

DELHI TODAY <table border="1"> <tr> <td>July 03 THU</td> <td>RISE 05 29 SET 19 23</td> <td>July 04 FRI</td> <td>RISE 10 34 SET 23 02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 05 SAT</td> <td>RISE 11 26 SET 23 36</td> <td>July 06 SUN</td> <td>RISE 12 18 SET 00 00</td> </tr> </table>				July 03 THU	RISE 05 29 SET 19 23	July 04 FRI	RISE 10 34 SET 23 02	July 05 SAT	RISE 11 26 SET 23 36	July 06 SUN	RISE 12 18 SET 00 00	DELHI CITY MAXIMUM 37 YESTERDAY MINIMUM 25				DELHI SAFDARJANG MAXIMUM 37 YESTERDAY MINIMUM 25				DELHI PALAM MAXIMUM 38 YESTERDAY MINIMUM 26			
July 03 THU	RISE 05 29 SET 19 23	July 04 FRI	RISE 10 34 SET 23 02																				
July 05 SAT	RISE 11 26 SET 23 36	July 06 SUN	RISE 12 18 SET 00 00																				
Delhi Palam Today 36° C Few spells of rain/shower over Delhi/NCR. Mostly cloudy day with light to moderate winds.																							
Delhi Palam Tomorrow 36° C Light to moderate rain/shower over the city. Pleasant weather in the evening and night.																							

Kerosene-free Delhi, not really

Akanksha Jain

NEW DELHI: Last month, the Delhi Government declared the Capital the first "kerosene-free" city in the country under the Vision 2015 scheme which aims to stop supply of "blue kerosene" at Public Distribution System shops. Any person indulging in kerosene oil trade now is liable for prosecution under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and the Delhi Kerosene Oil Control Order, 1962.

On June 27, a good 10 days after the announcement, however, general stores in various parts of the city could be seen selling blue kerosene which is used for cooking etc. It is being smuggled in from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab through the borders at Narela, Loni, Bahadurgarh and Kapashera. "The mafias add a bit of urea in the tanker and as it moves on the road, the chemical mixes with blue kerosene which turns white and is shown as industrial kerosene," revealed a dealer.

The Hindu visited the Ashram area and Bhogal in South Delhi and found general stores clandestinely selling half a litre of blue kerosene at Rs.30, concealing the fuel behind other products in their shops.

The shopkeepers said they knew this was illegal but that the fuel was still in demand. "Bus ye samajh lijiye ki hum sewa main laye hua hai. Yahan nahi milta fir bhi bahar se la ke de rahe hai jinhe zaroorat hai (You can take it that we are serving people. The fuel is not available in Delhi now, but we are getting it from outside the State and selling it to people in need)," said one shopkeeper in Ashram.

The scene was no different at Wazirpur in North Delhi.

Before Delhi was declared

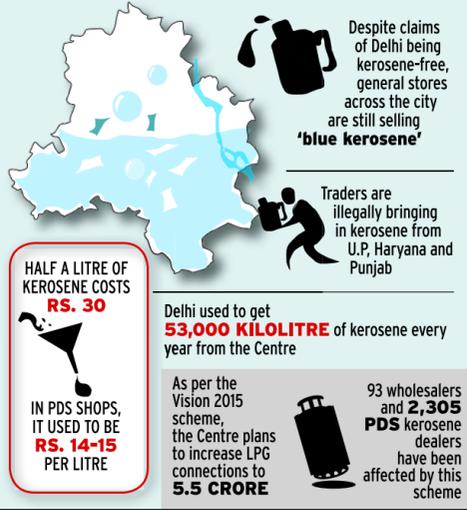
The government has declared the Capital free of blue kerosene, and many have switched over to cooking gas. However, some continue to use the fuel, now overpriced and being smuggled in from other States, out of necessity

GOODBYE KEROSENE

JUNE 2012: Delhi Cabinet decides to launch a scheme to make the Capital kerosene-free by providing free LPG connections to 3.56 lakh ration card holders

AUGUST 2013: The scheme to provide free two burner stoves, regulators and pipes to kerosene users was launched by the Sheila Dikshit Government

JUNE 2014: Delhi Government finally declares the Capital kerosene-free, with LPG connections provided to 2 lakh beneficiaries at a cost of around Rs. 100 crore



kerosene-free, the blue version of the fuel used to be available in PDS outlets at Rs.14.80 per litre. Its retail value was Rs.15 per litre. With the ban on its sale, it is now being sold illegally at Rs.60 per litre.

