

Relative held for abetment in Indirapuram suicides-murders

GHAZIABAD HORROR Brother-in-law, named in purported suicide note, arrested day after crime; he has denied all charges

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GHAZIABAD: A day after Gulshan Vasudeva and his family were found dead in an Indirapuram high-rise campus, police on Wednesday arrested his brother-in-law on charges of abetment to suicide. Rakesh Verma was arrested following an FIR lodged by Vasudeva's brother Devendra Vasudeva.

A suicide note found in the flat held Verma responsible too, said police.

Verma, however, denied that he owed Vasudeva any money.

According to police, Vasudeva had allegedly invested around ₹1 crore in Verma's business but failed to return the money that

led to pushing Vasudeva into a financial crisis.

On Tuesday early morning, Vasudeva (45) and his wife Parveen (43), who together ran a garments business, had allegedly jumped from their eighth floor flat in Krishna Apra Sapphire apartments after killing their teenage children. Their employee Sanjana (26) had also jumped with them. She died in hospital.

According to police theory Vasudeva and his wife operated two businesses related to jeans and garments for children at Gandhi Nagar in Delhi and were facing financial crisis as a result of cheating allegedly committed by Verma in 2015.

"Verma lured Vasudeva to invest ₹1.09 crore property busi-

ness. Later, Vasudeva took money from his acquaintances and also close friend Praveen Bakshi and gave it to Verma. Verma paid back the money through several cheques, which bounced," said Sudhir Kumar Singh, senior superintendent of police (SSP).

"As a result of the financial issues, the family took the extreme step of taking their lives. Verma told us that he had not been in touch with Vasudeva for the last over one and half years, and not even on the day of the incident. He also told us that he returned about ₹98 lakh, but Vasudeva was asking for a total amount of ₹1.39 crore, which included 5% interest amount also," SSP added.

Vasudeva's friend Bakshi had got two FIRs lodged against Verma and his mother Phoola Verma in 2015 for criminal breach of trust and cheating at

Sahibabad police station. Both had been jailed for 28 days.

Verma is a resident of Shalimar Garden Extn I in Ghaziabad. Before ending their lives Vasudeva had also made a video call to his friend 70-year-old Rakesh Arora, a resident of Jhilmil in East Delhi, and showed him his two dead children as well as the suicide note scribbled on the wall.

"These are money for our last rites... We five have a last wish that our bodies should be cremated together. The person responsible for our death is this... Rakesh Verma," the notes scribble on the wall read.

Verma denied all charges. "I had no communication with him on any matter ever since. I am saddened by the incident, especially the death of the two children. I have paid back all his money and whatever is to be told will be told before the court," he said.

No money allocated for bus camera project from Nirbhaya fund: Gahlot

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NEW DELHI: Transport minister Kailash Gahlot on Wednesday said the Delhi government will fund CCTV cameras, panic buttons and other safety devices in city buses as the Centre has "failed" to disburse money from the Nirbhaya fund.

DELHI GOVT TO DO IT ON ITS OWN

- 15,000 cameras to be put in 5,000 DTC and cluster buses
- Emergency siren system and panic buttons in each bus
- Dedicated Automatic vehicle location system in all buses
- ₹149 crore to be incurred on the project
- Central control and command centre to be built at ISBT Kashmere Gate. Mini control rooms will be set up in DTC and cluster depots
- On pressing a panic button sirens will go off
- First response of panic buttons will go to the depot and central control room
- Hotlines will be created from the central control room with Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Service and ambulance service

The issue was raised at a time when questions are being raised over the utilisation of the money from the fund in the aftermath of the brutal murder and rape of a veterinarian in Hyderabad. In 2016, the Central and the Delhi governments had stated that the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) had approved Rs 140 crore from Nirbhaya funds for installation of CCTV cameras and GPS devices in 6,655 state-run buses in Delhi.

"Three years have passed and till date we have not received a single penny for the project. This is despite the empowered committee under the fund approving

Delhi's proposal," said Gahlot.

