

City Monitoring Report - 28th April, 2010

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Delhi City Monitoring

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Law and Order

Bandh evokes tepid response

The “Bharat bandh” called by the 13 non-UPA and non-NDA parties failed to evoke any strong response in the national Capital.

However, passengers heading out of the city bore the brunt as rail and road traffic in the neighboring areas, including Ghaziabad, Noida and Gurgaon, was hit by sporadic protests.

Even as no trains were cancelled from New Delhi Railway Station, passengers faced inconvenience as several trains were stopped midway at Ghaziabad, Muzaffarnagar and other areas after their departure from Delhi. Similarly, a few late arrivals at the New Delhi station worsened their problems.

Bandh workers hit the lanes and disturbed rail traffic at many places, including the Lucknow Janshatabdi Express that was stopped near Ghaziabad and the Patna-Delhi Rajdhani Express near Lucknow.

The Saharanpur- Delhi Express and Allahabad-Saharanpur Express were stopped at Muzaffarnagar. The Udhyan Express has been cancelled.

Road traffic in Delhi continued to ply smoothly without any problem. The only major demonstration in the Capital was a march by the Left parties in central Delhi’s Daryaganj that affected traffic for several hours.

The bandh also hit air traffic from New Delhi to Kolkata. Several flights, including 9W 914, 9W 913, IC 201 and others, were delayed while a couple of arrivals at Indira Gandhi International Airport were even cancelled which included the SG 219 scheduled to arrive at 7.45 pm.

However, the situation became better as the day progressed with most flights boarding on time during the night.

Farmers block road, rail traffic in Noida

Farmers under the banner of Zamin Adhigrahan Andolan Samittee yesterday observed district bandh and blocked road and rail traffic for a few hours. Markets too remained closed.

Led by Kisan leader Sardaram Bhatti, the farmers stopped a train around 6.30 am at Bodaki halt. This led to disruption of traffic on Dadri-Allahabad track. Around 16 trains, including four Rajdhani, two Shatabadi, Express and Delhi-bound EMU trains were affected as they were forced to halt at Dadri, Dankore, Vair and Aligarh railway stations. Around 9 am, the rail traffic was restored after the administration pacified the farmers and cleared the track of hurdles.

Farmers later blocked the roads at various places in the city. Surajpur, Dadri, Tugalpur and other markets downed their shutters in support of the demands of the farmers. However, in the evening the shops opened as usual.

Farmers have been demanding hike in land compensation and non-acquisition of abadi land. Talks with the authorities had failed on April 15 and the farmers announced district bandh on April 27.

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Law & Order

Dadar railway station threatened again

Security has been upped at Dadar railway station (both Central as well as Western Railways) since Tuesday morning following a threat call received by the RPF (Railway Protection Force) control room at CST that Dadar station would be blown up around 12 noon on Thursday.

The caller spoke in Hindi and said that one Akbarbhai told him to blow up Dadar station around 12 noon. The caller disconnected before the police could ask his name.

Investigations revealed that the call was made from an unmanned PCO at King's Circle. This is the second threat call to Dadar railway station within a week. The last call came last Tuesday.

The railway police with the help of RPF and Mumbai police, four sniffer dogs and two BDDS teams thoroughly checked all platforms of Dadar station and Dadar Terminus as well as five platforms at Dadar railway station, all booking offices, railway canteens, public toilets, the parking lot outside the station.

Checking of commuters' bags as well as patrolling of armed police personnel is intensified.

Former Godrej DGM held in Rs7.91-cr fraud

A man who was recently sacked from the deputy general manager's post in Godrej Consumer Products Pvt Ltd was arrested on Saturday for duping a jewellery shop owner of almost Rs7.91 crore.

Amit Gaine, 51, former DGM (purchase), and his two associates, Tushar Desai, 31, and Jitendra Saini, 32, have been booked for cheating. Since March 2008, Gaine has been placing orders for gold coins weighing 50 grams at various jewellery shops in Mumbai and other major cities.

During preliminary interrogation, Gaine told the police that he wanted to give the coins as incentives to Godrej Consumer Products dealers in Mumbai and nearby areas. The Godrej management had no knowledge of these orders.

Since Gaine was a top-ranking official from Godrej, none of the jewellery shops doubted him. Gaine, along with Desai and Saini, even paid a couple of jewellers in cash or by demand draft. Desai and Saini helped Gaine sell the gold coins to raise money for their personal use.

