

Oxygen cylinder blast in Okhla leaves one dead, 4 injured

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NEW DELHI

ONE person was killed and four others injured after an oxygen cylinder exploded while it was being unloaded from a truck at a commercial godown in southeast Delhi's Okhla Phase-I on Wednesday, police said.

The deceased was identified as Mohit Singh (35), a helper working with a company which operates from Okhla Phase-I. He was a resident of Jaipur and had re-

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portedly been working with the firm for around three years, police said.

The injured were identified as Umesh, Arvind, Manoj and Pankaj. They were immediately rushed to the AIIMS Trauma Centre for treatment.

According to officials, a PCR call regarding the blast was received at around 10:45 am, following which police and fire department teams reached the spot and secured the area. Three water tenders and a multi-casualty first responder vehicle were also

rushed to the site following information about the blast.

Preliminary police inquiry found that the labourers were working for a firm engaged in trading and local distribution of industrial oxygen cylinders, which were intended for medical purposes and



gas-cutting work.

The firm's manager, in a statement, said the vehicle carrying the cylinders had arrived at the premises in the morning as part of the firm's routine operations. The workers were in the process of unloading the cylinders and shifting them inside the godown when one of the cylinders fell from the vehicle onto the road.

"An immediate explosion followed. Preliminary inquiry suggests that only one cylinder exploded. The exact

technical cause of the blast has not yet been established. The scene, the cylinder, the vehicle and other relevant material will be examined by technical and forensic agencies to determine the precise cause of the explosion," the officer said.

"The blast was so intense that a ringing sound continued in our ears for some time," he said.

The blast was powerful enough to shatter glass windows of nearby buildings, according to eyewitnesses.

Jal Board STP case: Court grants bail to four accused

The latest bail order also comes in the backdrop of Satyendar Jain's earlier legal battle in a separate money-laundering case

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE Rouse Avenue Court in Delhi on Wednesday has granted bail to four accused in the alleged Delhi Jal Board sewage treatment plant (STP) scam, bringing relief to former board officials and private contractors facing corruption allegations in the case.

Special Judge Digvinay Singh ordered the release on bail of former Delhi Jal Board CEO Udit Prakash Rai, former contractual consultant Ankita Srivastava, AN Enterprises owner Nagendra Yadav and Srijanhar owner Pankaj Verma. Former Delhi minister

Satyendar Jain, who is also an accused in the case, had earlier been granted bail by the court.

Jain and the other accused were arrested on August 18 in connection with the case. Challenging Jain's arrest, senior advocate Maninder Singh had argued that the arrest was unlawful because the reasons for taking him into custody were allegedly not communicated to him at the time.

The defence maintained that this amounted to a violation of the arrest safeguards and guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court.

The Anti-Corruption Branch had arrested Jain along with several other in-



dividuals in the case.

The list of accused arrested by the agency includes Udit Prakash Rai, former contractual consultant Ankita

Srivastava, Nagendra Yadav, proprietor of AN Enterprises, Raja Kumar Kurra, owner of Eurotech Environment Private Limited, and Pankaj

Verma, proprietor of Sirjanhar. The latest bail order also comes in the backdrop of Satyendar Jain's earlier legal battle in a separate money-laundering case.

The Enforcement Directorate arrested Jain on May 30, 2022, and he spent 872 days in Tihar Jail in connection with that case.

He was subsequently granted bail by the trial court on October 18, 2024, and walked out of jail.

With four more accused now granted bail in the Delhi Jal Board STP case, the proceedings will continue on the allegations surrounding the tender process and the ACB's claims of corruption and favouritism.

Emergency treatment to EWS patients

SC slams hospital for not responding to notice

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NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Wednesday rapped Yatharth Super Speciality Hospital for not responding to a contempt notice issued by it over preparation of a standard operating procedure (SOP) for providing emergency medical care to EWS patients.

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Shree Chandrashekhar sought reply from the hospital in two weeks.

The top court noted that the hospital in its affidavit stated that it had not been served with any notice to participate.

"This statement is contrary to the office report dated April 2, 2026, which clearly records that notice had been served. The statement made in the reply is, therefore, ex facie false. Accordingly, we draw up formal contempt proceedings against the



said respondent through its Medical Superintendent," the bench said.

During the hearing, the top court was informed by amicus curiae and senior advocate Sanjay Jain that only 12 hospitals have participated in the meeting out of 52.

He informed the apex court that a revised standard operating procedure (SOP) has been filed as per the court's direction.

"It is stated that only 12 hospitals participated in the consultation process. Senior

counsel appearing on behalf of several hospitals submit that they wish to file their responses and suggestions to the revised SOP," the bench said while posting the matter for hearing on September 30.

The top court was hearing a plea related to its 2018 judgment which held that hospitals which received land at concessional rates must provide free treatment to EWS patients, to the extent of 10 per cent at in-patient departments and 25 per cent at out-patient departments.

Dariyapur gang member arrested

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NEW DELHI

AN alleged member of the Sonu Dariyapur gang was arrested with an illegal country-made pistol, leading to the busting of an arms manufacturing unit in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh, Delhi Police said on Wednesday.

The accused, Anurag alias Hunny (22), was apprehended on September 2 following a tip-off that he would arrive in Narela by road carrying an illegal weapon, they said.

A country-made pistol was recovered from his possession, following which a case was registered at Narela Industrial Area police station. Subsequently, he was arrested.

