

City Monitoring Report - 25th December, 2009

<p>Our Services</p> <p>Computer Forensics</p> <p>Drug & Alcohol Testing</p> <p>Electronic Sweeping</p> <p>Background Checks</p> <p>Investigations</p> <p>Electronic Security</p> <p>Cash Services</p> <p>Manned Services</p> <p>Consultancy</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Education Initiatives - IGNOU, CII, DGET</p>	Delhi NCR Update	Mumbai Update	Kolkata
	Chennai Update	Bangalore	Hyderabad Update
	Pune Update	Patna	Bhubaneshwar
	Meerut	Lucknow	Chandigarh Update
	Ahmedabad Update	Indore	Jaipur Update
	Jammu	Other Cities Update	Thiruvananthapuram
	Bhopal	North East	International Alerts Update

Delhi City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law and Order

Conductor foils Blueline hijack bid, robber held

Forty passengers of a Blueline bus survived a hijacking bid when eight robbers took the driver and conductor hostage and asked everyone to hand over their belongings on Thursday. But the conductor displayed rare courage and overpowered one of the robbers after which the passengers thrashed him. The driver then slammed the brakes and the other robbers got off the bus and fled. Police said the robber was so badly thrashed that he had to be admitted to hospital with a fractured leg.

The robbers boarded the bus in two groups. About four of them boarded the Blueline bus on route number 761 plying between Manglapuri to Azadpur near Keshavpuram bus depot. The others joined later. When the robbers asked the passengers to hand over their belongings, a woman protested. One of the robbers slashed her with a knife. This caused the conductor, Bittu, to protest

Health

Other News

	Delhi City Monitoring > Top

Mumbai City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Malaria stings city with vengeance

The BMC's war against mosquitoes notwithstanding, malaria has struck the city with a vengeance. BMC epidemiology cell head Dr Daksha Shah said malaria incidence is at least thrice more than that in last year. Figures suggest that this year, around 42,000 people were down with malaria, while the number was 26,021 in 2008.

The more shocking fact is that 250-odd residents died of malaria this year, a figure more than double (118) that of last year.

Need blood in a hurry? It's just an SMS away

Arranging for blood in an emergency can be an ordeal, and most often involves scouring various blood banks and frantic calls to relatives and friends. It also takes time, a crucial differentiator between life and death in such situations. A new SMS seeker-donor matching service is set to change all that.

When faced with such an emergency, all you have to do now is remember one number - 9665 5000 00. Send an SMS to this number, and within 15 seconds you will receive a reply with details of the blood donor closest to you. At the moment, the service works only with STD codes, so there might be a chance that, in a large city like Mumbai, the donor is located some distance away.

The initiative comes after the launch of a website called www.indianblooddonors.com and www.givemedicine.com, both run by Khushroo Poacha. These websites are also very useful as they connect people who want to donate blood to those seeking it. But its primary drawback is that not many people are aware of the website, and not everyone has access to the internet.

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

Advisory to hotels

Commissioner of Police T. Rajendran has asked hotel managements to take adequate precautionary measures in connection with New Year celebrations.

At a meeting of hotel managers convened here on Thursday, he said bars/clubs should not be operated beyond 11 p.m. Steps should be taken to ensure that liquor was served only in permitted areas. Swimming pools should remain closed on December 31 and any temporary stage for dance or function should have the clearance of the local police.

On the safety front, hotels should use Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) network besides metal detectors for baggage screening. "All vehicles entering the hotel premises must be checked thoroughly. In order to check the level of preparedness, hotels can conduct mock drills. The traffic police will conduct an intensive drive on East Coast Road and other areas to check drunken driving and over-speeding," he said

Health

Other News

Traffic changes during rush hour

The police have announced certain traffic changes during rush hour, both in the morning and evening, in and around Anna Nagar and on Poonamallee High Road to ease congestion. The changes would come into force on Saturday.

As per the modifications, the stretch of 8th Main Road which connects 4th Avenue with Poonamallee High Road would be one-way from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. During this time, no vehicle from Poonamallee High Road would be allowed to take either right or left turn into 8th Main Road at the Naduvankarai junction.

Vehicles coming from 4th Avenue and bound for Poonamallee High Road would have to take 8th Main Road during the morning rush hour.

Vehicles coming from Koyambedu on Poonamallee High Road and intending to proceed to Shanti Colony in Anna Nagar would have to proceed up to Anna Arch and take left turn to reach their destination.

Vehicles coming from M.M.D.A. Colony and bound for Shanti Colony that now reach the destination through Naduvankarai Bridge would be required to take a right turn at the Poonamallee High Road-NSK Nagar junction and then turn left at Anna Arch to reach their

destination. During evening rush hour (5 p.m. to 9 p.m.), vehicles coming from Thirumangalam on 4th Avenue and bound for Poonamallee High Road would be prohibited on 8th Main Road. Such vehicles should continue on 4th Avenue towards Anna Arch and reach Poonamallee High Road.