An WCD ministry official said as the nodal ministry, it overlooks the merits and feasibility of the projects under the empowered committee. The money, however, is released by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA). "The project was cleared by the WCD ministry; proposals for CCTVs in buses have come in from more than one state," said the official, wishing to remain

anonymous.

With no response from the Centre, the Delhi government has now decided to fund the project on its own.

A cabinet meeting is likely to be held on Thursday to discuss this proposal and pass it. The cost of the project has been estimated at Rs 149 crore.

As per the proposal prepared by the transport department on Wednesday, the scope of the

project includes installing three CCTV cameras, two sirens, a dedicated automatic vehicle location system and panic buttons in at least 5,000 DTC and cluster buses.

The minister said a central control and command centre will be built at the Kashmere Gate inter-state bus terminal (ISBT). Mini control rooms will also be set up in all DTC and cluster bus depots.

"On pressing a panic button sirens installed in these buses will go off. The first response of panic buttons will go to the concerned depot and the central control room. At the depot level, an internet-based two-way communication system will be used to talk to the driver immediately to ascertain the nature of emergency," Gahlot said.

After ascertaining the nature of emergency, the required response will be decided. Also, hotlines will be created from the central control room with Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Service and ambulances for direct action.

Delhiwale

Mayank Austen Soofi EXPERIENCE YOUR CITY LIKE NEVER BEFORE



CP's Sufi secret

A secretive serene spot tucked in the city's heart

One has seen the whole of Connaught Place (CP), isn't it? It's one beloved destination in the capital familiar to almost every Delhiite. Each of us has our own favourite cafe, cinema, showroom or bakery. Indeed, these CP landmarks are part of our biographies involving romances, break-ups, friendships and betrayals.

But one of CP's best kept secrets is a sprawling Sufi shrine. Half the pleasure of enjoying it is to search for the place.

The shrine is tucked away in the Outer Circle, just across the road from a hotel, which, originally known as Marina, was one of New Delhi's earliest hotels. On reaching the spot you have to look hard for a narrow lane speckled with painted signboards advertising a number of oddities, including an astrologer's services. The smallest of these banners, the one you are most likely to miss, says: Dargah-e-Aliya. That's the destination.

The almost-invisible passageway snakes up into the shrine. A totally different world exists in this marbled courtyard—so tranquil



that you feel as if peacefulness is dropping straight from the sky. Rows of graves lie under rows of leafy neem trees.

The dargah is devoted to Shah Abdul Salaam Faridi Chishti, a descendant of Sufi saint Salim Chishti of Fatehpur Sikri. A gentleman perched on the shrine's dry fountain says that the shrine originally encompassed 60 bigahs. This area used to be called Baanskoli, a village that was eventually replaced by Connaught Place, he informs.

The patron saint's grave is snuggled inside a vaulted chamber. The afternoon sunshine is falling softly, turning the stony surface into a pile of gold. This sprawling compound feels remote. In the city's heart, this island of astonishing serenity has survived the centuries even as the world it came from has long gone.



Permanent one-way traffic on three central Delhi roads from 5 to 8 pm

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NEW DELHI: Following a "successful" experiment to decongest key stretches, the Delhi Traffic Police said now only one-way traffic will be allowed on three roads—Abai Marg from San Martin Marg to Sardar Patel Marg, Kushak Road from Teen Murti to Rajaji Marg, and Purana Qila Road from C-Hexagon (India Gate roundabout) to Mathura Road—during evening peak rush hour, officials said.

Joint commissioner of police (traffic) Meenu Choudhary on Wednesday said the department has signed a memorandum of understanding with global research organisation World Resources Institute, India, to improve road safety and decongest stretches with high traffic volume.

As a pilot project, the three stretches, were made one-way from 5pm to 8pm. "This was done as an experiment but we have noticed promising results. The one-way scheme has been notified and it has helped us manage traffic better on these stretches," said Choudhary.

