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City Monitoring Report : Frequency > Daily

City Monitoring Report - 17th May, 2010

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Delhi NCR Update	Mumbai Update	Kolkata Update
Chennai Update	Bangalore	Hyderabad Update
Pune	Patna Update	Bhubaneshwar
Meerut	Lucknow Update	Chandigarh
Ahmedabad	Indore	Jaipur Update
Jammu Update	Other Cities Update	Thiruvananthapuram
Bhopal	North East	International Alerts Update

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Delhi City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law and Order

Platform change triggers stampede

In another avoidable tragedy at the New Delhi railway station, two persons -- a woman and an unidentified 10-year-old child -- lost their lives while at least eight other passengers were injured when a last-minute change of platforms for two Bihar-bound trains triggered a stampede in the heavily crowded access route.

The incident was almost a rerun of a stampede in 2004 which left five dead, indicating the railways hadn't taken due precautions to avoid such tragedies. In fact, it kept denying through the day that there had been a stampede at all, saying it was an "accident" involving a passenger who tripped and fell.

Two flats robbed

The intruders decamped with jewellery worth lakhs from two flats in Sector 37 and 40 in Noida.

The owners had gone out for four hours when the thieves strucks. Bandits broke into the house of Punit Gupta who had gone out at 12 noon. When he came back at 2 pm, the padlock was broken. The thieves had taken away jewellery worth over Rs 2 lakh.

In Sector-40, Gunjan Gupta had a party at home till late at night on May 14. Next morning on May 15, he went out with his family for a few hours. When he came back, they find the steel almirah lock broken and two diamond rings, earrings and other items of gold jewellery were missing.

Health

Other News

	Delhi City Monitoring > Top

Mumbai City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Woman killed in fire at Mumbai multi-storey tower

A woman was burnt to death and another injured as fire broke out on Sunday on the 15th floor of a residential tower in Mumbai's suburban Ghatkopar area, fire brigade officials here said.

The fire broke out around 5pm and engulfed the top floor of Presidential Tower, located on the LBS Marg in Ghatkopar. Eight fire engines, four water tankers and an ambulance have

been rushed to the spot. The cause of the fire is not yet ascertained and so far there are no casualties.

Health

Other News

	Mumbai City Monitoring > Top

Kolkata City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

	Kolkata City Monitoring > Top

Chennai City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law and Order

Health

4 die of cholera in Theni, panic up as diarrhoea spreads

Four persons have died due to cholera in Theni district, and over 600 people have been treated for diarrhoea in the last six days, causing fear in Uthamapalayam and surrounding regions of the district.

As many as 234 patients in Theni and 186 in Uthamapalayam and its neighbouring villages had been treated for diarrhoea-related diseases.

The outbreak of diarrhoea was also reported from Chinnamanur, Bodi and other areas of Theni district. More than 100 persons were admitted to the government medical college in Theni and government hospitals, PHCs and private hospitals

Other News

Chennai City Monitoring > Top

Bangalore City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

Bangalore City Monitoring > Top

Hyderabad City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Three killed in Hyderabad chemical factory fire

At least three people were killed and five injured Sunday in a massive fire at a chemical factory on the outskirts of Hyderabad, officials said.

The fire broke out in Durga Enterprises, a factory in Jedimetla industrial area, following a blast in one of the chemical reactors. Police and witnesses said 16 workers were in the plant when the accident took place.

Three workers were burnt to death and the condition of three of the injured was critical. Eight people managed to escape the mishap.

Fire-fighting personnel with seven fire engines fought for two hours to control the fire. A series of blasts in reactors and the presence of chemicals like sodium sulphate and potassium sulphate made their task difficult.

Officials from the industries department, after a visit to the site, said the chemical factory had no licence.

Health

Other News

Hyderabad City Monitoring > Top

Pune City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

	Pune City Monitoring > Top

Patna City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

	Patna City Monitoring > Top

Bhubaneshwar City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Maoist fear haunts forest staff on tiger census job in Orissa

Amidst lurking fear of Maoist terror, officials of the forest department in Orissa have already started fanning out into the dense jungles to undertake tiger head count from tomorrow, official sources said.

"Yes the fear of red rebels is very much in our mind. But our dedicated staff have taken it as a challenge," field director of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) H S Upadhyay said over phone today.

Upadhayay, who has been designated as the co-ordinator for the statewide tiger census, also admitted that the Maoist fear could adversly affect the exercise.

Stating that the forest officials in small groups would undertake the census by using pug mark method and camera trap technique in core and outer area of the STR for three days from tomorrow, Upadhyay said adding that they were hopeful of peaceful completion of the exercise.

Though a small group of jawans belonging to the state's elite anti-naxalite force, Special Operation Group (SOG), were deployed at Gugudia inside the Similipal National Park, they worked under the command of the police department and were not deployed for helping the tiger census, Upadhayay said.

Health

Other News

	Bhubaneshwar City Monitoring > Top

Meerut City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

	Meerut City Monitoring > Top

Lucknow City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Auto-lifters' gang led by ex-Col busted

The Ghaziabad police busted an inter-state gang of auto-lifters which exclusively targeted luxury four-wheelers and supplied them to senior and top officials of the Indian army with forged registration and ownership documents.