[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

Xmas-eve, Hyderabad shuts down

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi's (TRS) bandh call saw Hyderabad completely shut down for the second time in the last few weeks, on Thursday. Shops, restaurants, malls, educational institutions, ATMs, banks and petrol pumps all across the city remained closed through the day. Most city offices preferred to keep their shutters down, fearing trouble, while those who chose to remain open saw a 40 per cent fall in attendance.

Normal life was disrupted throughout the region as a complete bandh was observed in response to the Telangana Joint Action Committee's call. However, there will be a respite on Friday as the JAC has suspended its bandh call on an appeal from Christians in view of Christmas, Increasing violence was reported from Telangana districts, especially Hyderabad, where police resorted to lathi charge to disperse angry mobs, including students of Osmania University.

The region witnessed incidents of torching of buses, government vehicles, offices and shops, besides attacks on businesses of people belonging to the other regions. Additional police forces were requisitioned from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Orissa.

300 arrested for violence in Hyderabad

Nearly 300 persons were arrested for indulging in violence and damaging property during the Telangana bandh in the city on Thursday.

Tension prevailed at Basheerbagh when police intercepted a rally planned by Nizam College students at Basheerbagh X roads. Trouble began when police resorted to lathicharge on protesting students at Basheerbagh. They ran back into their hostel and began raining stones on police personnel in which some men in khaki sustained minor injuries.

The Sanatnagar police arrested nine Telangana supporters for forcefully trying to close shops at Moosapet. In Madhapur zone, about 100 Telangana supporters were taken into preventive custody for damaging property, forcefully trying to shut shops at Madhapur, Miyapur, Narsingi, Moinabad and Kukatpally.

Health

Other News

[Hyderabad City Monitoring > Top](#)

Pune City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Juvenile crime, chain-snatchings on the rise

Offences involving minors, chain-snatching, conmen impersonating as policemen, vehicle thefts and crime against women witnessed a marked rise in 2009.

According to the police, a review of offences involving minors in the age group of 13 to 16 years have revealed that a lot of children were found involved in crimes such as rape, murder, house break-ins, theft, robbery, dacoity and body offences.

Health

Other News

[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

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

Health

Other News

Chandigarh City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Yet another theft at Industrial Area

Thieves decamped with computers and other articles after breaking into a plot at Industrial Area here last night.

Lalit Gupta of Phase II, Industrial Area, lodged a complaint with the police that thieves broke into his office last night and decamped with computers and some articles, besides damaging property. The theft came to light this morning. Gupta alleged that instead of listening to him, the police told him to install security gadgets and deploy a watchman.

The police official on duty reluctantly agreed to give him a receipt of his complaint and did not register any case, saying that the officer concerned was not present. Gupta stated that it was not the first time that a theft had taken place on his premises. Earlier thieves had struck thrice at his unit

Health

Other News

Ahmedabad City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Two more die of swine flu, toll reaches 78

Swine flu has claimed two more lives in the city taking the death toll in the state to 78. Bhawna Dave, 45, and Ashok Prajapati, 31, who were admitted to the Civil Hospital and undergoing treatment for swine flu, died on Thursday.

Ahmedabad alone has seven positive cases — two women, aged 35 and 62, admitted at Civil Hospital, a 21-year-old woman at LG Hospital, another 49-year-old woman at Medisurge Hospital, a 21-year-old youth reported positive at Apollo Hospital, a 54-year-old man at Sterling Hospital and a 56-year-old male at VS Hospital.

Other News

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Jaipur City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

31 new H1N1 cases in state

The health department on Thursday confirmed 31 new H1N1 positive cases, taking the total number of swine flu patients to 2,874 in the state. More than 120 H1N1 patients have so far died during treatment.

The department had initiated massive screening activities under which more than 79,000 houses in the urban areas were surveyed on Thursday. The door-to-door survey is being held by 439 mobile medical teams. In addition, 240 villages were also surveyed during the day by 162 teams. Also, 61,000 patients were screened for flu symptoms at 2,163 government hospitals across the state.

According to the department, 1,126 persons were detected with flu-like symptoms and preventive treatment was subsequently prescribed. Among those screened at government hospitals 1,770 persons were prescribed preventive treatment.

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

Thieves make off booty worth Rs 10 lakh, Kanpur

Thieves made off with gold, silver ornaments and cash worth Rs 10 lakh after opening the locks of a house in Govind Nagar on late Wednesday night.

This is the second incident of major theft in less than a week's time. Earlier, thieves had decamped with Rs 20 lakh from a house in the Harbanshmohal area.

In the current incident, thieves scaled the boundary wall of Sabzi Mandi residence of Jitendra Singh, before using master-keys to open the locks of the house. Jitendra at that time was busy with Christmas celebrations at one of his relative's place. Ornaments worth Rs 9 lakh and cash worth Rs 80,000 besides other valuables were found missing from the house.

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

Suicide bomber in southern Afghanistan kills eight: Police

A suicide bomber with a horse and cart detonated himself on Thursday in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, killing eight people and wounding five, a senior police officer said.

The explosion happened around 7.15 pm (2015 IST) outside the Kandahar provincial health ministry directorate and a guesthouse sometimes used by foreigners,

Health

Other News

International Alerts > [Top](#)