

ACB Files Case Against 3 Firms Providing Security To Govt Hosps For ‘Irregularities’

Under-Deployment Of Staff, Bribery Among Complaints

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) has registered a case against three companies that were supplying security personnel to various Delhi govt hospitals. The action was taken after it received several complaints alleging under-deployment of staff, recruitment of ineligible candidates, fraudulent claims for ESI and provident funds, bribery by employers and embezzlement of govt funds.

ACB chief Madhur Verma said that these companies provide security personnel at GTB Hospital in Shahdara, Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital in Tahirpur, BR Ambedkar Hospital in Rohini, SDN Hospital in Shahdara, Hindu Rao Hospital, and other Delhi govt hospitals. “During verification, it was found that these private players, in collusion with govt officials, were

ACB CHIEF SAYS

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actively involved in various malpractices and violations of the tender conditions as well as the laid-down procedures in providing security personnel at different Delhi govt hospitals,” he added.

Two of the complainants were working as security supervisors in these manpower and security provider companies.

An officer highlighted the major allegations made by the complainants. “These included the under-de-

ployment of security personnel at the govt hospitals compared to the agreed deployment in the award of the tender. The agencies received payment for the agreed number of security personnel without their actual deployment. There was also an issue with the simultaneous deployment of an individual at more than one hospital, with the agencies claiming bills for the single individual at more than one hospital,” the officer said.

After examining some of the complaints and the complainants, a case under Section 7(A) of the POC Act was registered by ACB against the three security service provider companies and some govt and private persons involved in the matter. “A comprehensive investigation has been launched to unearth the whole conspiracy and fix the role and culpability of govt and private persons involved in the embezzlement of the govt exchequer,” the officer added.

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New Delhi: Delhi govt on Monday said health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj flagged “blatant corruption” in the hiring of contractual manpower at hospitals and other facilities several times since his induction into the cabinet, but officials were “reluctant” to take decisive action.

The govt, in a statement, mentioned that Bharadwaj took the oath of office on March 9, 2023, and highlighted the corruption issue on March 30 of the same year. “A thorough inquiry should find out why officials had shut their eyes despite repeated reminders by the health minister. The strictest punishment should be given to those responsible for continuing this corrupt practice,” the statement read.

Govt said the matter had been discussed “dozens of times” with the officers of the health department, including its se-

cretary. It was also thoroughly deliberated upon when Bharadwaj was the chairman of the Delhi Assembly’s Petitions Committee, yet no action was taken.

“Even in the case of hiring contractual data entry operators, the minister has written on dozens of files about corruption. The file was moved to stop this practice of taking manpower through private contractors and suggested they are hired through a central govt’s undertaking such as ICSIL. The policy was even passed by the Cabinet. For reasons best known to LG, even that decision has not been implemented,” the govt claimed, adding that the minister sent a detailed note yet again on the issue a few days ago.

“In the note, the minister recalled several instances of complaints made by contractual manpower. Despite repeated directions on file, things have not changed on the ground,” the govt stated.

Mamta jaisi shuddh.
Maa jaisi mamta.



185 camps with high-quality waterproof tents being set up for kanwariyas: Atishi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: To ensure that kanwariyas don’t face any inconvenience, Delhi revenue minister Atishi said on Monday that 185 camps were being set up across the city and each of them would be equipped with high-quality waterproof tents, medical facilities, clean water, toilets and furniture.

Addressing a press conference, the minister stated that AAP govt was “committed” to providing the best facilities for the Shiva devotees during the holy month of Sawan. She also called upon the people of Delhi to join in this religious endeavour and support kanwariyas in every way possible.

While the movement of kanwariyas started from Mon-



Devotees offer prayers on the first Monday of Sawan

day, it is likely to peak by the end of July and culminate on August 2, with people bringing Ganga water from Rishikesh and Haridwar on foot and offering it to the deity.

Atishi, in her press conference, said that kanwariyas would start arriving in Delhi from July 25 onwards, and all camps would be fully ready in the next 2-3 days. Since East

and Northeast Delhi and Shahdara districts are the entry and exit points for kanwariyas, most camps are being set up in these areas.

“Maximum 38 camps are being set up in Shahdara district, while North East will have 29, Central will have 22, and East district will have 19. Kanwar camps are being set up in various other parts of Delhi too,” said the minister, adding that about 15-20 lakh pilgrims pass through Delhi during this period.

Atishi said the revenue department had started preparing for kanwar camps from June itself and regular inspections were being conducted by her and senior Delhi govt officials.

“All preparations for setting up kanwar camps in Delhi are almost complete,” she added.

BJP says Kejriwal govt must go; allegations ‘frivolous’, says AAP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi BJP on Monday demanded the resignation of Arvind Kejriwal govt, alleging that it was preoccupied with press conferences while development work in the capital was stalled.

In response, AAP said BJP had brought “frivolous” allegations against it and should instead reflect on how many promises its central govt had fulfilled.

At a press conference, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva alleged that several AAP ministers, MLAs and councillors were accused of corruption, and many, including chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, had been arrested and jailed.

He added that Delhi govt was “trapped in a game of bail from jail”, which had resulted in the stalling of development work in the city. “In Arvind Kejriwal’s rule, only one development has taken place in Delhi, which is corruption,” Sachdeva said.

He said AAP recently made “guarantees” to the people of Haryana, where elections were due later this year, but failed to fulfil the promises of opening 100 schools per year, 1,000 mohalla clinics and for providing free electricity and water.