Close to the string of shops illegally selling the fuel, labourers could still be seen preparing their meals on kerosene stoves. "We are forced to buy kerosene at a much higher price now and shopkeepers say the price would be increased further as the fuel is now being brought from outside the State," said Gopal, a migrant from Bihar.

While the government has said it is providing free gas connections along with LPG filled cylinders, a two-burner gas stove, a regulator

and a suraksha pipe to the Jhuggi Ration Card, Below Poverty Line and Antodaya Ann Yojana ration card holders who were using kerosene oil for cooking, no BPL cards have been issued in Delhi for several years now. Poor families who lack a ration card cannot get LPG connections under the new scheme and continue to use kerosene or illegal LPG cylinders.

With the illegal kerosene costing much more, they have switched over to using LPG cylinders weighing 2.5 kg and 5 kg, which do not have any ISI certification and are also procured illegally. They do not need a ration card or any other ID for getting the same.

Delhi was earlier getting about 53,000 kilolitre of

kerosene oil every year from the Centre, which was issued to eligible households at a subsidised rate. The quota allocated to Delhi was reduced to zero from third quarter of 2013-14. Among the neighbouring States, as per an RTI reply, in UP allocation of PDS kerosene in all four quarters of 2013 was 15,90,528 kl, in Haryana it was 91,260 kl and in Punjab it was 92,532 kl. The quota allocated to these States in the first quarter this year is - Uttar Pradesh 3,97,500 kl, Haryana 22,812 kl and Punjab 22,536 kl.

"While the government has said it will save a subsidy of Rs.200 crore with the city becoming kerosene-free, the subsidy on LPG will cost higher," claimed a kerosene dealer.

For some, 'blue fuel' still remains the first choice

Vishal Kant

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Government, led by former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit, had announced an ambitious scheme in 2012 to make the Capital kerosene-free by providing an LPG connection and a free gas cylinder for the first time to around 3.56 lakh beneficiaries buying blue kerosene through ration shops every month.

Implementation of the scheme - which provided a two-burner stove, a regulator and a pipe for free - started subsequently with Ms. Dikshit launching it officially in August last year. Last month, the Delhi Government declared that the city had become kerosene-free, with the government providing gas connections to 2 lakh beneficiaries - way below the actual target of 3.56 lakh.

The officials attributed the difference to be the result of the parameters laid for allotting gas connections under the scheme. "As per the set eligibility, the bene-

Since gas connections were given only to ration card holders, the migrant population is forced to use blue kerosene as fuel

fiary had to hold a ration card and not be in possession of licensed gas connection. Gas connections were provided to around 2 lakh people. However, we found that 1 lakh ration card holders already had gas connections, while the rest did not show up to take connections," said S.S. Yadav, Commissioner (Food, Supplies and Consumer Affairs).

On June 17, while announcing its new status as the first kerosene-free city in the country, officials had said this would save the country Rs.200 per year in kerosene subsidies. However, the Delhi Government

has spent around Rs.100 crore in implementation of the scheme this year. While the entire cost was borne by the Delhi Government, in providing gas connections to ration card holders in the jhuggi clusters and resettlement colonies, the cost was shared by the State-owned oil marketing companies in providing LPG connections to card holders falling under Antyodaya Anna Yojana and Below Poverty Line categories.

Officials admitted that they are still getting reports of the blue kerosene oil being sold in different parts of the city, apart from the permissible white kerosene used for commercial reasons by the industry. "While gas connections have been given to the ration card holders, the city has a substantial migrant population which is still forced to use blue kerosene as fuel, both for cooking and lamps. This kerosene is smuggled into the city from the neighbouring States," said an official.

Out-of-job dealers demand LPG distributorship

Akanksha Jain

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Government may be rejoicing over the kerosene-free status of the Capital, but kerosene dealers see it as the State that has taken away their livelihood.

In a petition against the Centre, Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, the Petroleum Dealers' Association have demanded that they be given priority in grant of LPG distributorship as the State scheme has deprived them of their source of livelihood. There are 93 wholesalers and 2,305 PDS kerosene dealers registered with the Association.

