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SOMNATH
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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

**The celebration of '75 Years of Heritage' on this holy land of
Somnath is a living reflection of the victory of our
eternal power and unwavering national resolve.
Shri Harsh Sanghavi, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister**



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

A selfless and duty-bound Karmayogi left his body due to chanting the name of Shri Krishna

Dr. Umesh Chandra Sharma

By passing away amidst the chanting of the sacred name of Lord Shri Krishna, a Karmayogi, cow-worshipper, and spiritually devoted retired teacher, who had completely renounced food for the past 55 years, marked the final stage of his long Karmayogi practice. Through his renunciation, restraint, and spiritual life, he had earned the sobriquet of "Grihastha Saint" by various communities throughout his native village, Untwas, and the entire region. He was respectfully addressed as "Veniramji Madsaab." Following his passing, residents of the

entire village came to pay their respects, while MLAs from various political parties and other public representatives also visited his residence, remembering his devotional service and dedication to duty.

Retired teacher Veni Prasad Patel, a resident of the village of Untwas (also known as Raghavpur), in the Badnagar tehsil of Ujjain district in Madhya Pradesh, dedicated his entire life to spirituality, cow service, and devotion to duty as a teacher. The householder saint Veniram Madsaab was deeply influenced by his guru, the devout celibate, the late Swami Shri Raghavanandaji

Maharaj, and fully embraced his ideals. Consequently, his personality possessed a remarkable balance of devotion and humility. Despite his life's full luxuries, he remained a man of absolute poverty. Therefore, members of various communities throughout the region, including Untwas, respectfully referred to him as "Veniramji Madsaab," referring to him as a "householder saint."

Born into a Brahmin family in the village of Untwas (Raghavpur) in the Badnagar tehsil, Veni Prasad Sharma Patel completed his primary education and took up farming.

However, worldly pursuits never hindered his devotional service, spiritual practice, and spiritual life. He considered education not merely a means of livelihood but also a means of service. He performed his duties as a teacher with complete honesty, integrity, and dedication.

Veniram Madsaab's entire life was spent observing the norms of Brahmin religion. He never begged for anything from anyone, always performing the evening prayers three times a day and engaging in devotional service. What greater example of his unwavering determination, remarkable restraint, and austerity

could there be than the fact that, around 1971, at a yagna held in the village of Untwas Raghavpur, inspired by his spiritual guru, the devout Brahmachari, the late Swami Shri Raghavanandaji Maharaj, he resolved to renounce food for the rest of his life and embraced fruit. From that day until the end of his life—for over 55 years—he did not consume a single grain of food, making fruit the foundation of his lifelong life. Yet, he never made this renunciation a subject of discussion, and continued to fulfill his duties as a teacher with exemplary dedication. While on one hand the late teacher Beni Prasad adopt-

ed the path of spirituality by devoting himself to the praises of Lord Shri Krishna, on the other hand he gave a new dimension to the practice of Karmayoga through cow service and while fulfilling the duty of an excellent teacher, he continued to provide cultured education to his students. During his tenure as a teacher, he taught the students the lessons of duty, service spirit, disciplined life and purity. Not only this, but while fulfilling his social responsibility, he donated his 5400 square feet valuable land to the Nagdah Agnihotri Brahmin Samaj, where various religious, social and cultural activities are being shaped by the society.

Editorial

Take east: On the BJP government in West Bengal

The Bharatiya Janata Party's victory in West Bengal has long been in the making. In power for three consecutive five-year terms, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) had been degenerating by the day while the BJP built itself up, vote by vote, aided by all the levers of power that it could exercise as the ruling party at the Centre. The party won 207 of the 294 Assembly seats; in 2021 it had 77. Suvendu Adhikari, Leader of the Opposition in the outgoing Assembly, will be the new Chief Minister. He defeated Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in her own constituency, Bhabanipur — marking the second time that he has prevailed over her, after Nandigram in 2021. Popular dissatisfaction over jobs, corruption, governance and law and order undermined the TMC, which increasingly relied on violence and coercion to keep the State under its thumb. The West Bengal teacher recruitment scam eroded public trust in the TMC, and the R.G. Kar rape and murder case was a major inflection point. Ms. Banerjee first lost control of governance — which was never complete even at the beginning — and then lost control of the narrative. In 2021, her claim to be the protector of Bengali identity against a BJP perceived as the promoter of a Hindi heartland project had worked in her favour. That regional identity politics weakened as its principal champion sank into chaos and degeneration.

