



The fact is in the 106 days of pre-trial incarceration, not a single charge was framed against me. I will speak all about that on Thursday

P. CHIDAMBARAM
CONGRESS LEADER

Kejriwal announces free Wi-Fi scheme in Delhi

CM says Delhi'ites will get free 15 GB data each per month through a city-wide Wi-Fi network

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 DECEMBER

Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal today announced that the people of Delhi will get free 15 GB data per month each through a free Wi-Fi network across the city.

This facility will be available all over Delhi with the installation of 11,000 hotspots at a cost of about Rs 100 crore within six months, Kejriwal said.

Addressing a press conference, the Delhi CM said the access to this Wi-Fi facility will be made available to the people through an app to be provided by the government.

The work on setting up 11,000 hotspots across Delhi has been in progress, Kejriwal said.

On 16 December, 100 hotspots will be inaugurated to launch the AAP-led Delhi government's free Wi-Fi scheme, he said.

An app will be unveiled through which users could upload their KYC (know your customer) details. An OTP will be received to activate



Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses a press conference in the Capital on Wednesday. AMARJEET SINGH

a user's Wi-Fi connection.

Kejriwal said, "Providing free Wi-Fi facility to all Delhi'ites is the last promise made by the Aam Aadmi Party in its election manifesto in 2015. Now all the promises made by the party has been implemented by the Delhi government. This

has been done keeping in view the fact that minimum internet connectivity is the basic need of every citizen in this digital age."

This was also the idea behind the schemes to supply 200 units of power and 20,000 litres of potable water to everyone in Delhi free of

cost, Kejriwal said. He added that free Wi-Fi connections will help students and benefit health and education sectors.

The Delhi CM said the first 100 hotspots will be inaugurated on 16 December.

"Thereafter 500 hotspots will be installed at different places every week and the process will be completed in six months," he said.

The first 100 hotspots will reportedly be set up at Kashmere Gate Metro station and ISBT, ITO bus stand, Mandi House bus stand, Delhi Secretariat, Indraprastha Metro station, and Adarsh Nagar, Badali, Moti Nagar, Seemapuri and Shahdara Assembly constituencies.

Of the 11,000 hotspots, 4,000 will be set up at bus stops. The rest 7,000 will be established in markets, residential colonies and other places with each constituency getting 100.

After the network is established, each hotspot will provide internet services within a 100-metre radius,

the CM reportedly said.

"Each individual will be allowed usage of up to 15 GB per month or 1.5 GB per day. The speed will be on average 100 mbps to 150 mbps with maximum 200 mbps in some areas," he said.

Each hotspot will be available for simultaneous usage by 150-200 persons. The entire network will handle around 22 lakh users at a time, the CM said. The switch from one hotspot to another will occur automatically. Kejriwal conceded that the project had got delayed due to various reasons.

The Wi-Fi scheme is based on a rent model. The Delhi government will pay monthly rental for each hotspot to a company handling the project. The Delhi government has engaged a private company, Presto, for accomplishing the project.

The CCTV cameras installed in the city will also be connected to the proposed Wi-Fi facility. This would also help in curbing crimes in the national capital.

Goel should be BJP's Delhi CM candidate: Digvijay Singh

PTI
NEW DELHI, 4 DECEMBER

Congress leader Digvijay Singh on Wednesday suggested in Rajya Sabha that Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri should recommend that the prime minister name Vijay Goel as the BJP chief ministerial candidate in Delhi, leaving members amused in the House.

Singh, who spoke immediately after Goel during a debate on the bill to grant ownership rights to residents living in 1,731 unauthorised colonies in Delhi, said that city BJP unit Manoj Tiwari cannot stake claim to be the CM candidate and Goel is the "natural choice" for it.

"After this speech of Vijay Goel, now I would request minister Hardev Singh Puri ji to recommend to the prime minister to make him the chief ministerial candidate in Delhi," said Singh as Goel sat in the House. When some BJP members tried to interrupt him, Digvijay Singh said Goel has a right to claim the post.

DU teachers gherao VC office over guest teachers' appointment

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 DECEMBER

The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) members today gheraoed the office of the DU's vice chancellor and called for an indefinite strike over appointment of guest teachers on permanent posts.

It demanded absorption of ad hoc teachers, release of pending salaries, and withdrawal of the 28 August circular that directed the DU colleges to appoint guest teachers against any vacancies.