Under the Vision 2015 scheme, the Centre has planned to increase LPG connections to 5.5 crore till 2015 and a complete switch over from kerosene to LPG. In this direction, the government and oil companies have been giving LPG distributorship.

In their petition, the dealers have claimed that they were not even given a hearing before implementing the scheme. They say there are 84 vacancies in LPG distributorship and they must be given priority in their allocation, that they are ready to put in place the prerequisite infrastructure required for grant of LPG dealership.

The High Court had during a hearing in January asked the Centre to consider giving at least 10 per cent quota in LPG distributorship to kerosene dealers who have to shut shop due to the 'kerosene-free Delhi scheme'. When the general election was round the corner, the government had sought time in this regard. It had said it would be considering the option of quota.

Others switch to LED lamps

Delhi City Bureau

THROWING LIGHT

Vegetable vendors say **LED lights are cheaper** and more convenient than kerosene

The **LED bulbs** cost Rs.20-30 per piece and are brighter than kerosene lamps. They also do not emit

lighting." Lallan Chaudhry, another vendor, has kept a gas cylinder for emergency use.

There are two sizes of LEDs that the vendors use. The bigger one costs Rs.30 and the smaller one cost Rs.20. Kerosene used to sell for Rs.15-20 per litre.

Apart from the LEDs, the vendors also use CFL lights, tubes run on batteries and diesel generators. Jaikishan from Najafgarh said he finds CFL use good enough.

Kerosene has also lost out due to its smell. Raju, a clothing vendor, said: "Kerosene is not available anywhere in the market."

Rajesh, a mango seller, added that heat from the kerosene lamps used to spoil the fruits kept around them. "LEDs are the best," he said.

(With inputs from Vartika Sharma and Abhinav Kirti)

NEW DELHI: A vegetable vendor at Vasant Kunj's Monday Market, Rinku, uses light emitting diode (LED) at night to illuminate his stall. "Earlier I used to light a tube and before that a kerosene lamp." He has been using LED lamp for six months now.

At a time when no subsidised kerosene is being issued in the Capital, LEDs are transforming the nature of lighting by opening up new possibilities.

LEDs emit directional light as against the bulbs that spread light spherically. LED lamps are also more luminous.

Another vendor, Vinod, gave the reason for the switchover to LED. "Cylinders are costlier. These lights are cheaper."

Vinod pays Rs.20 per day for the LED lamp he hires on an everyday basis. "Even at home I use a cylinder to cook. Kerosene is long gone."

Rakesh is one of the LED lamp suppliers at the Monday Market in Vasant Kunj and charges Rs.20 for one. "I charge these lights at home. The rates of the vegetables also get affected because of the cost that the vegetable vendors incur on

Man found hanging in Safdarjung park

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Morning walkers at Safdarjung's Deer Park spotted the body of a young man hanging from a tree on Wednesday morning and alerted the police. The deceased was identified through his voter ID card as 25-year-old Salin who lived in Yusuf Sarai with his family and worked as a waiter in the same area.

According to his family, Salin had gone for an evening walk on Tuesday but did not return home. "They started searching for Salin and talked to his friends but did not get any details. After that they approached us," said the police officer investigating the case, adding that the reason

• Salin went missing after evening walk on Tuesday

• Was identified through his voter ID

behind the youth's death is still unclear.

"We recovered a voter ID card and ran it through our database to find that a missing report was filed about the deceased," the officer said.

Even though no suicide note was recovered from the spot, the police said they have not ruled out the possibility. A case has been registered and the police are investigating the matter.

Woman alleges rape on first day of job

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: A 30-year-old saleswoman was allegedly raped on the first day of job by her employer, the owner of an optical showroom in West Delhi's Paschim Vihar, on Tuesday. The 61-year-old accused has been detained and is being questioned by the police.

According to police, the complainant had applied for the job in response to a newspaper advertisement. The opening was for a shop in Jwala Heri Market owned by the accused Deepak Malhotra. After a brief interview on Monday, she was told to join the following day.

A senior police officer said that the woman, a resident of Budh Vihar, has claimed that

Claims she was called to the owner's cabin and served water laced with sedatives

she was called into the cabin by Malhotra around 10-30 a.m.

"She was offered water, consuming which she lost consciousness. Around 11 a.m., the victim made a call to the police alleging that she had been sexually assaulted. In her statement, she claimed that the water she was offered was laced with sedatives," said the officer.

