

Double-decker bus cruise along Lutyens' roads draws 800 passengers

SHRUTI BHARDWAJ
NEW DELHI

AROUND 800 people have witnessed Delhi from the upper deck of the city's new electric double-decker bus following its launch around a month ago, viewing some of the capital's most recognisable locations. The service, which began on February 28, has seen higher footfall on weekends, reflecting its appeal among leisure travel-

The Delhi government had launched the service on February 27 to boost tourism in the capital, with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta flagging off the electric double-decker buses

lers and tourists looking to explore central Delhi in a curated manner, officials said. The bus service operates every day of the week except Monday. "Between February



28 and April 5, nearly 800 passengers travelled on the double-decker bus. The response has been particularly encouraging over weekends," an official told PTI, adding

that the initiative is gradually gaining traction among both residents and visitors.

The Delhi government had launched the service on February 27 to boost tourism in the capital, with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta flagging off the electric double-decker buses. She, along with Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra and other officials, took a ride from Rafi Marg to the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya during the inaugural run.

The tourism department is operating the bus on a fixed circuit connecting prominent sites in central Delhi, including Bharat Mandapam, National War Memorial, new Parliament complex and Dilli Haat, among others, a senior official said. Evening tours are also in the pipeline, with the route largely finalised. Since the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya closes at 6 pm, the tour is expected to begin from the museum before

moving to other destinations, the official added.

The bus can accommodate over 63 passengers and has been designed to run smoothly in Lutyens' Delhi, avoiding challenges such as low-hanging wires and tree cover. The service aims to cater to both domestic and international tourists. Fares have been fixed at Rs 500 for adults and Rs 300 for children aged between six and twelve years. A trained

guide accompanies each trip to provide insights into the historical and cultural significance of the sites covered, officials said. Two such buses are planned to be deployed under the initiative. The service also marks a return of double-decker buses on Delhi roads, which were earlier operated by the Delhi Transport Corporation as 'Suvidha' services before being phased out in 1989 due to an ageing fleet.

Bomb threat to Assembly triggers security drill

- The emails claimed that the Secretariat complex would be blown up, causing panic in administrative circles and prompting an immediate response from security agencies
- Teams from the Delhi Police, along with bomb disposal units and dog squads, were deployed to the Secretariat, and a comprehensive search operation was carried out

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

A bomb threat targeting the Delhi Secretariat triggered a major security alert in the national capital after multiple official email accounts received threatening messages on Thursday. The emails claimed that the Secretariat complex would be blown up, causing panic in administrative circles and prompting an immediate response from security agencies.

Following confirmation of the threat, emergency protocols were swiftly put in place.

Teams from the Delhi Police, along with bomb disposal units and dog squads, were deployed to the Secretariat, and a comprehensive search operation was carried out across the entire premises. Officials said every section of the building was thoroughly checked to rule out any danger.

Despite the extensive search, no suspicious object has been found so far. However, authorities are continuing to maintain a high level of alert and are not ruling out any possibility. The Delhi Police cyber cell has begun a de-



tailed investigation into the source of the emails. Efforts are underway to trace the IP addresses and identify the sender to determine whether the threat is a hoax or linked to a larger plan.

The incident has once again raised concerns about the security of key government establishments in Delhi. It follows earlier instances of similar threats, including one targeting the Delhi Assembly. Recently, a significant security lapse was also reported when a car

breached a security gate and entered the Assembly premises, intensifying concerns over vulnerabilities in the system.

In the wake of the latest threat, security at the Delhi Secretariat has been significantly tightened. All visitors and vehicles are undergoing strict screening before entry. Police officials said the situation is being closely monitored and assured that all necessary steps are being taken to ensure the safety of the premises and its occupants.

Patanjali turns 'impossible' into reality; Google looks to tap data for AI systems



HANS NEWS SERVICE
HARIDWAR

A task once abandoned midway as "impossible" by the world's leading health body has not only been completed in India but transformed into a historic achievement through sheer resolve.

This is the story of extraordinary perseverance, where dedication, research, and vision came together to create the monumen-

tal Vishwa Bhashaj Samhita., however, in a remarkable turn of events, Patanjali claims US tech giant Google is now seeking access to the very knowledge compiled by the organisation to train its artificial intelligence systems.

