



RNI No. GUJENG/2014/57876

ગરવી ગુજરાત

GARVI GUJARAT

Published Daily from Ahmedabad

Volume.12

Issue:276

Dt. 09-05-2026

Saturday

Pages-04

Rs.00.50 paisa



SOMNATH
Experience eternal energy

सोमलिङ्गं नरो दृष्ट्वा सर्वपापैः प्रमुच्यते।
लभते फलं मनोवाञ्छितं मृतः स्वर्ग समाश्रयेत्॥



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

This festival, celebrating the heritage of Somnath, is a magnificent occasion to connect the younger generation with our glorious history and eternal values.

- 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.

Majority, Governor and Democracy – The Supreme Court's Constitutional Test on Government Formation

Bhupendra Gupta

In Indian democracy, election results are not simply a tally of seats; they are the constitutional expression of the mandate. But when a clear majority is not achieved in an assembly, the crucial question arises: who should be invited to form the government—the largest party, the previous coalition, or the group claiming a majority?

Over the past three decades, India has witnessed numerous political crises, pitting the Raj Bhavan, the judiciary, and political parties against each other. In these circumstances, the Supreme Court gradually developed a clear

constitutional principle: "The test of majority lies within the House, not in the presumptions of the Raj Bhavan."

This principle is not merely a technical constitutional interpretation but the soul of Indian parliamentary democracy.

Largest party vs. majority claim: Nowhere in the Indian Constitution does it state that the "largest party" automatically has the right to form a government. The Constitution's true purpose is to ensure stable and accountable government. Therefore, if a coalition or group is in a position to prove a majority in the House, it cannot be denied merely because it is not the

single largest party. However, it is also historically true that the largest party has been invited to form a government and given the opportunity to prove its majority. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, despite a deficit of nearly 100 seats, was given the opportunity to form a government solely on the basis of being the largest party. His government fell within 13 days after failing to prove a majority.

Congress was the largest party in Goa, but the BJP alliance presented a majority of support. The governor invited the coalition, and the Supreme Court ordered an early floor test.

Even in Karnataka, the BJP, despite being the

largest party, fell short of an absolute majority, while the Congress-JDS alliance claimed joint support. The court clearly indicated that constitutional morality does not mean mere arithmetic, but a transparent majority test.

S.R. Bommai vs. Union of India: A milestone in Indian constitutional history, the decision laid down the boundaries of central-state relations, President's rule, and the majority test.

The Supreme Court said: The majority of a government cannot be decided in the Raj Bhavan, the basis for removing an elected government cannot be mere political speculation, the final decision will be taken on the

floor of the Assembly.

This decision attempted to limit the governor's role to that of a "constitutional arbiter." However, in practice, the question remains controversial as to whether the governor truly acts as an impartial constitutional functionary or sometimes becomes a center of political influence.

Floor Test: The Judiciary's Democratic Weapon: The Indian judiciary has over the years made the floor test the most effective instrument of democratic legitimacy.

From Jagdambika Pal to the Maharashtra government and Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the courts have said the same thing:

If there is doubt over the majority, the only solution is a floor test.

This principle is important because it prioritizes public democratic scrutiny over political bargaining, closed-door strategies, and state-house-based decisions.

Constitutional morality vs. political opportunism: In Indian politics, there's often a distinction between "constitutional process" and "constitutional morality." Technically, any party can muster support and form a government, but the question is whether it respects the spirit of the mandate. This is where the role of the Governor is most controversial.

Editorial

The Unwinnable War: Donald Trump's 'Operation Project Freedom'

When Donald Trump announced Operation Project Freedom, aimed at "guiding" merchant ships stranded in the Strait of Hormuz, he warned that any Iranian interference would be met with "force." Over the past few weeks, Trump issued several ultimatums to Tehran to reopen the waterway. Tehran had closed it on February 28th after the US and Israel declared war. When Iran refused to budge, Trump launched a military operation to reopen the strait. However, the operation lasted barely 50 hours. Iran responded by firing on two US destroyers in the strait and attacking a United Arab Emirates (UAE) tanker off the coast of Oman. The UAE, a close strategic partner of both the US and Israel, also said it had been attacked twice. As pressure for a ceasefire grows amid the hostilities, Trump said on Wednesday that he was halting the operation "at Pakistan's request." While Trump often makes lofty claims about winning the war, the Strait of Hormuz remaining closed—and the operation to reopen it failing to last even three days—points to a starkly different ground reality. Not only has the US failed to achieve any of its stated objectives during the 40 days of the war, but it is now grappling with a crisis stemming from the closure of the Strait itself.