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Price-rise bandh halts life in Bengal, Kerala

The 12-hour 'Bharat bandh' called by 13 non-NDA and non-UPA parties against price rise on Tuesday crippled Left-ruled states of West Bengal and Kerala, apart from the states in the Northeast. The bandh was partially successful in five other states while having no impact whatsoever in the rest of the country.

Besides the four Left parties — CPM, CPI, Forward Bloc, RSP — the 13-party group which called for Bharat bandh comprises AIADMK, BJD, SP, RJD, TDP, RLD, LJP, JD-S and INLD. The group was also pressing for a rollback in fuel and fertiliser prices.

Flight operations were badly hit in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura leaving hundreds of air travellers stranded. Airport sources in Kolkata said only 10 out of 25 domestic and international flights took off in the morning. All flights connecting Agartala with Kolkata and Guwahati were cancelled.

The bandh disrupted train and road transport in West Bengal, Bihar, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. Thousands of political workers including LJP president Ram Vilas Paswan were detained. Schools, colleges, markets, shops, business establishments, educational institutions and banks remained closed. The attendance in government offices too was thin.

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Alert woman foils call taxi driver's robbery bid

A call taxi driver who allegedly tried to rob a woman passenger after spraying a sedative was arrested by the North Beach police on Monday night.

According to police sources, Ramya Reddy (25), a software engineer residing in Porur, hired a call taxi to George Town. On the way, the driver, J. Suresh Kumar (25) of Maraimalainagar, sprayed something that spread a pungent smell. A little later, he used the spray again.

Sensing foul play, Ramya got off the vehicle at a traffic junction and raised an alarm. A traffic police constable on duty there intervened and detained Suresh. On interrogation, the accused told police that he had planned to take away gold jewellery and cash that he had seen in the purse of the woman.

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Power shutdown today

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

Koyambedu Market: Koyambedu Market, Srinivasa Nagar, Seemathamman Nagar, Shastri Nagar, North and South Mada Streets, Bakthavatchalam Street, Chinamaya Nagar, Nerkundram, Kaliamma Koil Street, School Street, Poonamallee High Road, New Colony and Mettukulam.

Kodambakkam: Choolaimedu, Vadapalani, Rangarajapuram, Kodambakkam, Alagiri Nagar, West Mambalam and parts of Ashok Nagar.

Madhavaram: Madhavaram, Vadaperumbakkam, M.R.H. Road, GNT Road, CMDA Truck Terminal Ring Road, Housing Sector, Srinivasa Nagar, VS Mani Nagar, Seethapathi Nagar, Lotus Colony, Swamy Nagar, Ponniammanmedu, Prakash Nagar and Thanikachalam Nagar.

Kottivakkam: Thiruvalluvar Nagar, 1st to 4th Seaward Roads, East Mada Street, Anna Street, Kottivakkam Kuppam Road, New Beach Road, Journalist Colony, Srinivasapuram, L.P. Nagar, Kalyani Street, Palkalai Nagar, Venkateswara Nagar, V.G.P. Layout, Anna Salai, A.I.R. Colony, Sankarapuram, Kandhasamy Nagar, Jayasankar Nagar, Karim Nagar, Sangam Colony, M.G.R. Street, Periyar Salai, Palavakkam Kuppam, Kottivakkam Kuppam and parts of East Coast Road.

Sowcarpet West: Basin Water Works Street, T.V.Basin Street, Ramanan Road, Audiappa Street, Vaikunda Vathiar Street, Kandappa Street, Kalathipillai Street, Mangappan Street, Murugappan Street, Erulappan Street, NSC Bose Road, General Muthaiah Street, Veerappan Street, Chinnanaicken Street, Periyar Naicken Street, Thulasingham Street, Mint Street, Narayana Mudali Street, Perumal Mudali Street, Godown Street, Annapillai Street, Wall Tax Road, P.K.G. Main Street and 1st to 6th Lanes, Nallannamudali Street, Thandavarayan Street, Arunachalam Street, Mulla Street, Vinayagamaistry Street, Palliappan Street, Thirupalli Street, Subburaya Street, Muthukrishna Street, Vengaiyer Street, Kondal Iyer Street, Kuppaiyer Street, Amman Koil Street, Vadamalai Street, Venkatesan Street, Nammalwar Street, Nambuliya Street, Ayalur Muthaiah Street, Wood Wharf, Kalyanapuram, Chinnathambi Street, Perumalmudali Street, Muniappa Street, T.A.Naidu Street and Pudhunaicken Street.