The DUTA also urged the teachers to stop all official works until their demands are met.

It has also sent letters to the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Union HRD ministry, seeking their urgent intervention in the matter.

Rajesh Jha, a member of the DU's Executive Council, said, "National Education Policy (NEP) 2019 has already started the process of eroding the power and functioning of elected bodies like AC/EC and Staff Council in decision-making process. It is a well-calculated design to thwart the voices of dissent and implement its policy of contractualisation without any opposition. 28th

August letter is a burning example of it. 5000 teachers got replaced without any amendment in the university."

During their protest, the teachers painted the walls of the varsity with slogans like "End slavery and humiliation".

They also blamed VC YK Tyagi for not supporting their voices and not taking any firm decision in their favour. The teachers also displayed placards stating "Withdraw the 28 October notice".

Meanwhile, a section of the DU students and the Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers Association (JNUTA) also extended their support to the protesting teachers.

The JNUTA held a day-long strike at the JNU to highlight the concerns of teachers.

It said, "JNUTA organised a one day hunger strike and dharna at JNU to highlight the serious concerns of JNU teachers and to voice their demand for immediate resolution before irreparable damage is done to the interests of students, and to also express solidarity with our colleagues in the DUTA fighting to protect the interests of thousands of ad hoc teachers."

ILBS observes Hepatitis Day

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 DECEMBER

To increase awareness about viral hepatitis and the disease that it causes, the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), Vasant Kunj, today observed Hepatitis Day.

Delhi health minister Satyendra Jain inaugurated the event in the presence of Indian Olympic boxer MC Mary Kom and ILBS director Dr Shiv Kumar Sarin among others.

Viral hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver

caused by a group of infectious viruses (Hepatitis A, B, C, D and E viruses). Each year, 1.34 million die globally, and the 325 million people living with the disease could eventually experience liver disease, cirrhosis or liver cancer, if left untreated.

In 2016, during the 69th World Health Assembly at Geneva, 194 countries committed to eliminating viral hepatitis (B and C) by 2030, signalling global action to rid the world of these diseases.

About 4% of Indians are

afflicted with hepatitis B and 1% with hepatitis C. While new drugs are now available with which hepatitis C can be treated and cured, hepatitis B can only be prevented through vaccination. India does not have a national programme against viral hepatitis yet.

Dr Sarin said, "Everyone must pledge support to keep their own liver healthy and also those of their families and friends."

The ILBS also organised a free liver testing and vaccination camp on the occasion.

Sisodia meets FM, requests release of GST compensation

PTI
NEW DELHI, 4 DECEMBER

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman here on Wednesday and urged her to release Rs 3,642 crore towards GST compensation to the AAP government in the national capital.

Sisodia, who is also the finance minister of Delhi, met Sitharaman to discuss the delayed transfer of compensation for the losses incurred due to GST implementation in 2017, a statement issued by the Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP) government said. The meeting saw participation from other states as well.

A letter highlighting that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues were under stress due to a general slowdown in the economy was handed over to Sitharaman by Sisodia.

"Delhi has also been facing a decline in GST revenue collections. The net GST collection of the Delhi government from April to November 2019 was Rs 12,687 crore. The total shortfall to be compensated by the Centre is Rs 6,210 crore.

Doctor, employee found dead in car with gunshot wounds

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 DECEMBER

The bodies of a general physician and his employee with gunshot injuries were found in a car in Delhi's Rohini sector-13 this morning, police said.

According to preliminary investigation conducted by police, the doctor, 62, shot the woman, 50, with his licenced gun and then shot himself.

Police were informed about the incident at around 7:45 am today by a passer-by.

The deceased have been identified as Dr Omprakash Kukreja, resident of Rohini sector-13, while his employee has been identified as Sudipta Mukherjee, resident of Rohini sector-18.

Police said Kukreja shot Mukherjee in her chest and killed her and then shot himself on his temple.

According to S D Mishra, deputy commissioner of police (DCP), Rohini district, a police team after receiving a police control room (PCR) call reached the spot and found that the car, which belonged to the doctor, was locked from inside.

"A wedding card was also found in the vehicle. It seems they were returning from the wedding in Paschim Vihar on Tuesday late night," the DCP said.

The doctor and the woman had reportedly worked together for over 15 years. The woman earlier used to assist him at his clinic in Samaypur Badli. Later, when the doctor started his own hospital, in Rohini sector 15 in 2005, she joined him there and was looking after administrative work, police said.

