

2.5% decline in road crash deaths, 2.9% dip in fatal crashes

A senior police officer says the Delhi traffic police has adopted a multi-pronged approach, including analysing crash data, identifying risk factors and recommending engineering changes, to reduce road deaths

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

ROAD crash deaths in the national capital have reduced by 2.5 per cent till September 2025 compared to the same period last year, while fatal road crashes dipped by 2.9 per cent, according to data released by the Delhi Traffic Police on Tuesday.

The police attributed the steady decline to “consistent and systematic efforts”

involving data-driven, evidence-based interventions and improvements in road infrastructure. According to police data, the number of people killed in road crashes dropped from 1,178 last year to 1,149, while fatal crashes fell from 1,148 to 1,115 during the same period.

A senior police officer said the Delhi Traffic Police has adopted a multi-pronged approach, including analysing crash data, identifying risk factors and recommending

engineering changes, to reduce road deaths.

“The continued reduction in road crash deaths is a direct result of targeting risk factors and recommending life-saving measures at high-risk locations. The Delhi Traffic Police remains committed to reducing road crash deaths,” Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Ajay Chaudhry said.

The police said its Crash Research Cell analyses fatal crashes and identifies

blackspots, locations prone to repeated incidents. The Traffic Police Engineering Cell then visits these sites to suggest design improvements and other safety measures.

Notably, the Delhi Road Crash Report, earlier known as the Accident Report in Delhi, has been renamed to replace the term ‘accident’ with ‘crash’ to reflect the global view that such incidents are preventable and not inevitable.

This year, the traffic police identified 143 high-risk locations across the city and recommended safer road designs, improved signage, and road repairs. It has also proposed speed-calming measures at more than 30 locations near schools, colleges and hospitals, including new speed breakers and safer pedestrian crossings.

Over 3,600 traffic personnel have been trained in speed management and data-based enforcement techniques in collaboration with road safety experts, the state-



safety said. The Delhi Traffic Police continues to coordi-

nate with various departments through District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) meetings and to comply

with guidelines issued by the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety, the police added.

‘Late payment charges on water bills to be completely waived off’

Consumers can visit their nearest Delhi Jal Board (DJB) office to avail of the benefit: Chief Minister Rekha Gupta

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi government has announced a major relief measure for residents struggling with unpaid water bills. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that citizens will receive a 100% rebate on late payment charges on water bills until January 31, followed by a 70% rebate from February 1 to March 31.

Beginning Wednesday, consumers can visit their nearest Delhi Jal Board (DJB) office to avail of the benefit. Gupta said the government has waived surcharges worth ₹11,500 crore and slashed the penalty for unauthorized connections to ₹1,000. Illegal



water connections can now be regularized for ₹1,000, while commercial connections will be regularized for just ₹5,000, down from the earlier fee of ₹61,000.

Gupta said the government had spent the past seven months overhauling the functioning of the Jal Board.

As part of the reform, 34

new Zonal Revenue Offices (ZROs) will be established, with each ZRO catering to two assembly constituencies.

The new system will ensure smooth billing, prompt grievance redressal, and better service delivery.

She added that after the Diwali relief on GST, the government is extending another “gift” in the form of a water bill rebate.

“Wherever we went, people would show us their water bills and ask when the errors would be fixed. This move is for them,” she said.

Taking aim at the previous Aam Aadmi Party government, Gupta alleged that the Jal Board was left financially crippled and that its connections were deliber-

ately capped at 2.9 million.

She said the outdated revenue system created unnecessary hardships for residents.

Delhi’s Water Minister Praveesh Verma said a software glitch that had earlier disrupted billing has now been resolved. He added that while the new rebate scheme may result in thousands of crores in losses for the Jal Board, it will greatly benefit Delhi’s citizens.

Verma said the penalty rate will also be reduced from 5% to 2%, and all penalties and interest on unpaid bills will be fully waived.

“Our priority is to ease the financial burden on the public and ensure fair, transparent water billing across the city,” he said.

