

City Monitoring Report - 22nd January, 2010

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Law and Order

Bomb scare at Gzb DPS

There was a considerable panic at Delhi Public School (DPS), Ghaziabad, yesterday following a bomb scare. An anonymous caller stated that he had planted a bomb in the school. The threat turned out to be hoax later.

The call was received at police control room at 7 am. The school was immediately informed and a police team was sent to evacuate the premises. Sniffer dogs and a bomb disposal squad immediately reached the site and searched for the explosive in the building.

After two hours of search, no explosive was recovered. Later, the school was allowed to run as usual.

Robbers break ATM, loot Rs 3.9 lakh

Unidentified criminals allegedly cut an automated teller machine (ATM) machine of Punjab National Bank on National Highway-24 at Pilkhuwa and decamped with Rs 3.9 lakhs.

The criminals barged into the ATM machine cabin, cut it with gas cutters and took away Rs.3.9 lakh from the machine when a marriage function was taking place yesterday night in a nearby wedding hall.

The machine's upper portion was found lying far away from the rest of it. Some unaccounted currency notes were also found half burnt near the machine.

Superintendent of police M.M. Begh said a case has been registered and police are trying to nab the criminals.

Woman duped, robbed in Delhi

A gang of cheats active in the Connaught Place area of New Delhi district which steals cash and valuables by diverting the attention of their victim has struck once again.

In the latest incident, a 49-year-old woman was robbed of Rs 5000 cash and valuables worth Rs 1 lakh last evening. A senior police officer said that the victim, Ragini Jain a native of Kanpur, was travelling in a Scorpio car when she was cheated.

Ragini told the police that she asked her driver Dharmraj to fetch a biscuit packet near Super Bazar in Connaught Place. When she was waiting for the driver to return, a man indicated her that some cash had fallen on the road but when she looked down, there was nothing. In the meantime, her two bags were stolen by someone containing Rs 5,000 cash, gold jewellery and some important documents.

Dense fog wreaks havoc in North India

- **Travel only if you must!**
- **Over 175 flights, 185 trains hit**
- **No let-up in conditions anytime soon**

Dense fog - the worst in seven years - resulted in near zero visibility sending rail, and air traffic in a tailspin over large parts of North India beginning last night.

Chaos and confusion prevailed at Indira Gandhi International Airport and railway stations across the north while even as clueless officials tried to alleviate travellers' misery. Over 175 flights were rescheduled or cancelled. Though inconvenience was unavoidable, the alleged callousness of authorities had many passengers fuming. Thick fog once again affected air

operations at the IGI airport today with schedules of over 70 domestic and international flights being disrupted.

Around 32 flights have been rescheduled and six have been cancelled while several others were delayed due to dense fog at the airport.

The fog started to descend at the airport around 1.30 am, reducing the general visibility to zero. The runway visibility was above 600 metres.

The fog begin to thicken in the wee hours and the runway visibility dropped to 75 metres.

Many passengers were made to board flights and sat in their flights — including one scheduled for Dubai — for up to seven hours before they took off or were rescheduled or cancelled. There were also complaints that airlines “overbooked” as passengers scurried around for alternative tickets amidst cancellations.

Many departures were delayed by up to 17 hours as fog suddenly began to envelope the Capital 9 pm onwards. A number of international flights scheduled to take off at night or early morning were cancelled. A flight headed for Bengaluru from New Delhi returned shortly after take off due to poor visibility. Eighteen flights were cancelled, including those from Delhi to Jabalpur, Mumbai, Kullu and Pune, while 27 flights were diverted to other cities.

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Law & Order

Couple 'cons' builder, sells him govt land

It was a perfect Khosla Ka Ghosla case before the Bombay high court. A Pune-based couple allegedly sold a sprawling piece of land near Erangal beach, Borivli, to a city builder—the only hitch was that the land belonged to the government. In the Anupam Kher-starrer of 2006 too, a family cons a builder by selling him government land.

But that was cinema and the circumstances behind the onscreen sale were different. Now, a division bench of Justice Ranjana Desai and Justice Mridula Bh-atkar has dismissed the Pune couple's application seeking to stop investigations against them ordered by a magistrate's court.

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Power shutdown today

Power supply will be suspended for maintenance work on Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the following areas.

CIT Nagar: Old Nos. 32 to 60 of South West Boag Road; TNSCB Quarters Block Nos. 15 to 22. **St. Thomas Mount:** Butt Road, Thulasingapuram, Seven Wells, Kalaignar Nagar and St. Patrick Church Road. **Teynampet:** ARK Colony and Eldams Road. **T. Nagar Central:** Thomas Road, South Boag Road 1st and 2nd Streets and J.J. Nagar Slum Clearance Board. **T. Nagar North:** Century Plaza Complex, LIC Complex, Nakkeeran Nagar in T. Nagar East and parts of Anna Salai. **Chepauk:** Arunachala Achari Street, Murugappa Achari Street, Subramani Chetty Street, Yusuf Labbai Street, Abdul Kareem Street and Lane, CNK Road, Triplicane High Road, Miyansahib 1st and 2nd Lanes.

Rajdhani Express rescheduled

Southern Railway on Thursday announced that the departure of the Chennai Central –

Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express (No.2433) had been rescheduled, following a delay in the arrival of its pairing train. A release stated that it was rescheduled to leave Chennai Central at 8 p.m. on Friday instead of 6.10 a.m.

