands for the first two suspects while simultaneously pursuing the third.



'Brushing shoulders' leads to murder of 13-year-old boy in Bhati Mines, 2 minors held

New Delhi(GNS): A frantic overnight search for a 13-year-old boy finally ended in recovery of his body on Tuesday morning from a forested stretch of Bhati Mines in south Delhi. Two minors have been apprehended, one of whom had allegedly returned from an observation home just two months ago.

The boy, the son of a daily-wage labourer couple, was reported missing from Maidan Garhi on Monday evening. His parents approached the local police station after he didn't return home after telling them that he was going out to play. A kidnapping case, along with a missing person report, was registered and teams began searching for him. Officers also found that two other minors from the neighbourhood were also untraceable. A senior officer said, "The search for the boy went overnight. We looked for him in several areas near his house as well as all over the neighbourhood." CCTV footage later showed the victim playing with two other boys, aged around 15 and 17, shortly before he went missing. "These two boys were also not found anywhere," he added.

Police managed to trace the two juveniles using technical surveillance and they allegedly told the cops what had happened. According to investigators, the boys had a minor altercation while playing allegedly over brushing shoulders, which escalated into a dispute. The boys told police that they initially had an argument. "Though they appeared to have settled the matter, the two juveniles decided to lure the 13-year-old to a secluded forested area in Bhati Mines, where they strangled him and smashed his head with rocks," said an officer.

Delhi Court Convicts Man for Sexually Assaulting Four-Year-Old, Cites Life-Threatening Injuries

New Delhi(GNS): A Delhi court recently convicted a man of kidnapping and penetrative sexual assault of a minor, underscoring the brutality of the crime. The court observed that "these kinds of brutal injuries are life-threatening for such a small child," noting the victim's suffering.

The case dates back to Nov 2025, when the accused, Sunny Kumar, a neighbour of the victim, allegedly took the child on the pretext of buying her chocolate. According to the mother, when the child did not return home till late evening, she began searching for her. Around 9 pm, the accused brought the child back with blood on her clothes. Upon being questioned, the victim disclosed the assault, following which she was taken to a nearby hospital and an FIR was regis-



tered in Mahendra Park police station.

In Dec last year, the court took note of the severe injuries suffered by the child, which left her dependent on tubes to pass urine and stool, and directed the North Delhi Legal Services Authority to grant interim compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the family to "alleviate their sorrows".

On April 30, Justice Amit Sahrawat held Kumar liable for offences of kidnapping, rape causing grievous injuries to a girl under 12 years of age, and aggravated penetrative

sexual assault under Sections 137(2), 64(2)(I), and 65(2) of the BNS, along with Section 6 of the Pocco Act.

The defence, through amicus curiae, argued that the injuries were caused by a fall and not by the alleged assault. The court, however, rejected this claim, noting the improbability "that the victim falls on any outer object with so much accuracy that no other body part gets injured and only the private parts get torn apart, and that also from inside."

Further relying on the medical report and submissions by prosecutor Aditya Kumar, the court concluded, "The injuries sustained by the victim and doctor's testimonies regarding her injuries are sufficient enough to prove beyond any reasonable doubt" that the harm was caused by a penetrative act.

Delhi saw 404 cybercrime cases in 2024: NCRB report

New Delhi(GNS):

Delhi recorded 404 cases of cybercrime in 2024, reflecting a marginal decline from the 407 cases reported in 2023, according to the NCRB report. A closer look at the 2024 figures reveals the nature of the offences reported. The data shows that 196 cases were related to the publication or transmission of obscene or sexually explicit content in electronic form.

Additionally, 149 cases involved the publishing or transmitting of material depicting children in sexually explicit acts. Fraud-related cyber offences also constituted a notable share, with 110 cases recorded.

NCRB data indicates that 335 individuals were arrested



in connection with cybercrime cases in 2024. However, only 20 of these cases resulted in convictions.

In terms of economic offences, Delhi registered 4,524 cases in 2024, showing a slight decrease compared to 4,586 cases in 2023 and a more noticeable decline from 5,016 cases in 2022. The data further shows that 3,930 accused persons were arrested in connection with economic offences. Out of these, 278 people were convicted.