Unlike Trump, who has made numerous contradictory statements since the war began, Iran's demands have remained consistent. Iran's Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, said last week that his country would "protect" its missile and nuclear capabilities and maintain control of the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran believes the war has strengthened its position and that time is on its side. Trump has made several miscalculations. In the first week of the war, he said he would accept nothing less than Iran's "unconditional surrender." But as the conflict dragged on, he began demanding a compromise. The two sides agreed to a ceasefire on April 8, but the US, which imposed a blockade on Iranian ports on April 12, has not been able to extract any meaningful concessions from Iran. Contrary to his rhetoric, he has few strong stakes in this ongoing conflict. If this crisis continues, it will cause long-term damage to the US and global economies.

Is the credibility of the judiciary, along with the Election Commission, in jeopardy?

Sanat Kumar Jain

Following the West Bengal Assembly election results, serious questions have been raised about the impartiality and transparency of the Election Commission of India, a crucial pillar of the country's democratic system. Political parties, particularly the Trinamool Congress, have not accepted the declared election results. This time, the issue is not limited to political accusations and counter-accusations. Doubts about the Commission's credibility have also deepened among the general public in West Bengal.

Over the past two years, numerous allegations have surfaced regarding the Election Commissioner's working methods. A key issue is the issue of "secrecy." Previously, the Election Commission used to consult with all political parties and make all election arrangements. All information, from voter lists to voting, was made available online. Since Rajiv Kumar became Election Commissioner in the past few years, these arrangements have changed, leading to growing suspicion about the Commission. Instead of making information related to voter lists, voter turnout, and vote counts public, the Commission is maintaining secrecy. This has cast doubt on the Commission's transparency and credibility. In a democracy, the right to information is a fundamental right of citizens. When sensitive information like election information is being placed under the ambit of secrecy, suspicion naturally grows.

Additionally, the Election Commission is repeatedly amending rules arbitrarily, a power that rests with Parliament, not the Election Commission. This suspicion deepens further. After the election notification is issued, the Election Commission's arbitrariness and bias begin. Different rules apply to double-engine governments, and where opposition parties are in power outside the central government, controversies

have arisen regarding the appointment of officials and SIRs. This has cast serious doubt on the Election Commission's impartiality and credibility. The Election Commission's responsibility is not only to conduct elections, but also to ensure equal opportunities for all parties and that all contesting political parties and their candidates are treated with equal fairness.

The deployment of lakhs of paramilitary forces for the West Bengal elections has become a serious matter of controversy. Officers from BJP-ruled states were deployed en masse to Bengal. This was described as necessary for security reasons. Opposition parties, meanwhile, accused the Election Commission of collusion to achieve the desired outcome.

The Election Commission acted promptly on the BJP's complaints. The Election Commission failed to take cognizance of the opposition parties' complaints regarding violations of the Model Code of Conduct. This allegation is being leveled by all opposition parties, including the TMC, in all states. Political parties have repeatedly accused the Election Commission of malpractices in the 2024 Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and others. The Election Commission has neither provided any clarification nor conducted any investigations into these allegations and objections. The opposition has not received any appropriate response, leading to public doubts about the Election Commission's impartiality. Why is the Election Commission seeking to conceal and keep all information confidential? The Chief Minister of West Bengal has tried to seek justice by raising this issue in the High Court and the Supreme Court regarding the changes made to the rules by the SIR and the Election Commission from time to time. The Supreme Court stated that the Election Commission has special powers

and will not intervene in such a situation. Consequently, the issue of the Election Commission's role is gaining momentum. The deletion of millions of voters from the SIR, stemming from political parties, is directly affecting the public. If the public becomes convinced that the elections are not fair, it could lead to a severe backlash. This is a very dangerous sign for the democratic system. The matter regarding the Election Commissioners' Appointment Act has been pending in the Supreme Court for the past two years. The Supreme Court has just begun hearing this petition. For the past 10 months, the matter regarding the Election Commission's decision and the SIR has been ongoing in the Supreme Court. No final decision has yet been reached. Constitutional experts hold differing opinions on whether the SIR is constitutional or not. Meanwhile, assembly elections are also being held. So far, the names of over 50 million voters have been deleted from the electoral rolls under the SIRE. The Election Commission does not have the authority to do this. Despite this, political parties and voters are unable to get justice from the Supreme Court. This is now causing strong public backlash. Ordinary poor voters have to run around the Election Commission and tribunals to prove their citizenship. The appointment process for the Election Commissioner is currently controversial. In such a situation, it is natural to doubt the impartiality of the Election Commission's decisions.

