

‘Won’t tolerate dereliction of duty when it comes to loss of human life’

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NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has issued notice to DCP rank police official underlining a “deeply disturbing state of affairs” in the investigation of a 2007 murder case.

Judicial magistrate Bharti Beniwal said dereliction of duty in a case involving loss of human life cannot be tolerated.

“It is indeed unfortunate that a young man aged about 30-35 years was found dead on July 30, 2007, under suspicious and clearly incriminating circumstances, yet

**Court issues notice to DCP rank police official underlining a deeply disturbing state of affairs in the investigation of a 2007 murder case**

no FIR was registered by the police officials concerned,” the court said.

The post mortem report showed that the victim had a ligature mark around his neck and a grievous injury on the back of the head, being clear indicators of homicidal death, but the local police did not take any steps to register a case or initiate an investigation, the order added.



The judge continued, “The present case reveals a deeply disturbing state of affairs and highlights the utter apathy and gross negligence on

the part of police machinery in dealing with a heinous case of murder.” Statements of four witnesses that came on record showed that the victim was employed at Mohan Hotel, Ajmeri Gate, and was murdered inside its premises.

“It has also come on record that the body was shifted to a nearby drain (nala) in an attempt to hide the crime. Shockingly, despite having sufficient material, including statements, post mortem findings, and scene of crime information, no FIR was ever registered by the then station house

officer (SHO) or the assistant commissioner of police (ACP) concerned,” the court said.

Retired ACP Dinesh Kumar, who was posted then as SHO of Kamla Market police station, said he “came across” the inquest report while perusing police station records and thereafter sought permission from the deputy commissioner of police (DCP), central (district), for registering an FIR.

“It is also noted with grave concern that a complete police record has not been placed. Even after registration of the FIR, no steps

were taken by the police to even visit the witness/suspect and it appears that even the registration of the FIR was a mere formality,” the court pointed out.

The conduct of then police officials was found to be “highly suspicious”, appearing either of a “wilful inaction” or a “deliberate attempt to shield the culprits”.

“Such a dereliction of duty in a case involving loss of human life cannot be tolerated. Let notice be issued to DCP central (district) to apprise the court about the list of SHOs, inspectors’ investigation and ACP concerned

from the date of death of the deceased till the date of registration of FIR,” the court ordered.

The court issued a notice to the joint commissioner of police, central range, to look into the matter, fix accountability and take appropriate departmental and legal action against the erring police officials. Further, a compliance report was directed to be filed within three weeks, aside from the police being told to investigate the case from the angle of possible complicity or collusion of then police officials from the police station.



**Respect Modi as my guru: CM Rekha Gupta**

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NEW DELHI

DELHI Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as her mentor on the occasion of Guru Purnima, saying he has instilled in people the spirit of “Nation First”. Gupta, along with Lt Governor V K Saxena inaugurated DDA’s Aarambh Pustakalaya at Adhchini Village in south Delhi.

“Today on Guru Purnima, I am remembering PM Modi for his teachings. I rever him as my guru. I want to congratulate him for the successful tour of five nations in eight days. He has achieved success for India on global stage and brought us recognition,” she said. Gupta said he was conferred highest civilian awards of the countries he visited.

‘CONVICT SPREAD HATE’  
**Court holds man guilty in 2020 riots case**

**‘Convict does not deserve leniency as during the tense period, he added fuel to the already simmering tensions by spreading hate messages towards the Muslim community, and inducing people to commit crime against them’**

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NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has sentenced a man to three years imprisonment on charges of promoting enmity and public mischief during the February 2020 riots.

Additional sessions judge Parveen Singh observed the convict did not deserve leniency as during the tense period, he “added fuel to the already simmering tensions” by spreading hate messages towards the Muslim community, and inducing people to commit crime against them.

The July 8 order said, “The fact, that during the tense period of February 2020, the convict had added fuel to the already simmering tensions by spreading mes-



sages which were intended to promote enmity and hatred for Muslim community and induced the members of the group to commit crime against Muslims, calls for no leniency and makes the offence very serious in nature.”

The man, however, would be released as he had already undergone imprisonment of

more than three years -- the maximum punishment for the offences.

The court was hearing the arguments on sentencing against Lokesh Kumar Solanki, convicted under IPC Sections 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth,

residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) on June 5.

Solanki was sentenced to three years of concurrent simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs 25,000 for each offence.

“However, the fact remains that the convict has already undergone the imprisonment of more than three years, which is the maximum punishment which could be awarded for offences punishable under Sections 153-A and 505 of the IPC,” the court held.