“The academic level of Delhi’s students has dropped so much that thousands fail in class each year. Free electricity is only a dre-

am. Due to the power purchase adjustment cost and pension surcharges, electricity rates are the highest in Delhi. People are forced to buy water at Rs 30 a bottle either due to shortage or contaminated water,” Sachdeva said.

“Delhi is labelled as the most polluted capital in the world. In the winter of 2023-24, the AQI was over 400,” he added.

South Delhi BJP MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that “incompetence, deceit and corruption have become the hallmarks” of the AAP govt in Delhi and Punjab. “BJP will not let Kejriwal deceive the people of Haryana and will run an awareness campaign,” he said.

AAP countered the charges by saying that Kejriwal was “staunchly honest” and had provided “transparent” governance, resulting in Delhi having a revenue-surplus budget although it offered several free schemes. It said BJP should stop indulging in “frivolous allegations”.

“It’s been more than 11 years since BJP MPs were given a chance by Delhiites. Can BJP name a single significant achievement during this period? Can BJP name one state under its governance that has a revenue surplus or provides free electricity?” AAP asked.

AAP charged that the people of India had seen through the “false promises” of BJP, such as the unfulfilled ‘jumla’ of depositing Rs 15 lakh in every citizen’s account.

“Delhi has the lowest inflation rate and the highest per capita income,” it said.



CM Arvind Kejriwal

Camps ‘found wanting’ in northeast Delhi, govt says work in progress

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New Delhi: The incomplete arrangements at kanwar camps in northeast Delhi and Shahdara have left the Shiva devotees on the annual march in disarray. The camps, intended to offer rest and convenience to 15-20 lakh devotees passing through Delhi, are grappling with teething problems.

When asked about the inadequate arrangements, Delhi govt explained that a significant number of kanwariyas was expected to arrive in the city from July 25 and that more than 95% of the kanwar camps were, therefore, only now being put up by the state govt and hadn’t yet been inaugurated. These stopovers for the devotees will not become fully operational before July 25.

Speaking to TOI, the camp coordinators said there was a big footfall on the first day of the yatra on Monday. However, the lack of essential facilities, including tents, washrooms and medical help, indicated that there might be more inconveniences once the number of devotees started increasing in a couple of days.

The camps that are already running are still waiting for some amenities. Ratanlal, coordinator at Kanwar Mandir in Yamuna Vihar, told TOI, “Having organised these camps for three decades, I can see we are still lacking a lot of facilities. The tent, which serves as the main sanctuary for the weary pilgrims, is absent despite our temple being the only one dedicated specifically to the



Coordinators alleged lack of essential facilities at many camps

kanwar yatra. We can’t ask the exhausted devotees to sit in the rain. We are, therefore,

striving to accommodate as many devotees as possible in the temple itself, which has

only resulted in disorder.”

TOI’s visit to several camps also showed that team of medical professionals had yet to be deployed. Some camps have reported receiving over 2,000 devotees, who often suffer from bruises and injuries while marching for long distances with heavy pots of Ganga water back to their localities. Jwala Sharma, coordinator of the Seelampur Kanwar camp, complained, “The govt has assured us of medical facilities at the camps but they are yet to be set up. The severity of the devotees’ injuries forced us to get a private doctor to disinfect their sores.”

The camps in northeast Delhi’s Yamuna Vihar did not have toilets and sanitation facilities. The exhausted devotees rested on the littered concrete roads. In Dilshad Garden, the open sewers within the camps were a significant safety hazard. An organiser expressed worry saying, “The designated spot for our camp is fraught with danger, but we have no alternative but to make do with what we have. The safety of women and children in the camp is a matter of concern because when the crowd increases, anyone can stumble and fall into these open sewers.”

There was accumulated garbage near some camps in Dilshad Garden, Seelampur and other areas. Despite assurances of Delhi Police about posting of security personnel in these areas, the absence of CCTV cameras at the camps and the lack of barricading on busy roads like Maujpur to Seelampur have also left the organisers worried about the safety and security of the kanwar yatris.

ART centre staff allege misbehaviour by AIIMS security

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The staff and doctors at AIIMS expressed outrage on Monday after the “in charge” and staff members of ART centre, dedicated to treating HIV patients, were allegedly mis-treated by hospital’s security personnel.

They claimed that the security officer of the institute behaved like “goons” when they arrived at the centre, “wielding lathis and throwing around items lying there”. The incident was strongly condemned by doctors and staff members.

The ART centre, managed by department of medicine, plays a crucial role in providing care and support to individuals living with HIV. The medical community at AIIMS demanded swift action to

address the situation and ensure that such incidents didn’t recur.

A video of the incident that surfaced on social media showed Neeraj Nischal, a senior doctor from department of medicine, expressing his distress over the phone. He voiced his complaint regarding the “inappropriate conduct” of security personnel towards the female staff members at the centre. Nischal alleged that the security guards were “abusive” and “even resorted to throwing objects”.

He claimed that attempts to reach the chief security officer were unsuccessful.

The video also showed security guards stationed at ART centre. They were dressed in blue uniforms and carrying sticks, and one security officer was in a khaki uniform.

According to insiders, a free generic pharmacy has been granted a one-year extension and instructed to move to a new location, which is integrated with registration counters set up at ART centre. However, doctors claimed that this space had been allocated without prior consultation or official communication with medicine department.

The situation was eventually brought under control after almost three hours. The chaos affected the single-window counter that fulfils the basic needs of patients, including distribution of medicines. As a result, patients were forced to wait for an extended period.

A senior hospital official, who requested anonymity, acknowledged “the regrettable nature” of the incident and stated that the matter was being looked into.

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