Over the past 75 years, the Election Commission of India has successfully conducted elections under many complex circumstances. The Election Commission's reputation was among the highest internationally. In the current circumstances, increasing transparency in its functioning, making all election-related information public, and ensuring a fair and equitable election process has become essential for both the Election Commission

and the judiciary. If an impeachment motion is introduced in Parliament against the Election Commissioner, it is a very serious situation. It is a different matter that both houses rejected the impeachment motion. This has not eliminated the allegations of collusion and working under government pressure. Rather, it has become increasingly believed that the Election Commission is acting at the behest of the central government and that it enjoys the patronage of the government and the BJP. Faith in the Constitution and democracy in India must be maintained. In such a situation, the Election Commission's credibility must be strengthened again. The Election Commission is not just an institution. It represents the spirit of democracy and upholds the freedom of citizens. If questions are raised on its impartiality, then it becomes a big crisis not only for one institution but for the entire democratic structure. In this matter, it is the responsibility of the judiciary. It should properly exercise its power and role in ensuring the implementation of the Constitution and the law. The kind of reaction of the general public has been seen in neighboring countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal etc. The need of the hour is that the Election Commission should face the challenges and conduct elections with accountability. The faith of the people should be restored in the Election Commission. The judiciary will also have to understand its responsibility. The role of the judiciary has been seen in the last 10 months.

Since then, a suspicion has begun to form that the Election Commission is receiving indirect support from the judiciary. If this message gets out, the situation could become dangerous. The judiciary must step in to resolve disputes quickly. The postponement of dates is generating strong reactions among the public, undermining the judiciary's credibility.

Anarchy and violence challenge peace and order in West Bengal

Manoj Kumar Agarwal

The spate of violence and vandalism that has followed the BJP's unprecedented victory in the West Bengal Assembly elections may undoubtedly be a reaction to public anger against the TMC's one and a half decade of dominance and the frustration of TMC workers at losing power. However, both political parties need to exercise restraint, prudence, and morality. To maintain power, the BJP must restrain its workers from spreading such anarchy. However, this violence is not one-sided. The

shooting death of senior BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari's personal assistant (P.A.) by unknown assailants last night demonstrates that this cycle of violence and anarchy is far from over. The law and order situation must be strictly improved. More than four people have lost their lives in the post-election violence.

With the current election results, preparations have begun for the inauguration of the BJP government on May 9th. This election has created a new political history in the state, as the Bharatiya Janata Party,

with its unprecedented performance, is poised to form the government with a thumping majority. This not only signals a change of power in the state, but also signals a major ideological and social shift in Indian politics. For a long time, Mamata Banerjee and the Trinamool Congress were considered the strongest center of Bengal politics. Meanwhile, in Kolkata, the state's Director General of Police has issued a stern warning to rioters regarding the violence that has been occurring in the state since the election results.

Two hundred rioters have been arrested, while four people have died in the violence.

Several incidents of violence were reported in West Bengal on Tuesday and Wednesday after the election results came in. Party representatives from the BJP and TMC claimed that four people were killed in alleged post-election clashes across West Bengal in the past 24 hours.

The murder of Suvendu Adhikari's personal assistant, Chandranath Rath, late Wednesday night (May 6) following the announcement of elec-

tion results in West Bengal has caused a stir. Investigations so far have revealed that the vehicle used in the murder had a fake license plate. Chandranath Rath was taken to Vivacity Hospital after being shot, where he was pronounced dead.

Shocking details are emerging one after another in the case of the murder of Shubendu Adhikari's personal assistant (PA). Police sources claim that the incident occurred between 10:00 pm and 10:15 pm. It is reported that Chandranath Rath and his driver were in

the front seat of the car at the time of the attack. A man named Mintu, believed to be close to Chandranath Rath, was sitting in the back seat. Sources indicate that the chassis number of the silver-colored vehicle used to stop Chandranath Rath's car had been erased. This suggests that the attackers had meticulously planned the entire assassination. The investigation is focused on the silver-colored vehicle used to stop Chandranath Rath's car. At around 10:20 pm, Chandranath Rath's car turned from the main

highway onto the street leading to his house, and the attackers parked the vehicle in front of Chandranath Rath's car just 100 meters from his house. An attacker wearing a cap then dismounted from the motorcycle and fired four rounds in quick succession. Three rounds hit Rath in the chest, resulting in his death, while his driver is in critical condition.

It's worth noting that Chandranath Rath is the same person who was seen representing Suvendu Adhikari at various places during the recent elections.

City sees both high conviction and acquittal

New Delhi(GNS): Among the 19 metropolitan cities, Delhi recorded the highest number of convictions in IPC/BNS cases during 2024, with 38,661 people convicted. The city also registered the second-highest number of acquittals at 11,989 after Ahmedabad's 15,461.

