

Delhi Heroes Let Go Of Lakhs Worth Of Mattresses To Save Guests From Fire

New Delhi, 4 June: A devastating fire at Flourish Stays, a bed-and-breakfast in South Delhi's congested Hauz Rani area in Malviya Nagar, claimed the lives of 21 people, including nine Indians and 12 foreigners, in the early hours of Wednesday (Jun 3). The tragedy could have been far worse if not for a local shop owner and his son. The duo sacrificed nearly Rs 2 lakh worth of new mattresses to create a makeshift safety net

the mattress shop opposite the hotel for around four decades, said several quilts and mattresses were stacked on top of one another so that people who were stuck inside could jump to safety.

"I suffered a loss of about Rs 2 lakh. We also gave bed-sheets that were used to bring out the dead bodies and the injured. We also gave quilt covers. We gave away all our goods, whatever we could get our hands on. On the grounds

precipitate such noble deeds. The shopkeeper should be rewarded."

A third commented: "Thanks to Armaan for his good deed. But it's really shameful how such hotels are allowed to function despite not following any safety norms. Govt officials who took bribes and are responsible for this tragedy should be put in jail."

A fourth said: "If there is a fundraiser done for this guy, I will be happy to do my little contribution for his selfless act." Telangana Deputy Chief Minister justified the Cabinet's decision as a move toward a pollution-free Hyderabad, accusing the previous government of conducting secret, non-transparent land conversions for "personal benefits".

Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's detailed media briefing, held after a crucial Cabinet meeting, was a direct response to BRS's allegations of a "Rs 5 lakh crore scam," shifting the focus from the policy's valuation to the need for urban environmental protection and transparency in governance. Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka firmly defended the new policy as a necessary, transparent, and comprehensive reform, contrasting it sharply with the BRS's alleged practices.

"We held in-depth discussions with senior officials, consulted stakeholders, and held extensive discussions in the Cabinet. Unlike the BRS leaders, we are not converting industrial land for individuals or for personal benefits," he said.



that helped save numerous lives. Riyazuddin Mansuri and his son, Armaan, spread around 20-22 mattresses on the ground outside the burning building, creating a cushion that allowed trapped occupants to jump to safety.

"I reached the spot after a neighbour informed me about the blaze at 8:30 am. The ground floor was on fire. Nobody could go inside and come out. People on the upper floors were shouting and asking if they should jump. I immediately brought out around 20 to 25 quilts and mattresses from the shop and spread them outside the building," Armaan was quoted as saying by PTI. Arman's family, who run

of humanity, everyone is the same, whether Hindu or Muslim. We are all Hindustani. It was my duty to help our brothers, whether he is Hindu or Muslim," said Riyazuddin.

Social media users have demanded that the shop owner who sacrificed his new mattresses to save Malviya Nagar fire victims be rewarded by the government and adequately compensated for his losses.

"This mattress shop guy pulled out 20-22 new mattresses from his shop. Laid out on the road. And saved the lives of absolute strangers. He knew nobody would pay him. Govt should compensate!" said one user, while another added: "We should always ap-

"Stop Selling Panic": BJP Fact Checks Rahul Gandhi's 'Economic Tsunami' Claim

New Delhi, 4 June: In a sweeping statement on Wednesday, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi warned that due to a "possible economic crisis", an atmosphere of internal rebellion is building in the country. He further claimed and the government "could impose an Emergency to suppress people's anger".

While addressing an event of the Congress' Tribal wing at the Congress headquarters, Rahul Gandhi claimed that a massive 'economic tsunami' is coming, and the reason is that India's protection system, which served as a "shock absorber against the international economy, has been removed by the ruling BJP".

"A massive economic tsunami is coming, prices are rising and this is just the beginning. India will witness an economic crisis you have never seen before. This

is happening, and no one can stop this," he added.