In 1999, the World Health Organization, WHO, launched an ambitious project to compile a global document on plant-based medicinal systems, medicinal plants, and traditional knowledge from across the world. After nearly 11 years of effort, the WHO discontinued the project in 2010, citing its vast scope, complexity, and near-impossible nature.

Ultimately, it could produce only three limited volumes. A parallel effort in India, Around the same time, without global attention, Patanjali Yogpeeth began working on a similar initiative around 2003-04. The institution was unaware of WHO's earlier attempt. According to Acharya Balkrishna, General Secretary, Patanjali Yogpeeth, the difference lay in approach, patience, and dedication.



Woman borrows key to friend's home; flees with cash, gold

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

TAKING advantage of her friend's trust, a woman allegedly "borrowed" the key to her house on the pretext of applying mehendi, using it later to rob her residence and escape with Rs 3.2 lakh in cash and several gold ornaments in outer Delhi's Sultanpuri area, police said on Thursday.

Two persons, including the woman, have been arrested in this connection, they added. According to an official, an FIR was registered on April 4 after a complainant reported a theft at her house between 1 pm and 5 pm the same day. The complainant said unidentified persons had entered her locked house and fled with cash and jewellery. "The stolen items included around Rs 3.2 lakh in cash and multiple gold ornaments such as necklace sets, rings, a chain and anklets," a senior police officer said. Police analysed CCTV footage from the area, which showed a man -- accompanied by a woman wearing a burkha -- carrying a bag near the spot.

On April 7, police conducted a raid in Sultanpuri area after receiving information that a man was attempting to sell jewellery which were suspected to be stolen. "The accused, identified as Rajinder (22), was apprehended at the spot," the officer said.

During interrogation, Rajinder revealed he had committed the theft with the help of his aunt, who has been a friend of the complainant for several years. Police said the accused woman had gained access to the complainant's house keys earlier on the day of the theft under the pretext of applying mehendi, and later used them to carry out the theft.

4 held for running fake air ticket racket; Rs 47 lakh cash seized

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

FOUR cyber fraudsters have been arrested for allegedly running a multi-city racket for duping people on the pretext of booking discounted air tickets, an official said on Thursday. The police recovered Rs 47 lakh in cash and a Mercedes S-Class car, among other things, from the possession of the accused, the official said. The accused have been identified as Mridul Joshi (35), the mastermind, Himanshu Anil Sharma (24), Gaurav (20) and Rakesh (52).

"The syndicate was operating across Delhi, Goa and Mumbai, targeting victims through social media platforms and fake travel booking services," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Amit Goel said in a statement. According to the police, the case came to light after a complaint was lodged at the Cyber Police Station in the Southwest district on April 7.

The complainant alleged that his brother, based in



Canada, was cheated of Rs 3.8 lakh while attempting to book flight tickets from Toronto to Delhi through a social media page offering discounted fares. The victim was contacted via a US-based number and persuaded to transfer money on the assurance of confirmed bookings, which later turned out to be fraudulent. A team was constituted to probe the matter and analyse digital footprints, call detail records and financial transactions. Investigators traced the operation to a coordinated network spanning multiple locations. Police said Joshi was running the operation from Patel Nagar in Delhi and had set up a fake call centre in Goa to target victims.

DDA conducts demolition drive in Delhi's Sainik Farm

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NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Development Authority on Thursday carried out a demolition drive in the affluent Sainik Farm area of south Delhi, officials said. According to the Resident Welfare Association, the drive targeted two residential plots located on Western Avenue. "This is a completely illegal action. They came around 5 am

and carried out the drive despite us having a stay order from the court. This is a private land, and DDA does not have a clear demarcation of the Kharsa number of this plot," Hardeep Singh Bhalla, president of the Western Avenue Residents' Welfare Association (WARWA), alleged. While the government is talking about regularising unauthorised colonies, the DDA is taking action against the residents in the area, Bhalla said.

It would have been better if AICC had directly intervened in Jeevan Reddy's issue: Jagga Reddy

- In a media chit-chat, Jagga Reddy responds to Jeevan Reddy's resignation
- Says it's unfortunate that a senior Cong leader like Jeevan Reddy has left the party
- This is my personal opinion, says Jagga Reddy
- We will discuss his leaving the party internally

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IT would have been better if the AICC leadership had directly intervened and resolved the issue regarding T Jeevan Reddy, said TPCC working president T Jagga Reddy.