The data also showed that Delhi recorded the highest number of disposed cases among metropolitan cities, with 2,76,474 cases disposed of during the year. In addition, 2,800 cases were quashed, the highest among all metropolitan cities. However, despite the high volume of disposals and convictions, Delhi reported a comparatively low chargesheeting rate of 31.9%, the lowest among all metropolitan cities.

Delhi also recorded 93,068 cases pending investigation at the end of 2024, the second-highest pendency after Mumbai, which had 1,01,384 such cases. The percentage of pendency in Delhi stood at 25%, indicating a substantial backlog of cases awaiting completion of investigation or trial.

Woman, daughter run over by train

New Delhi(GNS): A woman and her daughter were killed after being run over by a train while crossing the railway track at the Garhi-Harsaru railway station in Gurugram on Thursday morning.

According to the police, the deceased have been identified as Mamta Devi (48), a resident of Bas Hariya village in Gurugram and her mother Madhubala (82), a resident of Ranila village in district Charkhi Dadri in Haryana.

According to family members, Madhubala had come to Bas Hariya village with her son Basant and daughter Babli to visit her daughter Mamta. They were scheduled to catch a train to Jaipur on Thursday. Therefore, Mamta and her husband Vinod had come to the railway station to see them off. Sampat Singh, a relative of the deceased, said the incident took place when the duo was crossing railway tracks to buy tickets. "Seeing a train approaching from Rewari, they stopped on a railway track. In the meantime, Delhi Sarai-Rohilla Superfast train came on the track, hitting Mamta and Madhubala. They died on the spot," said Sampat. "We sent the bodies for post-mortem examination. Preliminary investigations suggest that the two were hit by a train while crossing railway tracks. Further investigation is underway," said Babulal, sub-inspector, GRP.

Hotline maintenance: Local Faults No Longer Trigger Area-Wide Blackouts in Parts of Delhi

New Delhi(GNS): Even local faults in one phase of the electricity distribution network often lead to blackouts across an entire neighbourhood, affecting all phases and thousands of consumers. However, this situation has changed in parts of the city due to the introduction of hotline maintenance - an advanced live-line repair practice being adopted in the city.

Under the system, specialised hotline maintenance vehicles and trained technicians are used to repair faults on live 11 kV electricity lines without shutting power supply to the area. This kind of maintenance was first launched in Shalimar Bagh, and a vehicle is now deployed across North and North West Delhi.

An official from Tata Power-DDL, a power distribution company supplying electricity to North and Northwest Delhi, said that between March and April, the initiative helped save approximately 35,700 affected consumer hours.

Hotline maintenance is an advanced power distribution technique in which a range of repair and maintenance work, such as replacement of damaged insulators and conductors, repair of jumper connections and loose fittings, maintenance of electrical hardware, tree pruning near power lines, are carried out on live electricity lines without shutting down the power supply.

Chief minister Rekha Gupta in Sept 2025 launched the hotline maintenance services.

"We isolate and fix faults while keeping the network operational. It has significantly improved network reliability and uptime by minimising outage frequency and duration," said the official.

The hotline maintenance vehicle is equipped with an insulated aerial boom for safe access to overhead lines while maintaining electrical isolation, a non-conductive fiberglass bucket to ensure technician safety during live-line operations, hydraulic controls for smooth and precise positioning, and onboard storage for insulated tools and personal protective equipment.

"We are focused on strengthening and expanding hotline maintenance capabilities across the 11 kV and below network. In the future, hotline maintenance may be extended to higher voltage levels based on the outcomes and experience gained from the current operations," said the official.

Honey Singh denies singing 'vulgar' song

New Delhi(GNS): Singer Yo Yo Honey Singh on Thursday told Delhi High Court he did not sing the "vulgar" 2006 track, 'Vol. 1', allegedly released by him and Badshah under their collaboration Mafia Mundeer.

His counsel said: "This is an opportunity for me to make sure that this stigma goes because this is not mine. This is the position we have taken. I am here to assist the court to make sure this content goes off. I have gone public to say that this is not something I have sung," his counsel said before Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav, who was hearing a petition by Hindu Shakti Dal seeking removal of the song from online platforms.

The lawyer told the court that proceedings in relation to the track were also pending against him in a Nagpur court, where the rapper had taken a similar stand.

The counsel also disputed the petitioner's claim that he sang a



few verses of the song at an event at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Delhi last year. "No such event happened. I did not sing. If something like this has happened in a stadium where there are 50,000-plus people, there must be one video clip of this," the rapper's counsel said. Terming it a "serious" matter, the court asked Singh to file an affidavit stating his stand and listed the matter for May 19.

It also asked the petitioner to file an affidavit of service of notice to rapper Badshah. On April 2, the court had taken exception to the "vulgar" and "derogatory" song, allegedly released in 2006, saying the track was in complete disregard of the minimum standards of civility and directed its removal online. The petitioner said that in 2006-2007, Honey Singh and Badshah did an "underground" release of the song.