Now, the BJP has hit back at Rahul Gandhi's "economic tsunami" warning. BJP leader Amit Malviya put out a long post on X detailing why Rahul Gandhi was wrong in his

prediction and claim that the BJP government has removed economic shock absorbers. Stating that the reality is "exactly the opposite of what Rahul Gandhi has stated", Malviya said

indices to emphasise the resilience of Indian economy. He pointed out growing electricity consumption, rising auto sales, Spike in E-way bill generations, contained inflation, food-

grain stocks and forex reserves.

"These are not signs of an economy without shock absorbers. These are signs of resilience," the BJP leader stated. He further listed measures taken by the Government to protect citizens, businesses and jobs such as excise cut on petrol and diesel; support to airlines amid rising fuel prices, and support to MSMEs.

"These are not the actions of a government dismantling shock absorbers. These are the actions of a government actively strengthening them," he said. Amit Malviya also doled out statistics from the UPA years to bolster his point. "Between 2011 and 2013, the rupee plunged by 36%. Forex reserves declined from around \$294 billion in July 2011 to approximately \$256 billion in August 2013," he pointed out.



Maharashtra Teen Rams Speeding Car Into Pedestrians, Vehicles, 5 Injured

New Delhi, 4 June: Five people were injured after a speeding car allegedly driven by a 15-year-old boy rammed into them in Maharashtra's Jalgaon on Wednesday night. He immediately fled the scene in a case of hit-and-run.

The incident took place as the teen driver lost control of the vehicle, and the car veered onto the roadside, striking pedestrians. The collision resulted in a severe fracture to the leg of a young man who was riding an electric two-wheeler. A total of nine people were caught in the path of the accident, five of whom sustained injuries.

All the injured people were immediately admitted to a nearby private hospital, where they are currently undergoing treatment. According to reports, chaos

erupted on Ramanandnagar Road after the incident, with enraged locals gathering at the spot.

Fearing the crowd's wrath and the possibility of physical assault, the minor driver abandoned his vehicle at the spot and fled. Taking cognisance of the incident, the police have initiated an investigation and are currently searching for the teen who is on the run, officials said.

Other weather stations also recorded a similar trend of a slight increase in temperature. Palam recorded a 3.7 degree rise in the maximum temperature, which was logged at 39.6 degree Celsius; Lodhi Road recorded a maximum temperature of 38.8 degrees Celsius, 2.8 degree more than a day before; Ridge recorded a maximum of 39.3 de-

grees and Ayanagar recorded a maximum temperature of 39.6 degrees Celsius, a 2.1 degree and 3.5 degree rise from a day before, respectively.

The minimum temperature across weather stations in Delhi also recorded a slight increase. Meanwhile, the IMD issued a yellow alert for Thursday and Friday. "Partly to generally cloudy skies are expected to persist for the next two days.

A yellow alert has been issued for Thursday and Friday, as light rain is expected, accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and strong winds of speed reaching 40-50 kmph, even gusting to 60 kmph," said an IMD official. The IMD has forecast similar conditions to continue on Saturday as well, though no alert has been issued for the day yet.

Bengal Government Moves Ahead With Land Transfer for India-Bangladesh Border Fencing

Kolkata, 4 February: In a significant step towards strengthening border security, the West Bengal government has approved the transfer of around 32 acres of land to the Border Security Force (BSF) for the construction of fencing along vulnerable stretches of the India-Bangladesh border. The decision, cleared by the state cabinet, covers land spread across nine border districts and is aimed at accelerating long-pending fencing projects. Officials said the handover is expected to remove a major hurdle that had delayed the completion of border infrastructure for years. The fencing project is intended to improve surveillance, curb illegal infiltration, and strengthen efforts against cross-border smuggling and trafficking activities. The move follows months of judicial and administrative scrutiny over delays in transferring acquired land to the BSF. Earlier this year, the Calcutta High Court directed the state government to expedite the handover process,

observing that national security concerns could not be indefinitely delayed due to administrative bottlenecks. According to government sources, the transferred land will be used for barbed-wire fencing, border outposts, and related security infrastructure in strategically sensitive sectors along the international boundary. Additional land parcels may also be transferred in the coming months as part of a broader plan to complete fencing on remaining unfenced stretches. The development is expected to give a major boost to border management efforts along one of India's most sensitive international frontiers, where security agencies have repeatedly highlighted concerns over infiltration, smuggling networks, and cross-border criminal activities. The India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal stretches across several districts, making it one of the country's most critical border zones for security and trade. The latest land transfer is



being seen as a key step toward completing unfinished fencing projects and enhancing the operational capabilities of the BSF.