Solanki, the court said, was already incarcerated for over three years and had to be released subject to payment of the fine.

**Narco syndicate member held with Rs 7 cr heroin**



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NEW DELHI

DELHI Police’s Crime Branch has arrested a key member of a national-level narco-syndicate and seized heroin worth approximately Rs 7 crore, an official said on Thursday.

The accused, Gaurav (24), a resident of Rohini in Delhi, was arrested on June 28 following a tip-off. The official said 405 grams of heroin and over 1,000 suspected contraband pouches were recovered from his possession.

“Gaurav was caught red-handed while attempting to deliver the narcotics consignment on a scooter, which was also seized,” said the officer.

The officer further said

that during interrogation, Gaurav revealed the name of his associate and supplier, Vanshu, who is currently absconding.

Efforts are underway to apprehend Vanshu and trace other members of the syndicate.

The syndicate was deeply involved in the supply of smack to drug addicts in the national capital. Gaurav, a school dropout, initially assisted his relatives in selling illicit liquor.

In 2023, he came into contact with Vanshu during a marriage function and subsequently began procuring heroin for distribution to a select group of addicts. Further investigation is in progress to identify the source and destination of the contraband.



**Constable, girlfriend nabbed for running opium racket**

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NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police has arrested an army constable, his girlfriend, and an accomplice of his for allegedly running an opium racket, ferrying consignments from Manipur to Rajasthan, an officer said on Thursday. The constable had taken leave to carry out his smuggling activities, he said.

He, along with his girlfriend and another accomplice, was travelling in a car that was stopped near Kalindi Kunj. A thorough search led to the recovery of 18 packets of opium concealed beneath the floor of the vehicle, the officer said. “The modus operandi involved using personal leave periods to travel under the radar and move narcotics discreetly. The car was specially modified to create hidden compartments beneath the flooring,” the officer said.

Police also seized an army-issued licensed pistol found stashed beneath the floor, he said.

**Rain brings Delhi to standstill, several roads unnavigable**

PURNA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

A heavy rain overnight and showers Thursday morning left commuters and office-goers in the national capital negotiating with waterlogged roads, pothole-ridden stretches, and long snarls.

From ITO to Old Rohtak Road, Delhi-Jaipur highway (NH-8) and Madhuban Chowk, heavy traffic was reported for hours.

The city struggled to drain excess water and manage vehicular flow. The Shadipur area saw a bumper-to-bumper jam till late afternoon, with motorists reporting delays of up to an hour. Traffic from Nangloi towards Najafgarh and vice versa came to a standstill.

The Delhi Traffic Police in a post on X informed the public that traffic was affected on both carriage-ways from Nangloi towards Mundka and vice versa on



the Rohtak Road due to waterlogging, potholes, and road/sewer repairing by the Public Works Department.

Near Dhaula Kuan, Rajokri and Mahipalpur, vehicles were seen crawling for kilometres.

A particularly troubling point was the Zakhira Railway Underpass on Road No 40, where severe waterlogging led to diversions.

“Traffic from Shastri Nagar-KD Chowk is diverted towards Chaudhary Nahar Singh Marg and vice versa,” the traffic police wrote on X in a post.

“People are stuck for over 30 minutes just to cross a kilometre stretch,” posted a commuter caught in the Zakhira jam.

“The situation is extremely bad.”

Parts of south Delhi, including Sarai Kale Khan, the road leading to the AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital and the Ashram area, too, saw intractable snarls.

In Patparganj, a user wrote, “Due to the rain, many people are still stuck in traffic jams. In several places, vehicles are struggling to move forward.”

**Gurugram issues ‘work from home’ advisory**

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GURUGRAM

CORPORATE offices and private institutions were advised to allow their employees to work from home on Thursday, a day after torrential rain led to massive traffic snarls and waterlogging in the high-rise city that was brought to its knees.

The rains that started around 7 pm on Wednesday and continued late into the night led to jams that lasted till the early hours of Thursday. According to the advisory issued by the District Disaster Management Authority, Gurugram recorded 133 mm of rainfall in the 12-hour period that ended at 7 am on Thursday. This included an “extremely intense spell” of 103 mm of rainfall between 7.30 pm to 9 pm on Wednesday.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an ‘orange’ alert for Gurugram, the advisory stated. “In view of the above situ-

ation, all corporate offices and private institutions in the district are advised to guide their employees to work from home on July 10 so that traffic congestion can be avoided,” it said. Rain brought Gurugram to a standstill on Wednesday evening, with roads and several residential areas inundated and traffic gridlocked.