The Nizamuddin – Chennai Central Rajdhani Express (No.2434) was expected to reach Chennai Central at 2 p.m. on Friday instead of 8.15 p.m. on Thursday

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Police gear up for expressway traffic

The city traffic police are gearing up to handle the traffic movement following the opening of the 9.5-km Hosur Road Elevated Expressway on Friday.

Traffic jam likely

The city police were preparing for the increased traffic flow on the stretch. “There could be a traffic jam,” Additional Commissioner Mr. Sood said.

“We are placing traffic interceptors and taking other measures to streamline traffic flow.”

The traffic police will help NHAI before the systems such as surveillance cameras and the variable message signboards installed on the expressway become operational.

Silk Board junction

Measures are being taken to avoid congestion at the Central Silk Board junction. Motorists can take a U-turn below the Central Silk Board flyover, just after the Madiwala police station, and proceed towards BTM Layout.

Similar arrangements are being made at the other side of the flyover to facilitate movement of traffic to HSR Layout and Bommanahalli.

When the NHAI starts collecting the toll, the city police will move to streamline traffic below the flyover.

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Bandh call has little impact

The call for bandh on Thursday, given by the Telangana Joint Action Committee for the second consecutive day, had little impact in city. Barring some, stray incidents were reported.

Majority of the people and different sections, who voluntarily closed down their shops and establishments responding to the bandh call on Wednesday following the death of a MCA student, ignored the call to continue it on Thursday. Except some schools which were forcibly closed by bandh enforcers, nearly all educational institutions, private offices, shops, hotels and theatres were open.

Those few establishments around Osmania University campus, which witnessed violence during funeral procession of the MCA students, downed their shutters for a couple of hours in the morning. They too began normal operations by noon. Petrol bunks remained open from early hours.

City buses, auto-rickshaws and private taxis plied normally. Local train and MMTS services were not affected. The bandh call had no impact in Old City

IT shows a thumbs down to bandhs

The city's IT sector, which registered near-normal attendance on both days of the bandh on Wednesday and Thursday, seems to be slowly and consciously defying restrictions imposed by various anti and pro-Telangana groups once too often in the past few months.

Apart from the fear of missing deadlines and losing projects, some said that it was also promises from the government that pushed corporates in the city to go about their work as usual. The government has expressed its concern for the sector and how important it is for Hyderabad. It has even said that it would do everything possible to protect the interest of the sector. The Industry people are relying solely on that.

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Seized explosives were for Maoists

The huge cache of explosives, seized by Bihar police from different parts of the state and Jharkhand during the past few days, was mostly pushed into the state from Avadi in Pune and Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh.

This was disclosed to interrogators by the four persons who were nabbed in Rohtas following seizure of a large quantity of ammonium nitrate. Though Bihar police are yet to get to the bottom of the case, they are now convinced that the explosives were to be supplied to Maoists.

Over one lakh kg of ammonium nitrate was recovered from Patna, Gaya, Rohtas, and Bokaro (Jharkhand) following raids which started on November 7, 2009.

Those arrested initially tried to hoodwink the cops by maintaining that the chemical was meant for use as fertiliser.

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LIC employees observe strike

A large number Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) employees yesterday observed a strike against the alleged delay in implementing their revised pay scales.

Employees working in the city's divisional office and its 21 local and mofussil branch units observed strike, on a call given by the by AIIEA to protest against the inordinate delay in settling up of the wage revision which became due on August 2007.

The employees gathered before the divisional office in Sector 17-B and raised slogans against the negative attitude of the LIC management and the Central government which was proving to be a stumbling block in the settlement of the wage revision. The rally was presided over by Brij Lal, Divisional President. He apprised the employees that the LIC management had

called all unions on November 3, 2009, and offered a wage revision of 17.5 per cent, which was rejected.

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Govt staff go on two-day strike

Work in almost all government offices across the Kashmir valley remained affected as around 4.5 lakh employees of the state government and the public sector undertakings proceeded on a two-day strike yesterday.

The employees yesterday took out a rally from the old secretariat towards the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, but were allegedly stopped by the police. The police allegedly resorted to a cane charge, injuring several employees.

Ban on pre-paid mobiles lifted in J&K

The Union government on Thursday lifted the more than two-month-old ban on pre-paid mobile phone service in Jammu and Kashmir. It, however, imposed a number of conditions on the operators for customer verification.

The decision was taken after the Centre finalised a plan to ensure proper verification of nearly 38 lakh cellphone subscribers in the State.

The ban was imposed by the Home Ministry on November 1 last year and Home Minister P. Chidambaram recently said the issue could be revisited if the service providers gave a foolproof plan for 100 per cent verification and the Ministry was satisfied with it.

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Armed dacoits strike in Swarna Jayanti Exp

A gang of notorious dacoits went on a looting spree on-board a running train between Katol and Narkhed shortly after the Thiruvananthapuram-Nizamuddin Swarna Jayanti Express chugged out of Nagpur railway station at 12.40am on Thursday.

The six armed dacoits, learnt to be belonging to notorious Ibrahim gang, also injured two persons while looting passengers at knife point in the general compartment. Around 21 passengers were robbed of valuables worth Rs 2 lakh in the incident.

The goons, said to be based in Bhopal, have been involved in several dacoities in long-distance trains. They have several offences registered in Surat in Gujarat and Amla in Madhya Pradesh. Caught clearly in the CCTV on platform number one of the Nagpur railway station, it is baffling how the gang members - donning monkey caps - managed to avoid the vigilance of the cops present in the railway premises despite being familiar faces for the detection personnel.

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