Several locations are reportedly under surveillance, and more arrests have not been ruled out. The incident has once again brought concerns over illegal arms circulation and drug trafficking in border districts into sharp focus. As investigators continue to unravel the alleged network, the case is expected to remain at the center of Bengal's political discourse in the coming days.

Local residents have welcomed the initiative, noting that the crackdown ad-

emphasized that transparency and accountability are non-negotiable in public service delivery. The administration is committed to monitoring compliance continuously and ensuring that all municipal offices adhere strictly to the legal framework governing birth and death certificate issuance. The crackdown has also prompted civic bodies to review procedural efficiency. Officials are exploring faster turnaround times, streamlined verification processes, and user-friendly online portals to reduce dependency on middlemen.

These reforms, coupled with strict enforcement, aim to restore public trust in municipal services. In addition to enforcement, KMC is undertaking public outreach campaigns to educate residents about official fees, application processes, and the dangers of engaging with unauthorized agents. Citizens are being encouraged to verify the authenticity of intermediaries and to report any suspicious activities directly to the corporation.

Another Trinamool Mayor Quits As Crisis Deepens For Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata, 4 June: The political turmoil within the Trinamool Congress (TMC) intensified on Wednesday after senior party leader and Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim stepped down from his post, marking yet another setback for the party led by Mamata Banerjee. His resignation comes amid growing internal unrest, a string of councillor defections, and mounting questions over the party's future direction following its recent electoral setbacks.

Party sources said Hakim had earlier expressed his desire to relinquish the mayoral position, citing administrative and political challenges. After renewed discussions, the TMC leadership accepted his request, bringing an end to his tenure as the head of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, a post he had held since 2018. The resignation has added to the sense of crisis gripping the TMC. In recent days, several councillors have quit municipal bodies, while internal disputes over leadership and allegations surrounding a controversial signature row have exposed deep divisions within the organisation.

The party has even dissolved several committees and frontal wings in an apparent attempt to contain the rebellion and prevent a wider split. Political observers view Hakim's exit as particularly significant because of his long-standing role as one of Banerjee's closest associates and most influential leaders. His departure from such a key civic position is expected to fuel further speculation about the stability of the party's leadership structure and its ability to maintain unity in the face of escalating dissent.

With resignations mounting and factional tensions spilling into the open, the TMC now faces one of the most challenging periods in its history, raising fresh questions about the road ahead for the party and its leadership. Trinamool Congress leader Krishna Chakraborty resigned as the mayor of the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation on Thursday, citing personal reasons, an official said. A longtime associate of Trinamool Congress supreme and former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Chakraborty submitted her resignation to the municipal commissioner earlier in the day.

"This is entirely my personal decision. I have been in this chair for 16 years. I have no grudge against anyone. I have followed the rules to resign. I want to give some time to myself. I want to work as a councillor," Chakraborty told reporters. Officials of the civic body confirmed the receipt of her resignation letter.

"We have received her letter expressing her desire to step down. She has also marked copies of her resignation to the municipal affairs minister and the additional chief secretary of the department," he said.

The resignation and sidelining of key leaders, coupled with allegations of administrative failures, have fueled speculation about a leadership vacuum emerging within the state's ruling establishment. Political observers note that the challenge is no longer limited to external attacks from rivals. Increasing dissatisfaction among grassroots workers and local leaders has become a major concern for the Trinamool leadership. Several party functionaries have openly expressed frustration over organizational decisions, while allegations of favoritism and lack of accountability continue to haunt the party.