The plea said that Honey Singh and Badshah should issue a public apology for the song.

Minor pregnant girl alleges sexual assault by stepfather



New Delhi(GNS): A man was arrested in Delhi's Rohini district after his minor stepdaughter allegedly accused him of repeatedly sexually assaulting her over the past year, the police said on Thursday. According to the police, a PCR call was received at the Begumpur police station on Wednesday about a minor girl being pregnant and blaming her stepfather for the same.

After getting information, women police personnel reached the spot and took the victim to a safe environment. During inquiry, the girl alleged that her stepfather, identified as Baljeet Singh, had been repeatedly forcing himself on her for nearly a year.

Medical college and hostel to come up at Indira Gandhi Hospital campus in Dwarka

New Delhi(GNS): In a major boost to Delhi's healthcare and medical education infrastructure, chief minister Rekha Gupta has approved the construction of a modern medical college and hostel complex at the Indira Gandhi Hospital campus in Dwarka. The ambitious project, estimated to cost ₹805.9 crore, was approved by the expenditure finance committee recently. The govt aims to complete the project by 2028, said an official.

The project will include a full-fledged medical college, separate hostels for male and



female students, faculty housing and a modern academic block. The initiative is expected to address the growing demand for doctors while significantly strengthening healthcare services. The medical college will be developed in accordance with National Medical Commission norms and will eventually accommodate 250 MBBS seats every year. Teaching activities will begin with an initial batch of

150 students. "The project will be executed in phases. The first phase will focus on the construction of the academic block, student hostels and residential quarters for faculty members. A total of 1,17,246 square metres of area will be developed in this phase, including nearly 34,000 square metres of basement space for parking and other essential facilities. The academic block will be a multi-storey structure equipped with modern classrooms, laboratories and advanced teaching facilities. The hostels will be designed to accommodate a

large number of students, while faculty residences will offer modern and comfortable living spaces," said Gupta. Public Works Department will carry out the construction work, while the health and family welfare department will oversee the project from inception to commissioning. Indira Gandhi Hospital is one of the largest Delhi govt's hospitals with a capacity of 1,241 beds and caters to a large population from Dwarka and nearby areas of southwest Delhi. The hospital provides outpatient, emergency and advanced treatment facilities.

Delhi tops in highest rlys crime rate in country, crimes by foreigners: NCRB data

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi recorded the highest crime rate under the Government Railway Police (GRP) among all states and Union Territories in 2024, topped the cases of crime against foreigners, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.

As per the report, the city recorded 64 cases of crimes against foreigners in 2024, the highest in India, and up from 63 in the previous year.

The national capital reported 40 such cases in 2022, indicating a steady rise over the last three years. The NCRB data, released on Wednesday, showed that Delhi accounted for almost the entire share of crimes against foreigners reported in union territories in 2024.

The city also recorded the highest crime rate under the Government Railway Police



(GRP) among all states and Union Territories in 2024, with 24.3 cases registered per lakh population.

The national capital reported 5,315 GRP cases in 2024, an increase from 5,176 cases in 2023 and 3,243 in 2022, the data showed. The national capital reported 5,315 GRP cases in 2024, an increase from 5,176 cases in 2023 and 3,243 in 2022, the data showed.

Among major states, Maharashtra registered the highest number of GRP cases

at 20,519 in 2024, followed by Madhya Pradesh with 12,931 and Gujarat with 8,220 cases. However, Delhi topped the list in terms of crime rate. Kerala reported the second-highest GRP crime rate at 19.5, followed by Maharashtra at 16.1 and Madhya Pradesh at 14.7.

The NCRB's "Cases Registered by GRP" data includes offences registered by railway police units under provisions of the Indian Penal Code/Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Special and Local Laws.

ISI-linked module planned attacks on Delhi temple, dhaba military camp: Probe



New Delhi(GNS): Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI had allegedly planned attacks on a historic temple in Delhi, a popular dhaba on the Delhi-Sonepat highway and a military camp in Haryana through operatives linked to the Shahzad Bhatti module, sources said on Friday.

According to sources, the revelations emerged during the interrogation of nine alleged operatives of the module arrested by the Delhi Police Special Cell under their 'Gang Bust Operation 2.0' from multiple states. Investigators found that one of the accused had conducted reconnaissance of a historic temple in Delhi and sent photographs of the premises to

Pakistan-based handlers through social media platforms, the source said. The module had allegedly planned to target police personnel and paramilitary forces deployed at the temple and carry out firing to create panic and disruption, he said.