In a media chit-chat, he responded to Congress senior leader Jeevan Reddy leaving the party, saying 'it is unfortunate that a



senior Congress leader like Jeevan Reddy has left the party. In his case what was happening internally should have been reviewed at the AICC level. It would have been better if the Delhi leadership had directly stepped in and resolved the issue.

However, Reddy clarified: "this is my personal opinion. MLAs and leaders switching parties is common in present-day politics. The reasons behind Jeevan Reddy changing the party cannot be discussed

openly with the media; we will discuss them internally within the party."

He said: "It is indeed unfortunate that Jeevan Reddy, who has been loyal to Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi's family, and the Congress, has moved away from the party. Jeevan Reddy is a very senior leader in the Congress. He served as an MLA in 2014 and was later made an MLC for four districts. He is a big personality in the Congress party"

The senior party

stated that "based on media reports, it appears that Jeevan Reddy has distanced himself from the Congress. In my personal opinion, it would have been better if the Delhi leadership had intervened in Jeevan Reddy's issue. It would have been good if Jeevan Reddy had been called to Delhi and consulted.

Why Jeevan Reddy changed the party is his personal opinion. In the past, during MLC elections, I had requested the high command to give importance to Jeevan Reddy."

"In any case, the absence of a leader like Jeevan Reddy in the Congress is something to think about. We will discuss his leaving the party internally; we cannot speak about it publicly. Whatever is happening internally should have been reviewed at the AICC level. I cannot comment now on what Jeevan Reddy has said.

In my view, the Delhi leadership should have directly stepped in and resolved this issue," he pointed out.

Biogas plant soon to manage cattle waste

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has given administrative approval for setting up a 300 tonnes-per-day biogas plant at the Ghazipur dairy farm, officials said on Thursday, adding that the proposal will be placed before the House later this month. The House meeting is expected to be held on April 24, where the project is expected to be tabled for further consideration.

According to officials, the proposed plant will come up on around five acres of land. "The tender will be issued in the next few days and the proposal will be tabled in the next House meeting," an official said. The plan is part of wider efforts to manage waste generated by dairy colonies across the capital. It includes biogas plants at Ghazipur and Bhalswa dairies, 75 tonnes-per-day (TPD) facilities at Masoodpur and Madanpur Khadar, a 100 TPD plant at Sarita Vihar, and a 200 TPD plant at Mangolpuri near the Outer Ring Road.

Additional units proposed include a 100 TPD plant at Pitampura, 200 TPD plants each at Rohini and Sagarpur, and a 50 TPD unit at Khajuri Khas.



Infra projects worth Rs 4.5 cr launched in Rajouri constituency

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi government on Thursday rolled out development projects worth Rs 4.5 crore in the Rajouri Garden assembly constituency, covering Khyala, Vishnu Garden and nearby areas, with a focus on strengthening basic infrastructure and addressing long-standing civic issues.

The works include expansion

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of drinking water supply lines, development of sewer networks, construction and repair of roads, building of drains, installation of toilet complexes and

improvement of greenery in parks. Officials said the initiative is aimed at meeting long-pending demands of residents and upgrading essential services in the



locality. Cabinet Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, who inaugurated the projects, said the government is committed to giving Delhi a new identity through large-scale infrastructure improvements. He stated that strengthening basic civic amenities remains a top priority and added that neglect over the past decade is now being addressed with accelerated efforts.

He said that in many ar-

ea, problems such as damaged roads and unplanned infrastructure continue to persist, and the government is working to resolve them at the root level.

Detailing the projects, he said they include reconstruction of roads in Khyala village, road improvement works in the Chaukhandi area, expansion of sewer lines, and construction of a key road along with an adjoining drain, which had

been a long-standing demand of local residents.

He further said that the government has significantly increased its focus on infrastructure this year, with a budgetary provision of Rs 32,000 crore to drive development across the capital. He described the current projects as the beginning of a broader effort, adding that similar large-scale works will be undertaken across the entire constituency.

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