

Saidulajab roads reopen, tributes paid to deceased

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: At the site of the devastating building collapse that killed six people and injured 10 in south Delhi's Saidulajab, the debris clearance operation is in its final stage.

Teams from NDRF, paramilitary forces, the fire services, police and MCD moved through the cordoned-off area as excavators removed portions of the rubble.

With the operation drawing to a close, roads that were blocked were reopened and traffic returned to normal.

The collapse, which triggered an intensive multi-agency rescue effort, had drawn anxious crowds and families of those trapped under the debris over the past several days.

Members of the medical fraternity and the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) organised a candlelight march in south Delhi's Gautam Nagar on Tuesday evening to re-

Doctors, students and locals gathered with candles and placards, paying tribute to those who died in the tragedy

member the two doctors who lost their lives in the tragedy and to pray for the recovery of two others who are critically injured.

Doctors, students and residents gathered with candles and placards, paying tribute to Ekta and Ravi Prakash Verma. Several participants held up posters bearing the message, "Hum nahi bhulenge (we will not forget)", as they observed a moment of silence.

In a statement, FAIMA said, "The gathering paid heartfelt tribute to the departed souls and expressed solidarity with their families during this difficult time. May the departed rest in peace, and may their loved ones find the strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss."

The association also called for accountability and stronger measures to ensure the safety of buildings, saying that the tragedy had shaken the community and highlighted the human cost of such negligence.

11 injured as cylinder blast leads to building collapse

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Eleven people were injured after an LPG cylinder exploded inside a single-storey house, causing it to collapse in northwest Delhi's Mukundpur on Tuesday morning.

Four of the victims suffered 40% to 50% burn injuries.

The house was being used as a utensil colouring and polishing unit and also to refill LPG cylinders. Police said the workers were transferring gas from larger cylinders into smaller ones when the blast occurred, followed by a fire. The force of the explosion is believed to have brought down the already weakened structure spread across 250 square yards.

Police seized 84 cylinders from the spot and apprehended two people: Sudhir Rai and Harkesh Bahadur. The former, who was using the premises for coating utensils, allegedly stored 38 cylinders. Harkesh, who is the brother of the owner of the house, al-

2027 economic census to map all business establishments in city

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New Delhi: The Delhi govt will undertake the eighth economic census next year after the completion of the national population census, the second phase of which is likely to kick off next Feb.

The Centre's ministry of statistics and programme implementation has designated Delhi govt's directorate of economics and statistics as the central nodal agency for the enumeration of all business establishments, including those in the informal sector. It will collect data on economic activities, ownership patterns and employment generation.

"Delhi's districts shall function as sub-agencies for the implementation of the census and related statistical activities," according to the planning department's June 1 order.

The economic census is a comprehensive exercise under

Building owner in police custody for three days

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New Delhi: A court on Tuesday sent Karamveer Singh Sejwal, the owner of the Saket building that collapsed and killed six people, to three days' police custody.

Nirmala Singh, judicial magistrate first class, remanded Sejwal to three days of police custody, although police had asked for five.

Investigating officer Ajay Kumar submitted that police custody was required "to trace the co-accused persons, verify the details of the ownership of the building, to ascertain the particulars of an earlier builder and to recover the owners' legal documents."

"He's the owner of the building.... We need to see the ownership records. The other accused are absconding," the police said in court.

"The previous builder also did illegal construction. The owner knows his name. We want to track him down," the police said, adding that coordination with civic agencies was required to examine how the building plans were approved.

Sejwal was arrested on Monday from his farmhouse in Vasant Kunj. He owns several properties in Saidulajab.

Advocate Rajiv Mohan, appearing for Sejwal, said: "It was an unfortunate incident and a case was registered under Section 105 (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder), but so far no evidence has come in yet."

About recovering documents, the defence said Sejwal's office was in the building that collapsed and the records were buried under the debris.

During the probe, police said they found no sanctioned building plan or other documents, confirming the structure was illegal. Sources said Sejwal earned nearly Rs 2.5 lakh in rent from each floor of the building.

8 Properties In South Zone May Be Sealed And Razed

MCD Also Readies Plan For Action Against 81 Identified Bldgs

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New Delhi: Days after the Saidulajab building collapse, MCD has issued notices on eight properties in the Qila Rai Pithora-Saket area and is preparing a draft outlining the action required against 81 identified buildings found to be in violation of building norms.

Officials said the exercise will be expanded to other parts of the city.

About the eight properties facing the notices, south zone deputy commissioner Rakesh Kumar told TOI, "The next step will be the sealing of the properties, followed by demolition. Property owners are being given time according to legal provisions, including an opportunity to approach the court if they wish. Once the notice period is over, action will be taken."

Regarding the 81 properties, officials are preparing reports to determine the nature of the violations and the action required in each case, Kumar added.

"The first priority is to conduct a joint survey with



The action follows the building collapse in Saket that killed six people

Delhi Development Authority (DDA). We will coordinate with DDA and carry out the survey immediately so that action can be taken in compliance with court directions. Once this exercise is completed, we will examine other areas," he said.

On the court's direction, DDA and MCD were asked to conduct a survey and take appropriate action.