The source also added that the accused were also tasked with carrying out a grenade attack on a popular 'dhaba' on the Delhi-Sonepat highway, frequented by thousands of people daily, with the intention of causing large-scale damage and casualties.

"A military camp in Hisar was also allegedly surveyed and videos of the area were shared with handlers across the border.

Yamuna Bazaar residents get eviction notices

New Delhi(GNS): The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has issued eviction notices to residents living in the Yamuna Bazaar ghat area, directing them to vacate the floodplain zone within 15 days, warning that demolition and eviction action will follow in case of non-compliance. According to government officials, the Yamuna Bazaar stretch falls under the O-Zone category where construction activity is prohibited. Officials said the land belongs to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and encroachments have gradually spread across the area over the years. A senior Delhi government officer said there are 32 ghats in the Yamuna Bazaar area, many of which have been encroached upon. At present, nearly 310 residential structures exist there, housing around 1,100 people.



"The floodplain stretch of the Yamuna Bazaar ghats, located along the Yamuna within the walled area of Yamuna Bazaar, falls under the O-Zone category. The land belongs to the DDA, and all construction activity in the area is strictly prohibited," the government. The government also cited directions issued by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), under which the DDA has been asked to take action against encroachments on Yamuna floodplains. Officials said the DDA had already carried out several drives in recent years and reclaimed large portions of land allegedly being used for residential and commercial purposes. The authorities said the

area remains highly vulnerable during floods and is submerged almost every year. The press release specifically referred to the Yamuna floods of 2023 and 2025. "It has been observed that the area gets submerged during floods in the Yamuna almost every year, particularly during the floods of 2023 and 2025, posing a threat to human life, livestock and property," the statement said.

The eviction notices have been issued under Section 34 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. According to officials, 26 notices have so far been served to people occupying the site. The original notice, issued by the Office of the CEO (DDMA)/Additional District Magistrate, states that the continued occupation of the floodplain area constitutes a "potential disaster risk" requiring immediate preventive and mitigation measures.

BJP Jan Kalyan Manch's Google Meeting Concludes Organization Receives Strong Guidance

An important Google meeting of all the organization's office bearers and workers was successfully held under the aegis of BJP Jan Kalyan Manch's National President, Shri Darshan R. Shah, and the leadership of Shri Mayank. Addressing the meeting, the National President heartily congratulated all the workers on the BJP's historic victory in all three states and described it as a symbol of the people's unwavering faith in the strong leadership, decisive policies, and public welfare vision of the country's popular Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. He clearly stated that the BJP's core mantra, "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas," is not just a slogan but an unwavering resolve to nation-building. The National President cautioned every organization worker that now is not the time for mere meetings, but to work on the ground among the people. It is every worker's responsibility to ensure that

the benefits of government schemes reach the last person in line and to respond to the opposition's lies, misinformation, and propaganda through service, truth, and development. He declared the protection of Indian culture and Sanatan traditions as a top priority, calling for the respect of saints and sages, and the protection of the cow as a national pride. He called for intensifying a nationwide public movement to declare the cow as the "National Mother." All officials were directed to strongly press this demand by submitting memorandums to the Tehsildar, District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, and relevant ministers. An important decision was also taken at the meeting to ensure prompt resolution of public problems through public hearings and public courts, further strengthening the organization's grassroots presence. On this occasion, Delhi State President



Pandit Santosh Mishra, National President of the Kisan Morcha, National General Secretary Shri Ravi Sharma, Pankaj Ji,

Manoj Ji, Lakshmi Ji, along with all the officials of the Mahila Morcha, Kisan Morcha, and Yuva Morcha were present. A strict message on discipline: The National President clearly and sternly instructed that the presence of all officials—the State President, State Secretary, Vice President, General Secretary, Organization General Secretary, and all District Presidents—will be mandatory at any future meeting. Absence without a valid reason will be viewed seriously. If an official cannot attend due to an urgent reason, they must provide prior written notice to the state or national president. Finally, placing special emphasis on organizational expansion, it was stated that to take the BJP Jan Kalyan Manch to every corner of the country, all workers must become active immediately and, through their conduct, uphold the dignity of the organization. "Strong organization, strong nation—this is our resolve."



Delhi records highest juvenile crime rate, reveals NCRB data

New Delhi (GNS): The national capital dominates juvenile crime statistics in 2024, recording the highest number of cases and crime rate among metropolitan cities, with around 42 "Child in conflict with the law" out of every one lakh minors allegedly involved, states National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.

According to the data for 2024 on crimes committed by juveniles in metropolitan cities, Delhi recorded 2,306 such cases in 2024 - the highest among all metro cities.