The BJP's strategy has been evolving over the years under the direct supervision of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who spent several weeks in the State through the campaign. The party expanded its capacity at the booth level across rural Bengal through a decade of sustained work, building on its strong performance in the 2019 general election and its 2021 Assembly showing. The party had its own identity politics capable of countering the TMC's Bengali identity politics. BJP politics in the State was constructed on intense, contentious debates around citizenship, migration and Hindu consolidation — all tied to controversial administrative measures such as the tailored Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and changes to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

Mother is the form of God and Allah on this earth - motherly love, sacrifice and the most precious heritage of human civilization

Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

Mother's lap is a refuge, where we find peace and all our sorrows are cured.

Matru Devo Bhava: A mother's love is an elixir, filled with only sacrifice, affection, compassion, protection and blessings - surrender everything in her honour.

From the beginning of human civilization at the global level till today's modern scientific era, if any relationship is considered the most

If there is a relationship considered more sacred, selfless, unique, and divine, it is the relationship between a mother and her child. Among the millions of creatures and countless species on Earth, if there is any emotion that is most natural, deep, and spiritual, it is motherhood. A mother is not just a woman who gives birth, but she is the power that dedicates herself completely to her child. Every relationship in the world may be based on some expectation or the other, but a mother's love is such an elixir that it contains only sacrifice, affection, compassion, protection, and blessings. This is the reason that in Indian culture, mother has been given a place above even God and it is said "Matri Devo Bhavaah" meaning mother is like a deity. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavanani, Gondia, Maharashtra, if I tell my truth to my departed mother, then I have been deprived of my mother's love since 20th November 2020, the day of Dhanteras, because on this day my mother had a silent attack in front of my eyes and in front of my eyes, while talking to me, I saw her disappearing from the world with my own eyes, I will never be able to forget that moment in my life and I always think, no letter, no message, I don't know which country you have gone to, today I say that Mother's Day is on 10th May 2026, O Mother! I want to celebrate Mother's Day with you, come to this world or invite you to the next. That's why I say that those who have a mother are the luckiest people in life. When a

person returns to their childhood memories, the first thing they remember is their mother's lap, her pat, her lullaby, and her affection. The first hand that supports them when they fall in childhood is their mother's. The first person to worry about hunger is their mother. The one whose heart trembles at the sight of tears in a child's eyes is their mother. This is why, no matter how high a person in the world reaches in life, their mother resides in the deepest part of their soul. The person who has their mother's shadow in their life is truly the luckiest person on earth, because a mother's presence is not just a relationship but a living and precise experience of God.

Friends, if we can intimately experience a mother's deep, boundless love. If we were to see it in practice, those who have infants in their homes will see how deeply caring that mother is for her children. She devotes all her time to raising them, because she spends the entire night with tears in her eyes when the child cries or doesn't sleep. I say this because we currently have two young children, Kumar and Ruhaan, who are being raised by their mothers. I understand the depth of the need for a mother and a child to be raised. I believe that those human beings who insult their mothers, hurt them, expel them from the home, or commit acts that disrespect their mothers, are no greater sinners on this earth, no greater evildoers. I believe they will surely receive a thousandfold the consequences of their actions in this life. I believe that every person should respect his mother and spend the entire day of Mother's Day, 10th May 2026, with her, sitting at her feet under her protection, talking to her, playing and joking and making her happy, then what else does a mother need. If her children make her happy, then such blessings come out of her mouth that not only this world but the next world also becomes morning for those children. I have full faith in myself that on 10th May 2026, even if in an invisible form, my mother will definitely come,

because I have said in my heart, mother, I want to celebrate Mother's Day with you, come to this world or call me to the next world. Because a mother's lap is a refuge, a place where we find solace and all sorrows are healed. Today, with the help of information available in the media, we will discuss in this article that a mother is a form of God on earth. A mother's place in our lives is unique. Friends, if we want to understand the greatness of a mother's love, looking only at human society is not enough. If we observe nature and the animal world, we will find that motherhood is a basic instinct of every living being. A cow worries about her calf, birds protect their young by hiding them under their wings, a cat carries her young in her mouth to safety, and a bitch faces any danger to protect her puppies. If someone tries to harm an animal's young, its mother immediately attacks. This is not just instinct, but the divine feeling given by nature, called motherhood. This makes it clear that a mother's love is not limited to humans, but permeates the entire creation. A mother's importance in human life is paramount because she dedicates her entire life to her child. A mother carries her child in her womb for nine months, endures unbearable pain to give birth, and then sacrifices all her comforts to raise it. A smile from a child makes one forget all her sorrows. A mother forgets her sleep if her child cries all night. She can remain hungry herself, but cannot see her child hungry. This sacrifice is what brings motherhood closest to God. Friends, in today's modern world, where materialism and selfishness are on the rise, the importance of a mother is even greater. Even in this age of technology and artificial intelligence, no machine can replace a mother. Even the most expensive gift in the world cannot provide the peace of a mother's lap. A mother is not only a caregiver for her children, but also their first teacher, first doctor, first friend, and first guide. A mother plays a paramount role in shaping a child's character.