The situation has become particularly sensitive as the Trinamool prepares for upcoming electoral battles. A series of controversies surrounding governance, law and order, and alleged corruption cases have provided fresh ammunition to opposition parties, especially the Bharatiya Janata Party, which is attempting to expand its footprint in Bengal. Despite the growing challenges, Mamata Banerjee remains the party's undisputed face and strongest campaigner. However, analysts believe that the Trinamool's long-term stability will depend on its ability to address internal grievances, rebuild public trust, and present a clear roadmap for the future.

TMC Councillor Biswajit Mondal Arrested in Molestation Case

Kolkata, 4 June: Police on Thursday arrested Trinamool Congress (TMC) councillor Biswajit Mondal, a representative of Ward No. 114 of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), following allegations of assault and molestation made by a woman from the Purba Putiary area of south Kolkata. The arrest was carried out by officers of Regent Park Police Station after a formal complaint was lodged earlier this week. According to police sources, the complainant alleged that Mondal assaulted and sexually harassed her on multiple occasions.

The complaint reportedly refers to an incident in March 2024 and also alleges a subsequent episode in May 2026, during which the councillor allegedly used abusive language and issued threats. Mondal, a three-time councillor, was taken into custody for questioning as investigators began examining the allegations and collecting evidence related to the case. Police have not yet disclosed further details regarding the ongoing investigation. The arrest comes amid a series of legal troubles involving several KMC councillors. In recent days, multiple councillors have been arrested on allegations ranging from extortion and intimidation to corrup-

tion, adding to the mounting pressure on the ruling Trinamool Congress.

TMC leaders have not issued a detailed response to the specific allegations against Mondal. The case is expected to remain under close scrutiny as police continue their investigation and legal proceedings move forward. The seizure has once again brought the issue of political violence and illegal explosives into focus in Bengal, where clashes between rival political groups have frequently sparked controversy. Security agencies are now examining whether the recovered materials were linked to a broader network operating in the region.

As the investigation gathers pace, the incident is expected to intensify the political battle between the state's ruling party and the opposition, with both sides seeking to shape the narrative ahead of crucial electoral contests. The clash highlighted deeper political tensions between the ruling party at the Centre and the TMC, reflecting not just a policy debate but also competing narratives about governance, labor welfare, and state-versus-center responsibilities. Analysts noted that migrant worker issues have often become politically charged, particularly in regions where large pop-

ulations rely on interstate migration for employment in construction, manufacturing, and service sectors.

Observers in the House remarked that the exchange, while loud and at times acrimonious, was rooted in substantive concerns. Islam emphasized the need for safety nets, timely payments, and social security for migrants, while Bhattacharya highlighted the government's initiatives such as direct benefit transfers, employment schemes, and housing support. Both sides sought to present their arguments as representative of their constituencies' interests, turning the debate into a microcosm of larger political contests over labor policy.

Social media quickly picked up clips of the clash, with citizens expressing a mix of amusement, frustration, and concern. Hashtags related to Bengal migrant workers trended for several hours, reflecting public engagement with the issue beyond the parliamentary corridors. Many users commented on the intensity of the exchange, noting that while disagreements are inevitable in a democracy, dialogue and constructive debate remain essential for policy outcomes.

Political analysts suggested that such confrontations, though theatri-

Emergency Nos.

