

City Monitoring Report - 16th November, 2009

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Delhi City Monitoring

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Law and Order

Rs 39 lakh looted from Patel Nagar trader's house

Unidentified assailants broke into the house of a businessman in central Delhi and decamped with Rs 39 lakh in cash and jewellery worth Rs 6 lakh, police said on Sunday. The incident took place on Saturday evening when the businessman and his wife went out for shopping.

Burglars broke into the Patel Nagar house of businessman Hardev Singh (34), who deals in tyres, around 6.30pm when no one was present. Police suspect the involvement of someone known to the family. "The burglars knew that the family was not at home when they broke into the house," a senior police official said. A case has been registered at Patel Nagar police station. The victim had recently bought a property, and the cash was kept in the house to make part payment for the same.

Security drill near India Gate

A mock drill was conducted at the office of the deputy commissioner of New Delhi district near India Gate on Sunday to check the security preparedness of various agencies in the event of a terror strike.

A mock bomb blast was carried out at the DC office in Jamnagar House this morning as part of the security drill, a senior police officer said, adding "This is part of a drill to check the effectiveness of the response system in case a bomb blast occurs in the city."

The security agencies in the national capital have been put on high alert following inputs that suspected LeT operative David Coleman Headley might have conducted a recce for carrying out terror strikes.

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Law & Order

Close shave for shopowner as robber misfires

A 45-year-old lottery shopowner had a narrow escape when a country-made revolver misfired in the hands of one of three unidentified persons. The trio were attempting to rob the shopowner on November 11 but fled from the spot when he retaliated.

According to the Ghatkopar police, the victim Arvind Powani closed his shop around 10 pm and was about to leave for his house in Ghatkopar when the three persons approached him. Seeing the trio, Powani realised something was wrong and before the suspects could act, he charged on them. The neighbouring shops were already shut and I was the last one to close

shop. Seeing the trio, I charged on them and during the process, the trigger of a revolver, carried by one of them, was pulled. The three fled from the spot, leaving behind their country-made revolver on the spot.

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Woman held for using SBI customers' debit cards to steal

A young woman staffer of State Bank of India (SBI) in Mannargudi was arrested for allegedly stealing Rs 5.15 lakh from the accounts of three customers using the debit cards sanctioned for their accounts, police said.

All three customers hail from Thanjavur but are working abroad. They had opened the accounts to deposit money from SBI branches abroad so that their family members could draw the cash here. During their recent visit home, they had applied for debit cards. The cards were sanctioned, but the bank staff withheld delivery of these cards, as they had left the country by then.

When their relatives visited the bank recently, they found that the balance was too low. Following their complaint, the bank staff verified the accounts and found that a sum of Rs 5.15 lakh had been withdrawn using debit cards.

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Law & Order

7 booked for cheating SBI of Rs 37 lakh

The Bund Garden police have registered two separate offences against seven people for duping the State Bank of India (SBI) to the tune of Rs 37 lakh by selling properties which were mortgaged with the bank.

The complaints were registered by Balkrishna Tulsakar, an official from the loan and recovery department of SBI, with the Bund Garden police station.

Burglars break into seven shops at Nigdi

Unidentified people broke into seven shops at a commercial complex at Akurdi and fled with the booty totally worth Rs 21.5 lakh in the wee hours of Sunday.

According to a complaint lodged by Sebastine Joseph (42) of Dehu road, owner of Kerala fashion jeweller and wedding centre at Prestige Plaza, the burglars stole 16 gold chains, 18 necklaces, gold biscuits and five kg silver totally worth Rs 21.5 lakh.

Moderate quake rocks western Maharashtra

Western Maharashtra, including Pune, Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur districts, registered an earthquake measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale around 6.34 pm on Saturday. The tremors were also felt in parts of Marathwada. Residents in Pune felt the earthquake for at least six seconds, while in Sangli and Satara the quake lasted for 15 seconds.

No casualties were reported. However, it created a panic among citizens, with many running out of their houses following the tremors. The seismogram recorded an earthquake measuring 4.8 on Richter scale at 6.34 pm. It was a moderate earthquake.

Health

One more H1N1 death takes toll to 106

The H1N1 death toll in the city reached 106 on Sunday after one more death was reported at the Poona hospital. Pradip Awte, medical officer of the state health services, said, "Ravi Jain (41), a resident of Akola, died at 3.30 pm on Sunday."

Ten people tested positive for H1N1 on Sunday. With this, the number of infected people in the district so far has reached 1,725. Total 3,565 people visited various screening centres in Pune district on Sunday. As many as 282 suspected patients were administered Tamiflu.

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Law & Order

70 die as junior doctors' strike enters sixth day in Bihar

Over 70 patients are said to have died as the strike by Bihar's junior doctors, who are demanding an increase in their stipend, entered its sixth day on Sunday.

Around 950 junior doctors from the Patna Medical College Hospital (PMCH) and the Darbhanga Medical College Hospital (DMCH) stopped work since Tuesday in a bid to get the State government to fulfil its promise of hiking their stipend from Rs.13,000 to Rs.25,000.

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Gang of vehicle-lifters busted

With the arrest of four persons, the UT police claim to have busted a racket of vehicle-lifters and junk dealers, who allegedly used to sell stolen vehicles after dismantling these, on Saturday night.

The police also raided two godowns at Jagatpura, near Zirakpur, and seized a dozen stolen and damaged vehicles, including three Qualis, four motorcycles, two Mahindra pickups etc.

SI Narinder Patial said the gang was busted after cops intercepted a Mahindra pickup carrying dismantled parts of several vehicles near sector-45 on Saturday night.

Upon interrogation, driver Sardara Singh disclosed that these were being taken to the godowns at Jagatpura, owned by accused Deepak Kumar and Raj Kumar, alias Raja, of Narwana district. The duo has been arrested.

Health

Swine flu tightens grip in Chandigarh

There has been a sudden surge in the number of positive cases of influenza A (H1N1) virus in Chandigarh hospitals during the first fortnight of November.

By Oct 31, the total numbers of positive cases reported in the city were 57. But in just two weeks, 42 new cases of swine flu have been reported, taking the total number of cases to 99.

Besides, in November four private schools and two engineering colleges were closed for one week after their students tested positive for the infection.

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Ahmedabad City Monitoring

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Rickshaw drivers on 24-hr strike

Protesting the price increase of CNG, the city auto rickshaw drivers have declared to go on a strike from Sunday midnight. Extending their support, the Ahmedabad School Vardi Association have declared that they will join the strike, causing a state of concern for the parents who will have to drop children to school on Monday.

Advisory: Please plan your mode of commutation accordingly.

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Flu: 71 schools closed till Nov 21

The district administration on Sunday directed 71 educational institutions to extend their closure by another seven days as a preventive measure against spread of swine flu. The list includes 63 schools and seven colleges in the state capital.

Over 300 students have been tested positive for H1N1 virus in the past two weeks. All the schools which have been asked to remain closed for another week have confirmed positive cases.

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Blast near Pak police station; 3 killed, several wounded

A bomb ripped through a Pakistani police station in the suburbs of the northwest city of Peshawar on Monday, heavily damaging the building and killing three people, officials said.

It was the fifth bomb in just over a week to hit the sprawling city of 2.5 million people, which lies on the edge of Pakistan's lawless tribal belt, where the military is waging a major offensive against Taliban fighters.

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