Through her values, she shapes the future of society and the nation.

Friends, whenever there's a discussion about the decline of moral values ??in society, a major reason is often attributed to the weakening of motherhood and family values ??within families. A society that respects mothers is considered advanced and cultured. However, unfortunately, in modern times, incidents of abuse, neglect, and disrespect toward elderly mothers are also being reported. Some people consider their own mothers a burden, sending them to nursing homes or inflicting mental anguish on them. This is not just a social degradation but the greatest crime against human sensibilities. A person who cannot respect their mother cannot truly respect any relationship. Indian culture has always preached that heaven resides at the feet of a mother. Serving a mother is not just a duty but the greatest virtue in life.

Friends, the power of a mother's blessings has been acknowledged by every culture in the world. In India, women are worshipped in the forms of Goddess Durga, Goddess Saraswati, and Goddess Lakshmi. In Christian tradition, Mother Mary is considered a symbol of compassion and purity. Islam states that "Paradise lies under the feet of a mother." Nearly every civilization and religion in the world has given the mother the highest respect. This demonstrates that motherhood is not a concept unique to any one society or culture, but a shared truth of all humanity. Friends, Mother's Day is a global symbol of respect for motherhood. Mother's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world on the second Sunday of May every year. Although one day alone is not enough for a mother, her importance remains constant throughout the 365 days of the year. Nevertheless, this day gives us an opportunity to express our gratitude to our mothers, remember their sacrifices, and make them realize how important they are in our lives.

Blessings, power and democracy: mythological history in this Kaliyuga?

Sanat Jain

In Indian mythology, the story of Bhasmasura is a tale of intoxication with power, leading a person to lose their sense of reason. The story of Bhasmasura carries a profound message of balancing power, ego, and reason. According to the story, Lord Shiva, pleased with Bhasmasura's penance, granted him a boon: "Whoever he placed his hand on would be reduced to ashes." Upon gaining power, Bhasmasura became so intoxicated with the boon's power that he

attempted to lay his hand on his own idol, Shiva. Ultimately, Lord Shiva was forced to flee due to his own boon. To save him, Lord Vishnu assumed the form of Mohini and drove Bhasmasura to self-destruction. This story is also seen as an important symbol in the context of today's democratic India, where the public feels betrayed.

In a democracy, the people are the true source of power. Through their votes, the public bestows power upon a government. The current political system established in India after

2014 came to power with the blessings of the people, based on widespread public expectations, a desire for change, and promises of development. In its early years, strict measures against corruption, strong leadership, and promises of economic reforms instilled new trust in the government. Over time, this sentiment has grown across a large segment of society. The government is acting in the interests of the capitalists. The distance between the government and the public is increasing.

Today, rising inflation in the country is breaking

the back of the common man. Unemployment has become the biggest challenge facing the youth. Basic necessities like education and health are becoming more expensive, and the general public is being burdened with debt. Meanwhile, the privileges available to big industrialists and capitalists are increasing. The perception has strengthened that the benefits of economic policies are increasingly limited to the upper classes of society, while the poor and middle classes struggle to make ends meet. Taxes on the poor are increasing,

while those of the rich are being reduced. There are different rules and regulations for the poor and different laws for the rich. The greatest strength of democracy is the principle of equality and equal justice. When this sentiment begins to emerge in society, and the law and justice system operates differently for the rich and the poor, democracy begins to weaken. If the government doesn't listen to the poor and instead begins to view the public as a burden, and the independence of constitutional institutions becomes questionable,

and ordinary citizens begin to feel helpless, this situation becomes worrisome. In the current situation, the story of Bhasmasura serves as a lesson. If a government formed with public power shifts away from public interest and focuses on personal interests, power preservation, propaganda, and the interests of a select few, that very power can ultimately undermine trust, leading to its demise. In any democratic system, the final decision rests with the people. Elections, public opinion, and democratic institutions are the same

"Mohini" (enchanted) that, like Bhasmasura, instills arrogance and the intoxication of unlimited power in those in power, leading to their doom.