The downpour left the Narsinghpur stretch of the Delhi-Gurugram Expressway and places near Basai and Golf Course Extension Road submerged. The road in front of the parking lot near Rajiv Chowk, Sheela Mata road, Sadar Bazaar, Bus Adda road and roads in nearby colonies were also flooded.

Waterlogging was also reported from Basai Chowk, Khandsa, Sanjay Gram Road, Sohna Road, Subhash Chowk and Sectors 30, 31, 40, 45, 47, 51, 22, 23, 4, 5, 12, 13 and 48.

There was a 7 to 8-km-long queue of vehicles on National Highway 48 from Narsinghpur to Rajokri in Delhi on Wednesday night.

**I will retire in 2027, subject to divine intervention: VP**



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NEW DELHI

VICE President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said he will retire in August 2027, “subject to divine intervention”. He made the remarks while addressing an event at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) here. “I will retire at the right time, August 2027, subject to divine intervention,” he said in a lighter vein.

Dhankhar’s five-year term as the 14th Vice President ends on August 10, 2027.

A senior lawyer, he was serving as the governor of West Bengal when he was elected as the Vice President after being fielded by the BJP-led NDA. Addressing the gathering, Dhankhar said India’s rise as a global power must be accompanied by the rise of its intellectual and cultural gravitas.

**Jal Shakti Minister’s focus on sustainability**

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

JAL Shakti Minister C R Paatil on Thursday said the focus of the Jal Jeevan Mission must now shift from infrastructure delivery to sustainability as he called for robust systems to ensure continued water supply and quality in rural areas.

“The next phase of this journey is sustainability,” the minister said while addressing the inaugural session of a two-day national workshop on the operation and maintenance (O&M) of rural water supply schemes. Launched in 2019, the Jal Jeevan Mission has provided tap water connections to over 15 crore rural households.

Paatil said this milestone is a result of the government’s strong commitment to ensuring basic amenities for all.

However, he stressed that sustained access to safe drinking water now depends on building resilient systems



backed by effective policies and local engagement. The national workshop has brought together representatives from states and union territories, district magistrates, engineers and policymakers. Their participation, Paatil said, signals a unified resolve to strengthen the mission’s long-term impact. Highlighting the importance of community involvement, the minister noted that five women in every village have been trained in water quality testing. “This not only ensures local monitoring but also empowers women and builds trust within communities,” he said. Paatil added that the government’s goal is not merely to complete schemes but to ensure that they are high-quality, well-maintained and sustainable.

*‘Advanced artillery gun system exemplary mission mode a success’*

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

IN line with the steps to modernise the Army’s artillery regiments and enhance operational readiness, indigenously-made Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (ATAGS) will replace the vintage and smaller calibre guns, with the Defence Ministry on Wednesday calling the project an “exemplary mission mode success”. ATAGS is designed

**In line with the steps to modernise the Army’s artillery regiments and enhance operational readiness, indigenously-made Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (ATAGS) will replace the vintage and smaller calibre guns**



by Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune, a laboratory of the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). The ministry shared a post on X along with a video showcasing ATAGS, whose maximum range is 48 km.

“We started this project in the year 2012. And, within a span of 12 years, we could complete the total process of design to manufacturing, testing and induction,” said

ARDE Director A Raju in the recorded video. The key features are its quite advance system, he said, adding, ARDE is playing a crucial rule in “Atmanirbharta of our nation”.

Earlier on March 26, the Defence Ministry had signed contracts with Bharat Forge Limited and Tata Advanced System Limited for the procurement of 155mm/52 Calibre Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (ATAGS) and High Mobility Vehicle

6x6 Gun Towing Vehicles respectively at a total cost of about Rs 6,900 crore.

The 155 mm/52 calibre ATAGS will replace the vintage and smaller calibre guns and enhance the artillery capabilities of the Indian Army.

The timeline for delivery of 307 ATAGS is expected to be five years, Raju said.

The ministry in its post said, “ATAGS, @DRDO\_India’s flagship artillery system, is spearheading the #In-

dianArmy’s artillery modernisation, an exemplary Mission Mode success.”

“It brings together #DRDO, the Indian Army, and both public and private sectors to strengthen #AatmanirbharBharat in defence. With its all-electric drive for gun laying and ammunition handling, #ATAGS ensures reliable, maintenance-free performance even in the toughest mountain and desert terrains,” it said.

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