After the national capital, Chennai in 2024 recorded 466 cases of crimes committed CCLs and Bengaluru reported 386 such cases. In 2023, the figures were marginally higher with 2,278 cases reported in Delhi. While in 2022, the city recorded 2,336 cases indicating that the figures have remained consistently high over the last three years.

In the state and Union Territories category, data showed that 42 juveniles out of one lakh minors committed crimes. Theft remained the most common crime committed by juveniles in Delhi with 526 cases, followed by snatching at 217 cases, attempt to murder at 210 and robbery at 195 cases.

Offences affecting the human body stood at 569 cases, while offences against property touched 1,027 cases, the second highest among states and Union Territories. Delhi also recorded 144 murder cases involving juveniles, seven cases of causing death by negligence, 41 cases of attempt to commit culpable homicide, 147 cases of hurt or grievous hurt, 19 kidnapping and abduction cases and one case of wrongful restraint.

In crimes against women and children, Delhi recorded 58 rape cases involving CCLs during 2024.

Raindrops and ragas: Royal mehfil finds magic indoors

New Delhi (GNS): A sudden downpour altered the script for a royal darbar at Bikaner House recently. As guests rushed indoors, the ballroom transformed into an unexpectedly intimate mehfil, where the sound of raindrops blended with classical notes. "As destiny had it, we are in here in a very intimate setting. The weather in Delhi has forced us to present it to you in a manner we didn't imagine," said acclaimed kathak dancer Manjari Chaturvedi.

The Patiala Gharana episode of the Royal Darbar series featured Ustad Jawaad Ali Khan, grandson of Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, on Hindustani vocals with an



Indian harp. The series aims to revive not just the music but the cultural ethos of each gharana. It was conceptualised by Manjari Chaturvedi.

Jawaad Ali Khan's raags were authentic compositions of his grandfather. "What we are presenting for you today are the actual compositions

that were sung in the royal darbar. The maharajas listened to classical music and were the patrons. We bring together a curation of the songs which were sung in those times," Manjari explained. "I started this initiative where we not only protect music but also tell stories of that particular gharana. It is a challenge that I am responding to because with the increasing influence of Bollywood and all that, somewhere, the intricacies are being lost. It cannot be the onus on only the musicians to save music, but has to be one of us too, to save the musicians as well," Manjari said. 'Aaj toh aap meri

mehfil mein phas gaye!' Expected to play spoilsport, the pattering rain added to the atmosphere as, Manjari began her performance with Jawaad Ali Khan playing Yaad Piya Ki Aaye. Dressed in a violet anarkali ensemble complete with maang teeka and jhumar, her striking expressions and evocative dance made the audience forget about the delays. "Mere paas kahaniyaan toh bahut hain par humne thodi kum kardi. Lekin kum karne se koi fayda nahi hai, kyunki bahar barish bohot tez ho rahi hai, aap log jayenge kahan? Aaj toh aap meri mehfil mein phas gaye," she quipped as the audience laughed.

Delhi prisons battle severe overcrowding, staff shortage

New Delhi (GNS): Delhi recorded the highest level of jail overcrowding in the country, according to the Prison Statistics 2024 report released by National Crime Records Bureau. The city's prisons housed 19,512 inmates against a sanctioned capacity of 10,026, resulting in an occupancy rate of 194.6%, followed by Meghalaya (163.5%), Jammu & Kashmir (148.3%) and Madhya Pradesh (147.1%).

The data revealed that Delhi's prisons accommodated 2,232 convicts and 17,178 undertrials. Among the convicts, 461 were imprisoned for crimes against women, including 400 for rape. The count for murder stood at 792, for kidnapping and abduction at 80 and for offences such as fraud, theft, snatching and dacoity at 357. Two convicts were



booked under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Among undertrials, 1,821 were booked for crimes against women, including 1,344 for rape, 2,987 for murder, 1,956 for theft, 1,453 under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 479 for kidnapping and abduction, and 73 under UAPA. The sanctioned strength of prison staff was 6,516, while the actual strength stood at only 2,447, leaving 4,069 posts vacant.

Of all convicts, 1,567 were from Delhi, 626 from other states and 39 from other countries. Most convicts -- 818 -- had studied below Class X.

Among undertrials, the majority -- 6,949 -- had studied below Class X. Of all undertrials, 12,522 were from Delhi, 3,979 from other states and 677 from other countries.

The report also noted that 29 women inmates were living with their 31 children. Among foreign inmates, 39 were convicts, 677 were undertrials and eight were detainees. Among the convicts, the highest number -- 13 -- were Pakistanis, while among the undertrials, the largest group of 305 comprised Nigerians. The data also showed that 12 convicts were awarded capital punishment, while 858 were serving life imprisonment, 413 sentences of 10-13 years and 348 terms of seven-nine years.