A case was registered against the accused at the Paschim Vihar police station.

Two children killed in building, wall collapse due to rain

NEW DELHI: Two children were killed in separate incidents of collapse of a building and a wall apparently triggered by the rain here on Wednesday.

In Central Delhi's Anand Parbat area, a double-storey, poorly-constructed house fell on an adjacent shanty around 2-50 p.m., killing two-year-old Varsha and injuring a twenty-day-old baby and two adults, Harish (20) and Bindu (20), a police officer said.

The rescue operation was started soon after and the injured were admitted to the hospital.

Wall collapse

In another incident, a ten-year-old boy died in Nihal Vihar area of West Delhi on Wednesday after a wall collapsed on him. Ravi was returning from his father's shop when the wall collapsed on him near Chhoti Puliya area around 2-40 p.m.

"He was rescued from the rubble and rushed to a hospital, but succumbed to his injuries," a police officer said. - PTI

Landlord gets jail term for not verifying tenants' background

Akanksha Jain

NEW DELHI: Letting a house on tenancy without verifying the credentials of the tenants in disobedience of police orders has landed a man behind bars. A Delhi court has sentenced him to three months in jail saying that such acts result in anti-social elements and terrorists escaping the arm of law.

Metropolitan Magistrate Ashok Kumar handed down the jail term to Bhawani Shankar, resident of Safdarjung Enclave in South Delhi, who created tenancy in favour of

two persons in his property in Kotla Mubarakpur without proper verification and in violation of the Delhi Police's notification.

"The act of the accused (Shankar) may seem not so serious in the first instance but if the consequences of the violation of the order in the present case are realised then it is clear that there is serious violation of law which may result in escaping of anti-social elements and sometimes terrorists from the arm of the law," the court said.

"Hence it is time to take

such notifications very seriously and a time to create deterrent effect of not following the law in such circumstances," it noted.

The magistrate noted that as per the notification, verification of tenants is mandatory in order to avert grave danger to human life and safety and to prevent injury to public property.

On May 27, 2011, the police were checking tenant verification in the area. Shankar failed to produce any documents about the credentials of his tenants.

Sewage treatment plant to supply water for irrigation

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: An eco-friendly sewage treatment plant capable of treating 2.2 million litres of sewage per day was on Wednesday inaugurated by Union Minister for Agriculture Radha Mohan Singh. The plant, set up with the aim of addressing water shortage at the government farm research fields, was set up by the Water Technology Centre of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. It will treat sewage from the Krishi Kunj Colony adjoining the IARI's campus at a cost of Rs.1.2 crore. It has

the potential to irrigate 330 acre of IARI farmland.

According to a statement from IARI, the facility has already resulted in considerable savings by significant reduction in purchasing contaminated surface water to meet irrigation demand of its farmlands. "...It will not only build water-level in the receding ground water aquifers of the IARI and hence reduce total energy required for pumping ground water but also help improve soil quality and agricultural productivity of the IARI farmlands," the statement added.

IN THE CAPITAL TODAY

Alcoholics Anonymous: Meetings - Prakash Group: Vikasapuri, Delhi Government dispensary, KG-1 Block; Primary Purpose Group: Church of the Resurrection, near Mother Dairy Booth, DDA Market, Rohini; Jeevandhara Group: Khyber Pass, Civil Lines, St. Thomas Baptist Church; Programme of Recovery Group: Dwarka Health Center Sector-12; Prashanti Group: Lord Mahavir School, Sector-29, adjacent to Brahmputra Shopping Complex; Aajaz Group: Welcome Seelampur, Delhi Govt.

dispensary, Janata Flat; Jeevan Jyoti Group: Shadhara Circular Road; A.A. Ujala Group: Masjidgah Church, Sukhdev Vihar, near Escorts Heart Institute; A.A. Ashadeep Group: C-1, Safdarjung Development Area, Sahoday School; Jagriti Group: St. Columba's School, Bhai Vir Singh Marg, near Gole Dak Khana; A.A. Just For Today Group: B-68, Luke Church, Top Floor, Defence Colony; and Vishwas Group: Basti Vikas Kendra, Jawahar Camp, Kirti Nagar, Sector-6; 7 p.m.

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ALS INVITATION
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Know the power of experience
05 July North Delhi 5:30pm
Venue: Vardhaman Plaza, Mukherjee Nagar
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