India's democracy is strengthened not just by governments, but by informed citizens. It is essential that the public questions the government and holds it accountable for its duties. Those in power should remember that in a democracy, not every "blessing" bestowed by the public is permanent. When the public desires, that very power can become a vehicle for change.

LG reviews expansion and operations plan, a significant step towards making Delhi a global aviation hub

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Saturday reviewed the operational and expansion plan of the Indra Gandhi International Airport, calling the project a significant step towards developing the IGI into a world-class aviation hub. Aviation officials presented a detailed report to the Lieutenant Governor detailing IGI Airport's operations, expansion, and future plans. The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the report closely and noted that the work is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a technologically advanced aviation sector. He commended the ongoing work.

The Lieutenant Governor praised the Zero Waste to

Landfill policy and the water harvesting system adopted by Delhi Airport as an excellent example in the field of sustainable development. He said that such initiatives not only promote environmental protection but also set new standards for sustainable infrastructure in the country.

The LG suggested that by effectively utilizing the world-class airport

and aerocity ecosystem, Delhi could become a major hub for national and international trade, tourism, and investment. He urged the relevant agencies to develop a concrete strategy to further strengthen the capital's global presence.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor interacted



directly with passengers

at the airport's food court to gather their opinions and experiences. He emphasized that passenger convenience and satisfaction must be given top priority.

Calling aircraft noise pollution a serious issue,

Sandhu also raised the issue of aircraft noise pollution amid rapid development. He directed officials to find effective solutions while maintaining a balance between development and the interests of local residents. The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that Delhi will be developed into an aviation hub that will attract global trade and investment while also fully adhering to environmental responsibilities.

Delhi govt grants Reserved Forest status to 673 hectares of Central Ridge

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi government has granted Reserved Forest status to over 670 hectares of the Central Ridge area under the Indian Forest Act, to strengthen environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and pollution control in the national capital.

According to an official statement issued on Saturday, the notified area falls under the Western Forest Division and covers parts around Sardar Patel Marg and the President's Estate.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the decision marked a major step towards protecting Delhi's ecologically sensitive Ridge areas, often described as the "green lungs" of the city.

"With commitment and determination, our government has declared nearly 673.32 hectares of the Central Ridge area as Reserved Forest," Gupta said.

The notification would provide stronger statutory protection to the area and help prevent encroachments, illegal activities and ecological degradation, she added.

The Reserved Forest status has been granted under Section 20 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. In the Reserved areas, activities including hunting, grazing, etc, are banned unless specific orders are issued.

This decision reflects our commitment towards environmental conservation, expansion of green cover, and securing a safe and balanced future for the coming generations.

The process of granting final legal protection to the Ridge areas had remained pending despite their initial notification in 1994 under Section 4 of the Act, she said, adding that the declaration completed an important process that had been pending for more than three decades.

The Central Ridge stretches along both sides of Upper Ridge Road and forms part of the ancient Aravalli hill system, the statement said. Gupta said the Ridge plays a key role in improving air quality, conserving biodiversity, strengthening groundwater levels and mitigating the

impact of climate change and urban pollution.

Around 4,080.82 hectares of the Southern Ridge area had been declared a Reserved Forest on October 24 last year, Gupta said, adding that the government is expediting the process of notifying the remaining Ridge areas in Delhi as Reserved Forests.

With the latest notification, a total of 4,754.14 hectares of Ridge areas in Delhi have now been granted Reserved Forest status, she added.

According to the statement, the government also plans large-scale plantation of native tree species, including neem, peepal, shisham, jamun, tamarind and mango, in suitable areas across the Ridge.

Women Who Keep Going Even When Their Bodies Cannot

New Delhi, (GNS): Before dawn breaks over Delhi's Lal Bagh slum, Reshma quietly leaves her small shack made of plastic sheets and sackcloth. The lanes are still dark when she begins rummaging through garbage piles for scrap and firewood. By the time the city wakes up, she has already spent hours working on an empty stomach.