Delhi saw most suicides in 2024 Bengaluru next: NCRB data

New Delhi (GNS): Delhi recorded 2,905 suicides in 2024, the highest among 53 Indian cities, data released by NCRB has revealed. Bengaluru reported the second highest number of suicides at 2,403, followed by Mumbai with 1,406 cases. But the suicide rate in Delhi (based on projected figures of population) is 13.2 suicides per lakh people. For Bengaluru, it is 16.7 suicides per lakh people; Mumbai it is 11. In 2022, Delhi reported 3,417 deaths by suicide while in 2023, the figure stood at 3,131, showing a downward trend.

Of the total 2,905 deaths in 2024, men accounted for 2,078 (71.5%), women 825 (28.4%) and transgender persons two (0.1%). Family-related issues emerged as the



leading cause behind the suicides, with 675 deaths, followed by marital problems (258 deaths) and unemployment (236 deaths).

A look at the occupational profile of the deceased revealed that 745 of them were unemployed.

Students accounted for 378 deaths, while 343 were daily wage workers. Among the 325 self-employed people who died by suicide, as many as 242 owned their own business. This was closely followed by homemakers, who accounted for 315 deaths.

48 hours, 1k teams, 482 arrests:

Delhi police nabs suspects linked to criminal gangs in India, Pakistan

New Delhi (GNS): Making a major dent in the terror-gangster nexus active in the city and neighbouring states, Delhi Police has concluded a 48-hour offensive with the arrest of 482 suspects linked to criminal entities in India and Pakistan.

Delhi's special commissioner (law & order) Ravindra Singh Yadav said the operation, spanning May 5-7, involved over 1,000 teams deployed across 1,014 locations in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, effectively choking the lifelines of major criminal syndicates.

Beyond arrests, the special cell and districts' police seized a significant cache of illegal firearms and equipment: 141 pistols, 212 cartridges, 79 knives and 24 vehicles. Financial and material lifelines were further severed with the recovery of Rs 19 lakh in cash, 19kg of narcotic drugs, 1,234 liquor bottles and 31 mobile phones that likely hold the dig-



ital blueprints for future operations.

According to additional CP (special cell) Pramod Kushwaha, the operation was preceded by a deep-dive identification of gang members and their logistical helpers - ranging from shooters and finance providers to SIM card and shelter providers - ensuring the raids hit the heart of these criminal ecosystems.

The statistical breakdown reveals that zone-II of police

saw the highest volume of activity with 537 raids, while the special cell conducted 310 targeted strikes against the most dangerous elements of these syndicates. The most chilling breakthrough perhaps involves the Shahzad Bhatti network, an alleged ISI-sponsored proxy suspected of coordinating anti-national activities. This module has been openly recruiting foot soldiers via social media to mount IP-based CCTV cameras, rece-

sensitive installations and coordinate the delivery of arms and narcotics.

Of the nine network associates arrested, one is a resident of Rajouri in Jammu & Kashmir. Most critically, investigators revealed that members of this module were specifically tasked with executing a high-stakes conspiracy to carry out random firing at security personnel in north India and Delhi-NCR.

This group had already conducted reconnaissance of several sensitive Delhi neighbourhoods, suggesting that the operation likely intercepted a major terror strike just as it moved into its final stages.

The operation also hammered conventional organised crime fronts, arresting active members from several major gangs. This included seven members of the Kapil Sangwan (alias Nandu) gang, four from the Sandeep Kala Jathedi syndicate and three from the Hashim Baba group.

ED arrests 3 Gameskraft founders in money laundering case; Rs 18.57 crore frozen earlier

New Delhi (GNS): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday arrested three founders of online gaming platform Gameskraft in connection with an alleged money laundering case linked to cheating and fraud, officials said. The accused, Deepak Singh, Prithvi Raj Singh and Vikas Taneja, were taken into custody under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

According to officials, Deepak Singh and Prithvi Raj Singh were arrested from the Delhi-NCR region. The ED later obtained transit remand to produce them before a Bengaluru court. Taneja was arrested in Bengaluru and has already been produced before a local court. The arrests follow the ED's money laundering investigation against Gameskraft Technologies Ltd and associated entities based on multiple FIRs alleging cheating and fraud.

The central agency had conducted searches at 17 locations across Delhi-NCR and Karnataka on



Thursday, during which officials seized several documents linked to the probe. ED officials alleged that the platform operated various online real-money gaming applications, including 'RummyCulture' and the Rummytime app.

According to ED, several FIRs have been registered against the company, including cases linked to alleged suicides by individuals who were purportedly duped through the gaming platforms.

In November last year, the ED had frozen eight escrow bank accounts associated with Gameskraft that allegedly held deposits worth Rs 18.57 crore as part of the ongoing investigation.