"During the time they worked together, they

became close. It is suspected that they were in an extra-marital relationship. A personal dispute between them could be the reason behind the killing," said a police official.

"Kukreja survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. The son, an ENT specialist, lives in Dehradun with his wife, who is also a doctor, and daughter, a dentist, lives with her family in Delhi's Yamuna Vihar," said the police official.

"The doctor lived with his family in Rohini sector-13. The deceased woman's husband works at a transport company in Delhi while her married son lives with his family in Dubai. The woman lived with her family in sector 18, Rohini," the police official said.

"Bodies have been sent for autopsy. Further investigation is still going on," the DCP said.

Capital air nears 'very poor' levels as mercury drops to season's lowest



A foggy afternoon in the Capital on Wednesday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

PTI
NEW DELHI, 4 DECEMBER

The air quality in the national capital hovered close to "very poor" levels on Wednesday and may even turn severe in some parts of the city over the next two days due to falling temperatures and calm winds.

The minimum temperature in the national capital dropped to 7.9 degrees Celsius, the season's lowest, on Wednesday and is likely to drop further due to cold winds blowing from higher hills, officials said.

The city recorded a high of 24 degrees Celsius, which was a notch below the normal.

Weather experts said the minimum temperature is likely to drop to seven degrees Celsius by Friday. Falling temperatures and an expected dip in wind speed are likely to push the pollution levels up.

On Wednesday, the city's air quality index read 296 at 4 pm, up from 282 at 4 pm on Tuesday.

"Pollution levels may increase due to light and calm winds, low temperatures and high humidity. Light rains are possible around December 12. Delhi may get some relief then," Mahesh Palawat of Skymet Weather, a private forecaster, said.

The government's air quality monitor, SAFAR, said the AQI is likely to deteriorate to the higher end of very poor category on Thursday and predicted to touch severe levels in some regions of Delhi on Friday.

The farm fire count was 250 on Tuesday. Transport-level winds are north-westerly and favourable for stubble plume intrusion.

Smoke from stubble burning is likely to account for nine percent of Delhi pollution PM2.5 pollution on Thursday.

JNU case: HC refuses to ask AAP govt to sanction Kanhaiya's prosecution

PTI
NEW DELHI, 4 DECEMBER

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to direct the AAP government to grant sanction for prosecution of former JNU Students' Union president Kanhaiya Kumar in a sedition case.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar said it cannot pass any direction in this regard and it is for the Delhi government to decide as per existing rules, policy, law and facts of that case on whether to grant approval for prosecution.

The court, while disposing of the petition, said it appeared that the petitioner, former BJP MLA Nand Kishor Garg, has some personal interest in the FIR lodged against Kumar and others in relation to the JNU sedition case of 2016.

The plea has sought issuance of guidelines "for expeditious disposal of crim-



inal cases of serious nature where there is involvement of the influential persons as accused".

On this, the court said it sees no reason to direct the government for such guidelines over and above the existing law. It said there are ade-

quate number of judgements rendered by the various courts on this.

The petition, filed through advocate Shashank Deo Sudhi, alleged that Kumar's case highlights the lackadaisical approach of the government as it has "failed" to grant the

sanction letter which is required prior to taking cognisance of the charge sheet.

The court also refused to direct the Delhi government to constitute a high-powered committee to look into the aspects of delay in the procedural compliances which leads to delay in the administrative process for grant of sanction in criminal cases.

The bench said it sees no reason to direct the government to constitute a high-powered committee as the State has got enough number of officers and there is no need of a super panel.

The police, on January 14, had filed a charge sheet in the court against Kumar and others, including former JNU students Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya, saying they were leading a procession and supported seditious slogans raised in the university campus during an event on February 9, 2016.

The plea has contended that such cases involving influential persons ought to be decided in a time bound manner to act as deterrence.

Garg, in his plea, had claimed that if such cases are decided in a time bound fashion, it would affirm the rule of law.

The plea also said that a "speedier outcome of the cases would act as deterrence to the community as well as prevention of crimes".

The petition further alleged that the Delhi government was not complying with the law of the land "as large number of cases are not being investigated on account of administrative lapses".

"This approach of the government seems to be sending message to the citizenry that the law can be differently applied to different citizen due to their proximity to the political establishment," the petition contends.

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