At home, four children wait for her return. On some days, they get to eat only once. On others, there is nothing at all. "I keep thinking about food the whole day," says the 30-year-old mother. "Not for myself, but for my children. When they sleep hungry, I feel helpless."

Reshma came to Delhi after marriage, hoping life would improve. Instead, poverty enveloped her family. Her husband, who occasionally plays drums during festive seasons, spends much of what he earns on alcohol and gambling. "He beats me up and sometimes throws me out of the shack," Reshma says. "Once, he badly injured my eye. I wanted to complain, but I was threatened. I had nowhere to go with my children." Over the years, hunger and stress began eating into her health. She often feels faint while working and struggles with constant weakness and low blood pressure. Yet stopping is not an option. Every morning at 4, she heads out, earning barely Rs 200 collecting scraps throughout a back-breaking day.

Women like Reshma are at the centre of a growing crisis in Delhi's slums, where poverty, malnutrition and poor healthcare combine to create silent emergencies inside thousands of shacks. Many women survive on inadequate food, ignore illnesses for years and continue physically demanding work even when their bodies are close to collapse. Healthcare remains out of reach for most. Govt hospitals are overcrowded and many are far from slum settlements. Private treatment is unaffordable. Missing a day's work to visit a doctor can mean losing the only income a family has for food.

Asha Community Health and Development Society, a Delhi-based organisation working among slum communities, says women are often the last to receive care despite bearing the greatest burden within such households. Asha is trying to bridge

this gap with mobile clinics, nutritious meals, health check-ups, supplements, counselling and community outreach.

The programme particularly focuses on women facing extreme poverty, domestic violence, abandonment, chronic illness and maternal health complications. Community health volunteers conduct home visits to identify women at risk and connect them to medical support.

"In Delhi's slum communities, many women live on the edge of survival — raising children alone, caring for sick family members, or coping with abandonment and poverty. In most homes, women eat last and the least. Over time, hunger, anaemia and exhaustion weaken their bodies, yet they continue working and caring for their families until they can no longer carry the burden alone," said Dr Kiran Martin, founder and director of Asha.

She added, "By the time many of these women reach us, they are already exhausted and unwell. Through this programme, each one of them will receive a freshly prepared, nutritious meal, along with healthcare and essential supplements."

In Lal Bagh, 20-year-old Lalita fights a similar battle. Married off at just 15 because her family could no longer afford to feed everyone at home, she says hunger has shaped most of her life. "I have never seen a full plate of food," she says. "Even now, I make sure my child eats first. If something is left, then I eat."

Lalita lives with her husband and three-year-old child in a fragile shanty covered by a thin tarpaulin sheet. During monsoons, rainwater seeps inside, soaking the floor where the family sleeps. To survive, she spends hours collecting scrap from garbage dumps while her husband tries to earn money by selling lemons door to door or playing drums during festivals. However, on many days, they return home with almost nothing to show for their toil.

The lack of nutrition has severely affected Lalita's health. She has lost significant weight and often feels too weak to work. Yet she continues because stopping means no food for her child. "When I feel dizzy, I just sit for some time and then continue," she says. "What else can I do?"

60k households in 12 districts complete self-enumeration in 1 week

New Delhi, (GNS): Over 60,000 households across 250 Municipal Corporation of Delhi wards in 12 districts have completed self-enumeration for Census 2027 within the first week of the exercise. The process will continue till May 15.

After that, enumerators will begin extensive door-to-door verification and house-listing operations across the capital to verify the entries made by people and also to note down the details of households that have not self-enumerated.

Self-enumeration, which is optional, began in two phases in Delhi. It started on April 1 in New Delhi district (Lutyens' Delhi) and continued for 15 days, while it began on May 1 and in the remaining 12 districts.

Self-enumeration under Census 2027 allows residents, including tenants, to fill in and submit household details online (<https://se.census.gov.in>) before an enumerator's visit. People are required to mention information related to house type, amenities, ownership sta-

tus and household profile, among other things.

From April 16, the enumerators started door-to-door visits in New Delhi district to verify the self-enumeration data and freeze it, apart from covering households that did not complete self-enumeration. The door-to-door visits in the 250 wards are set to begin from May 16. In New Delhi district, officials said that enumerators have already covered more than 95% of the over 1 lakh households during the ongoing door-to-door house-listing exercise. The data collected has been frozen for submission to the central census authorities.

The district has around 580 house-listing blocks, with each block covering 180 to 200 households. Across MCD areas, Delhi has nearly 46,000 house-listing blocks, each comprising 150 to 180 households.