According to the plan, no traffic movement will be allowed from Sardar Patel Marg towards San Martin Marg. On Kushak

Unclogging key road stretches

Traffic police said the experiment with one-way traffic flow on these roads has been successful

Abai Marg: No traffic movement from Sardar Patel Marg towards San Martin Marg

Kushak Road: No traffic movement from Rajaji Marg towards Teen Murti

Purana Qila road: No traffic movement from Mathura Road towards C-Hexagon (India Gate roundabout)

Road traffic will not be allowed to ply from Rajaji Marg towards Teen Murti Marg and movement will also be closed on the Purana Qila Road from Mathura Road towards the India Gate roundabout.

The plan will be in place from 5pm and 8pm. Senior officials said that it was noted that the waiting time on these stretches was reduced by nearly 10 minutes during peak traffic hours.

These three stretches are an important link in central Delhi, which connects west Delhi and south Delhi with the Lutyens' zone. Sardar Patel Marg is also among the busiest roads in central Delhi, which according to traffic police estimates gets nearly 50,000 to 80,000 vehicles during the peak traffic rush of evenings.

Amit Bhatt, director of integrated transport at WRI, which is providing technical support to the traffic police for the implementation of the plan, said nearly 18 stretches across the city was suggested by the traffic department and were examined independently for road safety, pedestrian infrastructure and waiting time. Traffic load from most of these roads was redistributed to adjacent roads.

"The traffic police, through locally collected data, had suggested these stretches, for an alternative traffic arrangement that could decongest the roads without compromising on the technicalities. We reviewed the stretches and provided a plan that has been implemented," Bhatt said.

He said the idea behind the evaluation of the one-way arrangement was that despite the change in traffic movement it remains inclusive for all, including cyclists and pedestrians.

Cannabis worth ₹1 crore seized

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police said they have busted two gangs of drug peddlers and seized nearly 300 kilograms of cannabis (ganja), which they said was worth around ₹1 crore, from four men arrested by teams of crime branch and Dwarka district police between Monday and Tuesday.

The arrested men included the 20-year-old son of a drug lord, Bijay Kumar Rai, who has been operating an interstate drug peddling gang from Bihar, the police said on Wednesday.

The arrested men were identified as Rai's son Sonu Kumar and his associate, Suresh Kumar, 22. The two were arrested with 19 kilograms of cannabis by the Dwarka police.

Those arrested with 280 kilograms of cannabis by the crime branch were Sonelal alias Sonu, 28, and Raju Pandit, 30.

In the first operation, the crime branch team on Tuesday received information regarding the delivery of a consignment of drugs near the Ghazipur paper market. Accordingly, a trap was laid and the police caught two men with a truck with 280 kilograms of cannabis, hidden in seven plastic drums.

"The occupants—Sonelal and Raju Pandit—were arrested. The two said they were carrying the contraband from Odisha and had to deliver it to various drug suppliers in Delhi-NCR. They smuggled over 1,000 kgs of cannabis into the city in the past some months," said G Ram Gopal Naik, DCP (crime).

Just a before that, on Monday,

the Dwarka police arrested two men during a surprise check of vehicles in Nanali Vihar, Najafgarh. The duo—Sonu Kumar and Suresh Kumar—were transporting 19 kilograms of cannabis on a scooter to a secret warehouse, said DCP (Dwarka), Anto Alphonse.

DCP Alphonse said Sonu had been supplying cannabis to small peddlers for a while prior to his arrest. His father Bijay Kumar Rai from Bihar's Patna controls the entire chain involved in the delivery of cannabis in West Delhi.

On Monday, Sonu and Suresh allegedly received a consignment of cannabis from his father's links in Bihar by train. A carrier, who brought the contraband, handed it over to them and returned to Bihar by the next train.

HC rejects petition seeking direction in JNU case

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a plea which had sought directions to the Delhi government to give sanction to prosecute nine JNU students, including Kanhaiya Kumar, former students union' president, in connection to the sedition case against them.

A bench of chief justice DN Patel and justice C Hari Shankar disposed of the plea filed by former BJP MLA Nand Kishore Garg, stating that the government will take action as per law.

Petitioner's lawyer, Shankar Deo Sudhi said broad guidelines should be issued for expeditious disposal of the criminal cases of serious nature. **HTC**

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