HC gives Kejriwal final chance to present arguments in bail case

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court has given former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal one last opportunity to present his arguments in the petition challenging the trial court’s order that granted him bail. Justice Ravindra Dubeja scheduled the next hearing for November, directing that no further chances would be given after that date.

During Tuesday’s proceedings, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) informed the court that Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju was unavailable as he was engaged in a matter before the Supreme Court. The High Court then made it clear that both sides must complete their arguments at the next hearing.

Earlier, on August 7, 2024, the High Court had observed that Kejriwal was already out on interim bail granted by the Supreme Court. The bench questioned whether there was



any plan to arrest him again. Kejriwal, in his response, alleged that the ED had obtained witness statements under undue pressure.

Previously, the Delhi High Court had stayed the trial court’s bail order, calling it flawed. The court said that the lower court had failed to examine the documents properly and had not given the ED sufficient opportunity to present its case.

It also noted that the trial court had not complied with the two essential conditions outlined under Section 45

of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Kejriwal’s interim bail, granted by the Supreme Court earlier this year, was specifically for election campaigning and could not be cited as a general ground for personal liberty, the court remarked.

Notably, Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI on June 26, 2024, in connection with the alleged excise policy scam. While he has been granted regular bail in the CBI case, he continues to face proceedings in the ED case linked to the same matter.

Delhi Cong chief detained for protesting against vote theft

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NEW DELHI

DELHI Congress chief Devender Yadav and other party workers were detained in southwest Delhi’s Najafgarh area while staging a protest against vote theft. Police said they detained 56 people, including Yadav.

“They were protesting and were moving towards Jawahar Chowk in the area. We have detained them as they have no permission for protest. They were taken to Najafgarh Police Station,” a senior police officer told PTI. “We will continue to raise our voice against vote theft. Our morale will not be broken by police and the government,” the Congress said. On August 7, Rahul Gandhi made explosive claims of “huge criminal fraud” in polls through



“collusion” between the BJP and the Election Commission and cited an analysis of voter rolls in a constituency in Karnataka last year.

Soon after Gandhi levelled the charge, the chief electoral officers of Karnataka and Maharashtra asked the former Congress chief to share names of electors he claimed were “wrong” in the voters’ list along with a signed declaration for poll authorities to initiate “necessary proceedings” in the matter.

14-year-old boy found hang in Delhi home

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NEW DELHI

A 14-year-old boy was found hanging from a ceiling fan at his home in northwest Delhi’s Tri Nagar area, police said on Tuesday. Police found a video on his phone which recorded the incident and they are looking into whether the boy was attempting to record a reel and it was an accident, or he intentionally ended his life.

The incident came to light on Sunday when the Keshav Puram police received information from Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital (DCBH) about a boy, later identified as a class 9 student, found hanging in his house.

The boy was declared brought dead at the hospital, police said. According to the officer, the boy lived with his parents and elder sister.

“During the initial probe, it was found that the boy had hanged himself from a ceiling



fan using a curtain. He also placed his mobile phone at a distance and recorded a video of the entire act,” said the police officer.

The officer added that no foul play has been found so far. The scene of crime was inspected by the crime team and exhibits, including the mobile phone of the deceased, were recovered for forensic examination.

“The body was preserved at BJRM Hospital and later handed over to the family after

postmortem,” he added.

Police said investigators are examining multiple angles, including the possibility that the boy might have been experimenting while shooting a video for social media.

“We are verifying whether he was attempting to make a reel or if it was an act of suicide. The phone video and digital contents are being carefully analysed. There is no background noise or any voice in the video,” said a police source.

‘Disaster risk reduction not cost, but collective investment in shared future’

NEW DELHI: Disaster risk reduction is not a cost but a collective investment in the shared future of the world, top PMO official P K Mishra said.

Addressing the G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Ministerial Meeting in Cape Town in South Africa, Mishra, the principal secretary to the prime minister, said India is committed to advancing multi-hazard early warning systems, leveraging anticipatory financing for anticipatory action, and promoting public-private partnerships for resilience.