If this is not shocking enough, then read this: The kingpin of the gang has been identified as a retired colonel of the Indian army - MP Singh. He, however, managed to hoodwink the police raid team and escaped with his two aides. A manhunt has been launched to nab him.

The police have already traced seven luxury vehicles that MP Singh had sold to top serving and retired army officials including a retired brigadier, a retired colonel and three serving colonels posted in different parts of the country.

Health

Other News

	Lucknow City Monitoring > Top

Chandigarh City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Cyber crime: Man duped of Rs 23L

The crime branch has registered a case of cheating and criminal conspiracy (sections 420 and 120B of IPC) against an unknown person on the complaint of a Sector 16 resident Om Sagar Sahgal on Sunday.

The complainant alleged that someone cheated him by withdrawing Rs 23. 41 lakh using his e-account of ICICI bank on the pretext of transferring money won in a lottery scheme.

Health

Other News

	Chandigarh City Monitoring > Top

Ahmedabad City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

	Ahmedabad City Monitoring > Top

Jaipur City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Gangs clash in Jhalawar, one killed

One person was killed and two others were injured when two criminal gangs opened fire at each other in Gangadhar area of Jhalawar district on Sunday. A case has been registered against five persons, but no arrest has been made so far.

According to sources, two local criminal gangs, named after their leaders - Karan Singh and Faiyyom - have been at war for the last 15 years. Over 10 people have already died, from both the sides, during the clashes. Nearly two months ago, police arrested a few members of the Faiyyom gang after they attacked Raghav Singh, a member of the rival gang.

On Sunday, three members of the Faiyyom gang, including Noor Mohammed (45) had gone to attend a function in a nearby village. On their way back, Dungar Singh and his aides from the rival gang opened fire on them. While Mohammed succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital, the other two, Akbar and Mohammed Hussain sustained serious injuries and are undergoing treatment.

ASP Harpal Singh said the rivalry between the gangs for supremacy is over a decade old, in which many people have been killed, and several have been arrested by the police.

Health

Other News

	Jaipur City Monitoring > Top

Indore City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

	Indore City Monitoring > Top

Jammu City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

	Jammu City Monitoring > Top

Bhopal City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

	Bhopal City Monitoring > Top

Other City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Alert in Phagwara as dera head shot dead, Punjab

An alert has been sounded in Phagwara sub-division and its adjoining areas after unidentified assailants shot dead the head of Dera Mai Dass (Nirmali sect), Sant Pradhan Singh, at Baddon village of Hoshiarpur district on Sunday morning.

The assailants shot four bullets at Sant Pradhan Singh from an AK-47 rifle at the Dera premises in the wee hours. However, he succumbed to his injuries while being taken to the Civil Hospital, Phagwara.

As a precautionary measure to avert any communal tension, the police took the body into its custody. Later, it was sent for a post-mortem examination. But as the news of the death spread, a large number of dera followers gathered at the hospital.

6 civilians, two Maoists killed in Chhattisgarh violence

Maoist guerrillas on Sunday slit the throats of 6 civilians, including a village head, in

Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district, while two rebels were killed in a gunfight with the police in Dantewada district.

The bodies of the 6 people were found dumped in a forested area of Manpur locality in Uchapur village in Rajnandgaon, about 175 km from here, by villagers in the morning.

Health

Other News

Goa City Monitoring > Top

Thiruvananthapuram City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

Thiruvananthapuram City Monitoring > Top

North East City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

North East City News> Top

International Alerts

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Bangkok bleeds: Thailand witnesses worst political unrest in two decades

Violence in the centre of the Thai capital has left at least 29 persons dead and more than 50 injured as the Prime Minister vowed there would be no turning back and the army threatened a final crackdown on the Red Shirts' encampment. The city resembles a war zone, with sporadic fierce fighting between the security forces and the protesters continuing into its fourth day. The battle for Bangkok erupted last Thursday, when the authorities began to cordon off the protest site and tried to prevent fresh supporters joining the rally.

On Sunday, riding around the rally perimeter black smoke billowed into the air, the atmosphere was heavy, with the stench of burning rubber tyres and the sound of periodic rifle and machine gun fire, as soldiers shot at anyone who approached them. The death toll is mounting by the hour, including at least two teenagers and a 10-year-old boy, according to the Thai emergency services.

Belfast flights to be halted because of ash cloud

Britain said flights to and from Belfast and other parts of Northern Ireland would be halted from 0600 GMT to 1200 GMT on Sunday because of an ash cloud from an Icelandic volcano.

The National Air Traffic Service's statement marked an extension of a previous no-fly decree issued on Saturday night that excluded Belfast.

In April, ash from the volcano caused widespread disruption across Europe when a number of countries closed their airspaces for nearly a week as a safety precaution.

Since then the ash has periodically forced the short-term closure of parts of airspace in some European countries.

Health

Other News

International Alerts > Top