Crimes against children in Metro: Delhi tops list in NCRB's report

New Delhi(GNS): Data released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for 2024 reveals a significant decline in the number of crimes recorded in Delhi, even as specific categories of violent and targeted offences continued to pose a formidable challenge to the law enforcement.

While the aggregate numbers of crimes, released on Wednesday, suggested a drop-off from a post-pandemic surge, a deep dive into the 2024 statistics uncovers a complex narrative of shifting safety dynamics in India's major metropolitan hubs.

The most striking takeaway from the macro-level data is the sharp 15.1% decline in overall IPC and BNS crimes compared with the previous year. After hitting a peak of over 3.2 lakh cases in 2023 - a nearly 8% jump from 2022 - the number fell to almost 2.8 lakh in 2024. While this downward trend in volume is a welcome statistical relief, granular data regarding victimology suggests that the intensity of crimes in Delhi remains a point of high



concern.

While analysing the human cost of offences, the data reveals a persistent gap between the number of cases filed and the number of lives affected. In 2024, crimes against women accounted for 7,827 cases, yet the number of survivors/victims was 7,904, indicating that many criminal acts involved multiple women in a single incident. In 2024, 1,058 rape cases were registered, but the number of survivors/victims was 1,089, according to the data.

This pattern is even more pronounced in the most violent categories of crimes. For

instance, the 504 murder cases recorded during the year resulted in 522 victims. Similarly, the 1,521 road accidents reported led to 1,658 deaths, suggesting a high lethality rate in urban traffic accidents. These figures highlight a sobering reality: While the case count might have dropped in 2024, the impact on the community was amplified by the number of individuals suffering from a single breach of law. The year was particularly busy for investigators dealing with street crimes in Delhi, with property-related offences dominating their workload. Household theft emerged as the most fre-

quent crime: 10,690 cases were reported and 10,705 victims were involved. Burglary, often a more invasive and planned crime, trailed closely with 8,968 cases. This suggests that residential and commercial security remains vulnerable despite the overall dip in Delhi-wide crime.

Vehicle theft, a perennial headache for urban dwellers, saw 39,976 cases recorded in 2024. There were 1,510 reported cases of robbery. Extortion remained relatively low at 228 cases, though it still affected 232 victims. Crimes committed by juveniles totalled 2,306 in 2024, including 144 cases of murder, 526 robberies and 217 incidents of snatching. There were a total of 5,417 kidnapping and abduction cases affecting 5,603 victims. However, the most alarming data points emerge when we pivot to the safety of the most vulnerable: the children. In the competitive hierarchy of metropolitan crime, Delhi maintains a grim lead in this regard, with 7,662 cases of crimes against children in 2024.

Robbery suspect with 2-decade long criminal history injured in encounter held in south-east Delhi

New Delhi(GNS): A notorious criminal with a long history of violent offences was arrested after a brief exchange of fire with the police in south-east Delhi's Pul Prahladpur area on Monday night, police said.

The accused, identified as Sunil alias Shetty alias Deva, 50, an active "bad character" of Govindpuri police station, was apprehended near a DDA park adjacent to Kaya Maya Hospital at 10 pm on May 5.

According to police, a team from Pul Prahladpur police station acted on a secret tip-off regarding Sunil's movement in the area. Under the supervision of ACP Badarpur Akash Agrawal and led by the SHO of Pul Prahladpur, the team laid a trap to nab him. Police said Sunil, who was wanted in a robbery and attempt to culpable homicide case registered at Pul Prahladpur police station, allegedly opened fire on the police team when confronted.

In retaliatory firing carried out for self-defence, a bullet struck his



left leg, following which he was overpowered and taken into custody. Investigators said Sunil has a criminal record spanning more than two decades, with involvement in 16 criminal cases since 1999 and seven convictions. His alleged offences include murder, attempt to murder, robbery and violations of the Arms Act. Cases against him have been registered at police stations including Kalkaji, Okhla Industrial Area and Tilak Marg.

A country-made pistol, one spent cartridge and a robbed mobile phone were seized, police said.