Mishra also emphasised on India’s pioneering role in creating the G20 DRR Working Group in 2023. He reiterated India’s leadership through the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), which had extended technical assistance to 50 countries. Mishra applauded South Africa’s G20 presidency for advancing a spirit of partnership and amplifying Africa’s perspectives



within the disaster risk reduction agenda. The ministerial meeting adopted the Declaration ‘Resilience for All: Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction through Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability’ on October 13, coinciding with the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. During the Ministerial Roundtable on the Voluntary High-Level Principles for Investing in DRR, Mishra highlighted India’s integrated approach built on risk information, financing strategy, innovation and local-level investment. “India’s governance framework embedded DRR within its National Adaptation Plan, sectoral policies, and financing windows, ensuring that resilience, inclusivity and sustainability were woven into every level of development planning,” he said.

Over 700 kg of banned firecrackers seized, 2 held

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police have seized 725 kgs of banned firecrackers in two separate operations carried out in Dwarka and Najafgarh areas and nabbed two people for illegally stockpiling the crackers, an official said on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team raided a house in Uttam Nagar and apprehended Gaurav Gupta, the officer said, adding that 77 kg of firecrackers were recovered from his residence.

Gupta, who earlier sold firecrackers with a valid licence till 2022, continued the trade despite the ban on the sale and use of prohibited fireworks, police said.

In another raid, the team apprehended Rajeev Kumar (52), a resident of Najafgarh, after recovering 648 kg of illegal firecrackers stored at a storage unit in Shyam Vihar.

The items were kept under the guise of a carton storage unit in a densely populated area, posing a serious threat to public safety, the police said.

Further investigation is underway to identify the supply chain and other persons involved, they added.

COVID may alter offspring’s brain growth, cause anxious behaviour

Lead researcher Anthony Hannan said it is known that male mice exposed to adverse environmental and lifestyle factors, such as consuming a poor diet before mating, can change brain development and behaviour in offsprings

NEW DELHI

CHANGES in sperm caused by COVID-19 in a mouse could affect the offspring’s brain development and cause anxious behaviours, a study has found, suggesting that the viral disease may have long-lasting effects on future generations, even as the results would need to be verified in humans, researchers said.

The team from Australia’s Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health

found that an offspring mouse conceived after a father has been infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus and developed COVID-19 symptoms have higher levels of anxiety-like behaviours.

“We let male mice recover from SARS-CoV-2 infection for a few weeks before they mated with healthy females. We found that the resulting offspring showed more anxious behaviours compared to offspring from uninfected fathers,” Elizabeth Kleman, re-

search officer and first author of the study published in the journal Nature Communications, said. All offsprings from COVID-19-affected fathers were seen to display increased anxiety-like behaviours.

“Using an established mouse-adapted SARS-CoV-2 preclinical model, we infected adult male mice with the virus, or performed a mock control infection, and bred them with naive female mice four weeks later, when males were no longer infectious.

Here we show that offspring of infected sires display increased anxiety-like behaviours,” the authors wrote.

Lead researcher Anthony Hannan said it is known that male mice exposed to adverse environmental and lifestyle factors, such as consuming a poor diet before mating, can change brain development and behaviour in offsprings.

“This is because the father’s experiences can alter the information carried in sperm, including specific RNA mole-

cules, which transmit instructions for offspring development,” Hannan said.

Analysis of RNA gene material from infected fathers’ sperm showed altered molecules, including those involved in regulating genes known to be important for brain development.

Female offspring mice also had significant changes in how specific genes in the brain’s hippocampus region -- important for regulating emotional responses such as

anxiety and stress -- behaved, the study found.

“These kinds of changes in the hippocampus, as well as other brain regions, may contribute to the increased anxiety we observed in offspring, via epigenetic inheritance and altered brain development,” co-senior author Carolina Gubert said. Epigenetics refers to the process by which a gene interacts with the environment to produce an observable behaviour. Hannan said the study is the first of



its kind, and added that if the results are verified in humans, millions of children and families worldwide could be impacted, “with major implications for public health”.

“While more research is needed, particularly in

the sperm and offspring of humans infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, these findings suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic could have long-lasting effects on future generations,” the lead researcher said.

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