- Airlines**
Air India : 2211-6869 Dum Dum airport : 2511-8787
- Railway**
Howrah Station Old Complex : 2638-7412 New Complex : 2638 2217 Sealdah Station : 2350 3535/3537 Reservation : 139, Women Security : 182
- Emergency Services**
Lalbazari Police Control Room : 2214- 3230 Bengal Police : 2214 3230 South 24 Parganas Police : 2479 1870 Fire Brigade: 2252 6666 Bhabani Bhavan : 2479 1761 Missing : 2450- 6100
- Night Medicine, Oxygen**
Life Care : 2475 4628 Nandan Medical : 2358 1723 Jivandwip : 2455 0962 South Kolkata Bureau : 2484 4322.
- Nurses / Nurse Assistant**
South Kolkata Nurses : 2484 4322 City Point : 2567 4113 Janakalyan : 2867 5012 Health Care : 2416 4675 Alo : 2472 1039 Sister: 2442 6385 Loknath : 2372 2763 Life Care : 2578 8720 Nivedita : 2284 7810 Anandamoyee : 2464 7294 Relief : 2289 7362 Care : 2334 7068 Sanjibani : 2360 7881 Trend Nurses : 2554 2757 Nurses Association : 2241 682
- Ambulance**
Garpar Srijan : 2354 5847 South and Polyclinic : 2466 2433 Life Care : 2475 4628 Okhard : 2475 4320 Diganta : 2474 5455 Sisir Kumar Institute : 2533 0382 Rani Rashmoni Mission : 2431 9885 Janmangal : 2466 2879 Medical Bank : 2554 0084 Alipore Chetla Basti Unnayan : 2449 0286 Meera Seva : 2411 8316 Matri Sangha Janakalyan Ashram : 2475 4527 Dr. Bidhan Roy Memorial : 2574 9738 Kumartuli Institution : 2530 5561 Taltala People : 2265 3239 MAR Care : 2320 3181
- Blood Bank**
Central Blood Bank : 2351 0619 Peoples Blood Bank : 2455 5164 Lions : 2248 5780 Life Care : 2284 6940 Ashok Lab : 2472 0333 Hemophilia Society : 2426 3739 Ramkrishna Seva Pratishthan : 2475 3636-9
- Hospital**
SSKM : 2204 1100 Vision Hospital : (033) 71-222-000 R N Tagore : 2436 4000 Thakurpukur Cancer Research : 2453 2781 CMRI : 2456 7700 NRS : 2265 3214 Ram Krishna Mission Seva Pratishthan : 2475 3636 National Medical College : 2289 7122 R G Kar : 2555 7675 Shambhunath Pandit : 2302 2800 Nitangle : 2282 7462 Peerless : 2462 2294 Priyambada Birla Aravind Eye : 2289 4343 Ruby General : 3987 1800 B M Birla : 2456 7890 Renaissance : 4014 4014 Medical College : 2241 4901 Matribhavan : 2464 4189 Kalpataru : 2562 2280 West Bank : 2644 5516 Bangur : 2473 3354 Balananda Brahmachari : 2478 7801 Sushrut : 2358 0201 Apollo Glanigles : 2320 2122 Eye Care : 2287 2809 North City : 2321 1101 B P Poddar : 2445 8901 Barasat Cancer Research : 2552 2222 Escag Sanjiboni : 2554 1818 Medi Rehab : 2281 7881 Vinayak Health World : 2532 9950 Dafodil : 2534 6649 Mission Hospital, Durgapur : (0343) 2535 555
- Nursing Home**
EEDF : 2473 3601 Speed Edge : 2534 3170 Repose : 2287 1442 Mind Care : 2534 6220 Belle View : 2287 2321 New Life : 2570 8090 Woodlands : 2456 7079 Capital : 2350 7272 Ekbulpore : 2449 5151 Medica ENT : 2426 4901-03 Dr. Nihar Munshi Eye Foundation : 2461 8733
- Dead body Carriage**
Hindu Satkar : 2241 3849 New Alipore Suruchi Sangha : 2400- 9950 Garpar Srijan : 2354 5847 Park Circus Puja : 2287 1793 Sarkar Bagan. : 2554 1881 Baranagar Karmisangha : 2558 7526 Meera : 2411 8316 Rajib Memorial : 2454 9550 Lake Town Committe : 2521 9578 Kumartuli Institute : 2530 5561 Sribhumi Sporting : 534 0002 Udayer Pathe : 3250 1089
- Burning Ghat**
Keoratala : 2466 6602 Siriti : 2403 2013 Kashipore R K Mahasaman : 2558 3484 Kashi Mitra : 2554 2967 Nimtala : 2269 1955