"In New Delhi, authorities have now begun random verification of house-listing entries to ensure authenticity and accuracy of the data collected. Senior district officials, including

SDMs, are conducting sample-based checks and re-verification exercises on the ground. Random samples are being picked up from various categories of localities, such as VIP areas, slums and middle-class residential areas. Entries are being rechecked and discrepancies corrected," an official involved in the exercise said.

Officials said people should complete self-enumeration in the 12 Delhi districts before the May 15 deadline. They, however, clarified that households that do not opt for self-enumeration will still be fully covered under census. In such cases, enumerators will collect all details physically during door-to-door visits, though the process may take longer compared with self-enumeration. Census 2027 is the sixteenth since 1872 and the eighth after Independence. Conducted under Article 246 of the Constitution and the Census Act, 1948, it will have two phases. The first is house-listing and the second, population enumeration, is scheduled for 2027.

Delhi Police bust IPL ticket black marketing racket, 3 held

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi Police has busted a black-marketing racket involving Tata IPL match tickets and arrested three people for allegedly selling complimentary passes and regular tickets at exorbitant prices, an official said on Saturday.

The accused have been identified as Mukeem, Gufran alias Sajid and Mohammad Faisal, police said.

According to police, a team of the crime branch laid a trap near Delhi Gate on May 8 after a tip-off about the illegal sale of IPL tickets.

"The accused were allegedly posing as authorised representatives of the Delhi and District Cricket Association and selling tickets at inflated prices to unsuspecting buyers," a police officer said.

At 111 victims, Delhi recorded highest dowry deaths among metros in 2024

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi recorded the highest number of dowry death cases among 19 metropolitan cities in 2024, continuing a grim trend that kept the national capital at the top of the ignominious list for the fifth consecutive year. According to National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) report, 'Crime in India 2024', Delhi reported 109 such incidents involving 111 victims, with a crime rate of 1.4 per lakh population. Though the numbers were the highest among metropolitan cities, the data

indicates a gradual decline from a spike witnessed during the Covid period. Delhi recorded 136 incidents and 139 victims in 2021 — the highest in the five-year period — with the crime rate touching 1.8 per lakh population. Since then, the figures have steadily dipped, falling to 129 cases in 2022 and 114 the next year.

Under Section 80 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which earlier was Section 304B of Indian Penal Code (IPC), a dowry death is registered when a woman dies

under unnatural circumstances within seven years of marriage and it is established that she faced cruelty or harassment linked to dowry demands shortly before her demise.

In Jan 2026, a woman SWAT commando of Delhi Police was killed, allegedly by her husband, who repeatedly struck her with a dumbbell following an argument over persistent demands for dowry, bringing renewed attention to the issue.

Despite the gradual decline in such cases, Delhi continued to

report significantly higher numbers than other metropolitan cities in 2024. Kanpur recorded the second-highest number with 54 incidents and victims, though its crime rate stood much higher at 4 per lakh population. Patna was next with 30 incidents and victims and a rate of 3.1.

NCRB data analysed by news agency over the past five years shows that while Delhi's absolute numbers remain the highest, the city's rate has fluctuated between 1.4 and 1.8 since 2020. In 2023, it reported 114 incidents involv-

ing 114 victims, at a rate of 1.5. Kanpur and Lucknow recorded 45 cases each, while Jaipur reported 38 incidents.

In 2022, the capital registered 129 incidents involving 129 victims, at a rate of 1.7. Kanpur and Lucknow had 43 cases each, while Jaipur reported 33.

The sharpest rise was seen in 2021 during the pandemic period, when Delhi reported 136 incidents involving 139 victims. Lucknow followed with 51 cases while Jaipur recorded 34. Even in 2020, when the pandemic

started, Delhi topped the list with 109 incidents and 111 victims, with a rate of 1.4.

The trend has raised concerns over the persistence of dowry-related violence in Delhi despite laws being progressively tightened and repeated awareness campaigns. Investigators and women's rights activists have often pointed to prolonged domestic abuse, financial pressure from in-laws and continued social acceptance of dowry demands as key factors behind such crimes.