During interrogation, Anurag disclosed that he had procured the weapon from an illegal arms supplier operating from Talaspur Khurd in Aligarh. Based on the disclosure, a police team conducted a raid at a house in Talaspur Khurd, where an illegal arms manufacturing setup was allegedly found



on the rooftop. Seven additional country-made pistols and 20 live rounds of 8 mm calibre were recovered from the premises, the police said. Six of the seven pistols were found in semi-finished condition, indicating that illegal manufacturing of firearms was underway at the site. With the recovery of the weapon from Anurag, the total seizure includes eight country-made pistols and 20 live rounds. Anurag, a resident of Jain Colony near Barwala in Delhi, has two previous involvements. Further investigation is underway.

HC SEEKS REPLY ON DU HOSTEL PIL

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NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice and sought responses from the Union Government, Delhi Government and Delhi University on a public interest litigation seeking adequate hostel facilities for students across colleges run by or affiliated with the University of Delhi.

The PIL has been filed in the backdrop of the recent Satya Ni-

ketan building collapse near Delhi University's South Campus, where a five-storeyed building being used as a paying guest accommodation collapsed, resulting in the deaths of several college students and injuries to others.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia sought the response of the authorities on the plea filed by Vinod Jakhar. Advocate Vimal Tyagi appeared for the petitioner.



The Court, however, questioned the inclusion of the University Grants Commission as a respondent in the petition and directed that the UGC be deleted from the array of parties.

Observing that a public interest litigation was a "very serious business", the Bench directed the petitioner's counsel to file an amended memo of parties within one week.

The matter will now be heard on September 25, when another PIL concerning the Satya Niketan building collapse incident is also listed before the High Court.

2 shooters injured in Rohini gunfight

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NEW DELHI

TWO alleged shooters linked to gangster Himanshu Bhau's gang were injured in a gunfight with Delhi Police in Rohini, while three suspects, including a juvenile, were apprehended on Tuesday night, police sources said.

The sources said that the accused were allegedly involved in the murder of a property dealer named Pramod in Narela when he was going to gym.

The encounter took place when a team of the Rohini

district police's Special Staff intercepted the suspects in connection with the murder, they said.

According to sources, over 10 bullet rounds were fired from both sides during the exchange of fire.

"The two accused, identified as Deepak Pahalan and Nitik, sustained bullet injuries in their legs and were taken to a hospital for treatment. A juvenile allegedly associated with the gang was also apprehended," the source told PTI.

Police said the killing was suspected to have been car-

ried out after the victim allegedly failed to pay an extortion demand. Following the murder, police teams were working to trace the suspects.

Acting on specific information about their whereabouts, the Special Staff team laid a trap in Rohini, the source said.

When the suspects allegedly opened fire at the police team, the personnel retaliated, resulting in the encounter. Further investigation is underway to establish the motive and identify others involved in the murder and its alleged links to Bhau.

Bizman's home burgled of valuables worth crores

HANS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: A businessman's residence in north Delhi's Timarpur was allegedly burgled of cash, gold and diamond jewellery worth crores while he was in Australia with his family, police sources said. Two domestic helps, who allegedly had keys to the house, are under the scanner and have been untraceable since the incident, they said.

The incident came to light when the businessman's nephew reached the first-floor residence on Mall Road and found its doors open, the source said. "On entering the premises, he found the rooms in disarray and cupboards open. Cash and valuables kept inside the cupboards were missing, following which police were informed," the source said. The businessman had left for Australia with his family on September 2. His younger brother lives in another portion of the same flat, they added.

Another PG landlord held, building repairs probed

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NEW DELHI

A PG operator has been arrested in connection with the collapse of a five-storey building in Delhi's Satya Niketan that left seven people dead, as police are probing the role of the leaseholders of the building on lease and the construction and repair work carried out there, sources said on Wednesday.

Sudhanshu, one of the two business partners running the 'Hostel Daze' PG, was arrested during the investigation and is being questioned by police, sources said. Police sources said the building owner Mahesh had leased the property to Sudhanshu and his business partner Shubham Tyagi in August 2025. The duo subsequently started operating the premises as a paying guest accommodation under the name 'Hostel Daze'.

Tyagi is currently absconding and efforts are underway to trace him, the sources said. A labour contractor, Sanoj, has already been apprehended in connection with the case. He is being brought from Kasganj in Uttar Pradesh to Delhi for questioning over the construction and repair work carried out at the building. The development comes as investigators scrutinise the rent agreement under which the PG was being operated. According to a police source, the agreement stated that the PG operators would not be responsible for any "casualties or risk" to tenants.

16 killed in 5 building collapses in Delhi this year

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NEW DELHI

THE five-storey building that collapsed in Satya Niketan is the fifth in the city this year, the seven people killed in the congested colony near Delhi's University's South Campus taking to 16 the number of those who lost their lives in the tragedies.

According to official figures and police statements, the 16 deaths have come from three incidents - six in

Saket in May, three in Rohini in July and seven in the latest incident on September 6.

The underlying factors leading to the collapse of all the buildings are common, said officials. These include unregulated and unauthorised construction, additional floors, ageing structures and a lack of structural assessments. Add to the list inadequate precautions during repair work and monsoon-related water damage to foundations, walls and base-

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ments and the picture of negligence is complete.

On May 30, a multi-storey commercial building housing a coaching centre, cafes and offices in south Delhi's

Saket area crumbled like a house of cards. Like in Satya Niketan, most of the six killed were students. Eight people were injured.

A magisterial inquiry

ordered by the Delhi government later held the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) "primarily responsible" for the collapse.

It found that illegal third



and fourth floors had been added to the building and that the civic body failed to act on a complaint about the unauthorised construction received more than two months earlier.

The inquiry also found that MCD officials created "fabricated" records after the collapse to suggest they had already taken action.

The MCD suspended two engineers, while police arrested the building owner and two contractors.

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