DDA said that as per re-

cords with its south zone engineering wing, there is no vacant DDA land or housing pocket in Qila Rai Pithora under its jurisdiction. The authority said the only DDA-developed property in the vicinity is SFS Flats at Saidulajab opposite Saket metro. It added the area surrounding Qila Rai Pithora is a built-up private colony.

MCD said it responded immediately after receiving

information about the building collapse on May 30.

The civic body said that after the south zone control room got information about the collapse at 7.55 pm, engineers and other staff members were immediately deputed to the site. Trucks and JCBs were dispatched without delay. The MCD team reached the site at 8.30 pm but was initially denied entry as the area had been cordoned off by police, it said.

The collapsed structure had a basement, ground floor, first floor and second floor constructed about 12-13 years ago, while the third and fourth floors were reportedly added in recent years. The building was located in an unauthorised colony. It is not among the 1,511 colonies identified for regularisation, MCD said.

MCD officials were granted access to the site around 10.30 pm on May 30, following which they joined the rescue operation.

The civic body said precautions were taken to secure the adjoining buildings and residents were advised to stay away from the area.

Next thing I remember is waking up to sound of sirens: Building collapse survivor

► Continued from P1

Somewhat, we kept trying. And when he checked, there was no network," said Vishal.

In and out of consciousness, he lost track of time. "The next thing I remember is waking up to the sound of sirens. It must have been around 9pm. Soon, rescue teams located me." But locating him was just the beginning. "They first managed to cut and lift the pillar crushing my right leg," he said. "As they removed the debris, they told me that moving another piece resting on my left leg could be dangerous."

"My mind was fogged," Vishal added. "Most of my body had already been freed by then," he said, pausing. "I thought I was definitely going to survive. So I told them, 'pehle Anuj ko nikalo (save him first)'."

VISHAL SAYS

I just want strict action against illegal buildings. How many more people have to die before something changes?

Vishal, like many other witnesses, said that the rescuers lacked resources. "They were doing everything they could," he said. "But it was clear they were also scrambling for equipment."

Once he had been taken out of the rubble safely, Vishal said he was asked for his name and contact details of his family. "I kept losing consciousness even then. I remember a cop managed to retrieve my phone nearby, while I gave

them my details."

Rushed in an ambulance, he said, "reality completely set in when I finally made it to the hospital around 11pm". He is recovering with multiple fractures, while Anuj remains critical, fighting for his life in the ICU.

Standing beside Vishal's bed, feeding him lunch was his elder sister, Lovely Devi, who rushed to Delhi from Kanpur after being contacted by his friends. His exam is scheduled for January next year. As he clutched a hospital blanket and looked at his heavily bruised and swollen legs, Vishal said the collapse should serve as a wake-up call. "I just want strict action against illegal buildings," he said. "How many more people have to die before something changes? How many more such incidents will it take before this problem is finally solved?"

Delhi to Raipur: AIIMS teams pull off real-time robotic operation

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New Delhi: A patient undergoing robotic gallbladder surgery at AIIMS Raipur recently had an unusual advantage. An expert surgeon sitting over 1,000 km away in Delhi was virtually present in the operating room, guiding critical steps of the procedure in real time.

In a first-of-its-kind collaboration between AIIMS Delhi and AIIMS Raipur, surgeons used a telerobotic platform integrated with a robotic surgery system to connect operating teams across cities, allowing specialists to discuss surgical decisions, review anatomy and mentor colleagues live during the operation.

The procedure brought together Dr Sunil Chumber, head of surgical disciplines at AIIMS Delhi, and the AIIMS Raipur surgical team led by Dr Debajyoti Mohanty, professor, and Dr Tripti Dutta, additional professor, department of general surgery.

The procedure involved the removal of the gallbladder through robotic-assisted surgery. While surgeons in Raipur performed the operation, Dr Chumber remotely observed the procedure and interacted continuously with the operating team, offering guidance during crucial stages such as tissue dissection and identification of vital structures.

The development points to a future where specialist expertise may no longer be limited by geography. Instead of travelling long distances for training or consultation, surgeons at hospitals across the country could potentially connect instantly with leading experts during complex procedures.

The collaboration also highlights the rapid expansion of robotic surgery in India. AIIMS Delhi has already performed over 1,000 robotic-assisted surgeries and is increasingly using its experience to support other centres. According to Dr Chumber, the exercise allowed the Delhi team to share its experience and support critical operative steps to help avoid complications during the procedure.

Experts say such technology could be valuable for govt hospitals in smaller cities, where access to specialised surgical expertise is often limited.

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CM, German dignitary discuss tie-ups

New Delhi: CM Rekha Gupta on Monday held talks with German state of Thuringia's minister-president, Mario Voigt, at Delhi Secretariat, where they explored avenues for deeper cooperation in areas such as smart urban development, digital governance, skill development and environmental technologies.

They discussed opportunities to strengthen collaboration in sustainable infrastructure, innovation-driven governance, talent mobility, education and workforce development.

Gupta said that under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the India-Germany partnership continues to grow stronger across diverse sectors. "Delhi is proud to contribute to this shared journey of innovation and sustainability," she added. TNN

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