The real reason for welcoming with folded hands on the flight was revealed

New Delhi, (GNS): When air hostesses in Indian airlines say "Namaste" with folded hands and smile, the scene reminds passengers of Indian culture and hospitality. The exact reason behind this has come to light recently. A flight attendant shared a video on social media and said that doing Namaste with folded hands is not only a tradition but also associated with safety, health and professional convenience. According to the flight attendant, the biggest reason behind doing Namaste instead of shaking hands is

hygiene and health safety. Hundreds of passengers travel on this route every day. In such a situation, if the crew members shake hands with every passenger, the risk of spreading germs and viruses can increase significantly. After the Covid pandemic, airlines have become more cautious in this matter. There is no physical contact in Namaste, so the chances of spreading the infection are very low. That's why many airlines are now prioritizing the touchless greeting. Apart from this, an important reason to do Namaste is also to



look carefully at the passengers.

When air hostesses greet with folded hands, they try to

closely understand the face, gestures and behaviour of the passengers. This lets them know immediately if a passenger is nervous, feeling unwell, drunk or behaving in a suspicious manner. This procedure is considered very important from the point of view of aircraft safety. At the time of boarding, the crew members not only welcome but also observe every passenger. For Indian airlines, Namaste is also part of their cultural identity. This method is considered to be very effective in showing Indian tradition and hospitality in front of interna-

tional travelers. Foreign tourists also see this greeting as a special and memorable experience. This is the reason why Indian airlines give prominence to Namaste in their brand image. Flight attendants say that constantly shaking hands with hundreds of passengers on long flights can be physically exhausting. In such a situation, doing Namaste proves to be an easy, respectful and professional way. Many foreign airlines of the world still use "hello" or handshake, while Indian airlines maintain their own identity through Namaste.

LG outlines vision for transforming Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi's future development will be guided by five core principles — sustainability, inclusion, culture, innovation and economic growth and compassion — lieutenant governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu said on Friday while outlining his vision for transforming the national capital into a more humane, globally competitive and environmentally resilient city. Speaking at a felicitation programme organised at School of International Studies (SIS),

Jawaharlal Nehru University, of which he is an alumnus, Sandhu said Delhi must move beyond "reactive measures" and adopt long-term ecological planning.

"The first pillar is, sustainability. No city can aspire to global leadership, without addressing environmental challenges, with urgency and sincerity," LG said.

The LG identified cleaner air, rejuvenation of Yamuna, enhanced green cover, waste management and sustainable mobility as key priorities for

Delhi's urban future. "Yamuna must, not only be cleaned; it must be restored, as a vibrant ecological, and cultural lifeline, of this city," he said.

Calling inclusion the second pillar of development, Sandhu said urban growth must benefit all sections of society. "Delhi's future must belong, equally to women, senior citizens, youth, differently-abled, migrant workers, entrepreneurs, artists, students and vulnerable communities," he said.

A cooling zone has been set up near the Jama Masjid Metro station, with seating arrangements for 70-80 people

New Delhi, (GNS): In view of the increasing heat and heat wave conditions, the Delhi government is seriously implementing the Heat Wave Action Plan effectively. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta stated that, at the initiative of the Old Delhi District, a special cooling zone has been created near the Jama Masjid Metro station in the Old Delhi area for the convenience and relief of the general public. It will provide seating arrangements for 70-80 people, along with cold water and ORS. In a release issued on Saturday, the Chief Minister said that during the intense heat, there is a large movement of people in markets, religious places, and tourist areas. Therefore, such facilities are proving extremely useful for the people in sensitive and highly crowded areas like the Old Delhi area. This cooling zone, separate from



the mobile heat vehicle, is designed as a permanent relief center for people to sit, rest, and get immediate relief from the heat. Seating arrangements have been made for approximately 70 to 80 people, allowing passersby, tourists, rickshaw pullers, laborers, the elderly, and others to stop and relax for a while. He stated that the cooling zone provides a continuous supply of cold water through water coolers. Additionally, ORS-containing water

is also being provided to people to prevent dehydration and prevent heat stroke and dehydration. The government's priority is to ensure that no one experiences discomfort during this difficult summer.

The Chief Minister has directed officials to identify areas of the capital with high footfall and develop similar relief facilities there. He stated that the Delhi government is implementing a multi-pronged strategy to combat the heat

wave. This includes providing relief facilities, drinking water, awareness campaigns, and special arrangements in sensitive areas in various districts. The government is striving to ensure the administration remains fully vigilant and active in mitigating the effects of the heat. In view of the potential for temperatures to rise in the coming days, all relevant departments have been instructed to remain on alert.