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Partial response to opposition 'hartal'

- Transport services, commercial activities affected in some parts of State
- Protesting parties want JPC probe into IPL row, phone tapping issue

The 'hartal' call given by the Left parties and the Telugu Desam (TDP) as part of their nation-wide agitation against price rise, evoked partial response in the State on Tuesday. It affected transport services and commercial activities in some parts of the State, but Hyderabad remained unaffected except for a few traffic snarls caused by protests.

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No power supply in some areas

There will be no power supply in the following areas on Wednesday.

From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:

Venkataramana Colony

Anandnagar

Padmavathinagar

From 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.:

Himayathnagar

Duttanagar

From 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.:

Risala Bazaar

Burtanguda

Rukmini Enclave

Turkapally

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Bandh Effect:

In Bihar, RJD-LJP supporters blocked train movements in Chhapra, Samastipur, Jehanabad, Gaya, Vaishali, Darbhanga and other places.

They also put up blockades on the national highways preventing movement of vehicular traffic. The lifeline between north and south Bihar, Gandhi Setu across the Ganges, was blocked as RJD supporters put burning tyres on the road.

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Bandh Effect:

In UP, Samajwadi Party led the bandh all by itself, as party workers from other political parties — including the ruling BSP which slammed the Centre for price rise but did not participate in the bandh — were hardly seen at the protest sites. Three buses were torched in Lucknow, while rail traffic was disrupted in almost every district.

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Partial bandh in Panchkula

The nationwide bandh call given by various political parties, including the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), on the issue of rising prices remained partial in the town with shops and other business establishments staying open after 2 pm here yesterday.

Rail and road traffic in the district remained normal, though private transport was off road at some places. Government offices and other establishments also functioned as normal.

Initially, shopkeepers refrained from opening shops in the early hours, fearing backlash from INLD workers. However, they relented after 2 pm.

INLD workers forced shopkeepers to close their shops in Sectors 7, 8, 9 and 16. The bandh otherwise remained peaceful and no incident of violence was reported from the town.

However, the bandh was complete in other towns of the district like Kalka, Pinjore, Barwala and Raipur Rani as markets in these towns remained closed till 5 pm.

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Panic at Apollo Hospital after minor fire

Panic spread for few moments at Apollo Hospital after a minor fire incident and later electricity black-out at the premise on Tuesday evening.

Fortunately, no one got injured in the incident. Three patients on ventilator admitted in ICU were quickly shifted out the room and taken to separate emergency room and other rooms were also vacated as a safety measure.

Initial investigation suggests that it was a short circuit in a electrical room on the fourth floor of the hospital which led to the minor fire incident.

This is fourth such fire incident in the city, earlier three government hospitals have reported fire mishaps in last few weeks.

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Srinagar airport to close for 20 days in June

Besides Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, a large number of people associated with the tourism industry in the Kashmir valley have expressed 'shock' over the decision of the Defence Ministry to close the Srinagar airport for 20 days in June.

The 20-day closure of the only international airport in the state will come during the peak tourist season, when tourists from across the globe and various parts of the country start coming to the valley. The airport will be closed from June 20 for commercial flights for about 20 days so that the resurfacing of the only runway there could be done.

The flight operations will be shifted to the Awantipora Air Force station from Srinagar for that period

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Bandh Effect:

Left-ruled Kerala witnessed total shutdown. Except in major cities like Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi, even two wheelers did not run. Reports of hartal supporters taking on those who dared to come out poured in from many places.

In Kozhikode, the protests turned violent as irate workers ransacked the offices of a courier company and a computer firm. The mob also destroyed an autorickshaw in the district.

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UK envoy escapes blast in Yemen

The British ambassador to Yemen on Monday escaped a bombing in Sanaa believed triggered by a suicide attacker but the blast killed an unidentified person.

Witnesses insisted that the bombing was a suicide attack, saying that the bomber was a bit slow in targeting the diplomat's vehicle and that the attacker's body was torn to pieces.

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