Providing pure water to every household is the priority of the government: Ravindra Indraj Singh

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi's Social Welfare Minister Ravindra Indraj Singh inaugurated the new water pipeline project in Rohini Sector-24 on Saturday. He stated that providing clean water to every household is the government's priority. The government's goal is to provide clean and adequate drinking water to every area and every

family in the capital. The Minister stated that strengthening basic amenities like water is the government's responsibility, and continuous work will continue in this direction. He stated that keeping in mind the balanced development of rural and urban areas, the government is strengthening the infrastructure to ensure better living

facilities for every citizen. He directed officials to ensure transparency, accountability, and sensitivity in the water supply system so that citizens in any area do not face any problems. During the program, local citizens expressed their happiness at the launch of the new pipeline project, calling it a major relief for the area. This new system

will especially benefit women, the elderly, and children, who previously faced water supply problems. To realize the Delhi government's commitment to "Developed Delhi, Green Delhi," continuous work is being done to strengthen infrastructure so that every citizen of the capital can have access to better and dignified living facilities.

A young man died in a fire while burning an empty apple tray

Shimla, (GNS): A young man was overwhelmed by the burning of an empty apple tray inside the kitchen. The fire was so intense that the young man fell into it and was seriously injured. He fell unconscious while trying to douse the fire, following which he died. After the incident, panic spread in the area.

The incident took place on Friday evening in Matasa village under Jubbal police station

area of Shimla district. The deceased has been identified as Topidra Karki, a resident of Dailekh Karnali district of Nepal. He was working in an apple orchard in Jubbal area these days and was staying near local resident Bhushan Basta. His brother informed the police about the incident.

According to the police, Topidra Karki was present in the kitchen after working in



the garden. During this time, he allegedly collected empty apple trays and set them on fire. The fire spread quickly and engulfed

his clothes. After the fire was doused, he went to the room, where he took off his burnt clothes. After this, he again came towards the kitchen to douse the fire with water, but fell unconscious due to severe burning and pain. On being informed, police reached the spot, seized the body and started investigation into the incident. The police have registered a case under Section 194 of the IPC.

Delhi-Faridabad to get new memu train service, easing daily commute for thousands

New Delhi, (GNS): Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has approved the operation of a new Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) rail service between Delhi and Faridabad. Announcing the decision, CM Rekha Gupta said that the new service would provide significant relief to thousands of people who commute daily between Delhi and Faridabad.

CM said a large number of people from Faridabad and nearby areas travel to Delhi every day for work, education, business and other purposes. "For a long time, residents and regular passengers had been demanding additional and more convenient rail connectivity. With the existing transport network under heavy pressure, commuters often faced overcrowding, delays and inconvenience," she said.

She said projects related to transport and connectivity in Delhi and NCR are gaining momentum under the 'double-engine govt'. According to her, the new rail service will not only save travel time for passengers but also help reduce pressure on road traffic.

ATM fraud gang busted two miscreants arrested



Haridwar, (GNS): Under the leadership of Senior Superintendent of Police Navneet Singh, Haridwar Police has got a big success against ATM fraud. The Kotwali Bahadurabad police have arrested two vicious culprits with 17 suspicious ATM cards. The police have also recovered two motorcycles, mobile phones and cash from the accused.

According to the police, the accused used to conduct rouse around ATM booths and target the elderly, women and less educated people. On the pretext of help, they used to change his ATM card and later withdraw money from the accounts.

Following complaints of ATM fraud, a special team was formed at Kotwali Bahadurabad on the directions of the SSP. Police teams were keeping a watch on suspicious persons around banks and ATM booths. On Saturday, Sub-Inspector Hemdutt Bhardwaj along with a police team was checking near SBI ATM booth, Bahadurabad Pipal Chowk. Meanwhile, two youths riding a black Pulsar bike without a number plate started running away on seeing the police. After the chase, the bike skidded and the two started running towards the bushes, but the police surrounded them and

caught them. The arrested accused have been identified as Shivu alias Shiva, a resident of Ferozepur Maharana Pratap Colony, Pathri and Madhusudan alias Manoj, a resident of Garhmipur, Ranipur, Haridwar. During the search, 10 ATM cards, mobile, 200 cash and purse were recovered from Shiva, while 7 ATM cards, one plus mobile, 700 cash and purse were recovered from Madhusudan's possession.

During interrogation, the two confessed that they had gone to jail earlier too in cases of cheating by changing ATMs. A case was filed with Kotwali police station against the two.