Six arrested for inciting violence during Manesar strike on April 9

WhatsApp chats reveal plan to use petrol bombs, claim police

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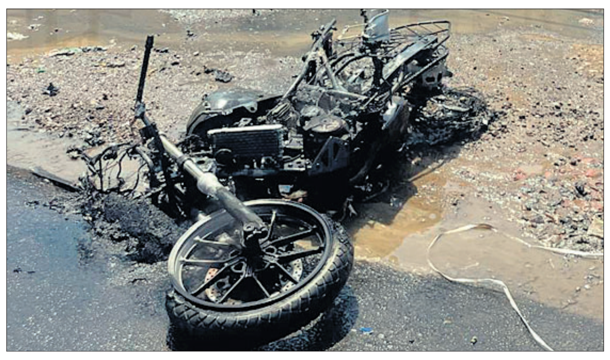
A police motorcycle which was set ablaze by people in Manesar.

GURUGRAM, APRIL 13
The Gurugram Police have claimed to have uncovered a conspiracy behind the recent violence during a labour protest in the Industrial Model Township (IMT) at Manesar, asserting that the unrest was orchestrated by "outsiders" with the intent to trigger large-scale industrial disturbance reminiscent of the 2012 Maruti Suzuki incident.

The Crime Branch today arrested six suspects accused of inciting rioting, arson and a coordinated attack on security personnel during the labour strike held on April 9. According to the police, the violence was not a spontaneous expression of workers' grievances but a premeditated attempt to destabilise industrial peace in the region.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Akash from Rohtak, Harish Chand from Pauri Garhwal, Pintu Kumar Yadav from Madhubani, Raju Singh from Udham Singh Nagar, Shyambir from Badaun, and Ajit Singh from Jind. Investigators stated that most of the accused had no professional association with any company in Gurugram, suggesting their role as external agitators.

Police officials said digital evidence, particularly WhatsApp conversations, played a crucial role in unravelling the alleged plot. A police spokesperson confirmed: "WhatsApp chats have revealed a massive conspiracy. There was a deliberate plan to use petrol bombs to set companies on fire and incite workers towards extreme violence."

The authorities believe that these individuals acted as strategists, encouraging workers to engage in violent activities and to target industrial establishments and law enforcement personnel.

The labour strike on April 9 reportedly escalated into violence at three company units in Sector 7 of IMT Manesar. According to the police, agitators provoked workers to pelt stones with the intent to cause serious harm to company officials and on-duty police personnel. Government vehicles were set ablaze, and private property was extensively damaged.

Officials added that the accused allegedly coached workers on confronting law enforcement agencies and sabotaging industrial infrastructure.

In the aftermath of the arrests, the Gurugram Police have urged workers to remain vigilant against attempts by external elements to disturb industrial harmony. In an official appeal, the police said: "Gurugram Police' appeal to all workers: do not fall for the provocations of outsiders or non-workers. If any external element tries to spoil the atmosphere or incite you, report it to the police immediately." The investigation is ongoing, with authorities working to identify additional individuals who may be linked to the alleged conspiracy.

NCR industry fears disruption after labour unrest in Noida

Industrialists wary of resuming operations; seek stronger law and order steps

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A police motorcycle torched by employees of a company during a protest in Noida on Monday. ANI

GURUGRAM, APRIL 13
The outbreak of labour unrest in Noida has triggered widespread concern among industrialists across the National Capital Region (NCR), with fears of disruption to manufacturing activities and investor confidence. The violence, reported from industrial hubs in Noida Phase II and Sector 63, has raised apprehensions about the safety of industrial establishments and the need for strengthened law and order measures.

The unrest reportedly began with workers demanding wage parity with neighbouring Haryana but soon escalated into incidents of vandalism and arson. Protesters, allegedly armed with sticks and clubs, targeted several manufacturing units and service centres. One of the most significant incidents occurred at a Maruti Suzuki service centre in Sector 63, where multiple vehicles were set on fire and several others vandalised, causing substantial property damage.

Industrialists across the NCR expressed deep concern over the developments, stating that the incidents have created an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear. Sanjeev Sharma, president of the Industrial Entrepreneurs Association of Noida, articulated the prevailing sentiment within the business community, stating that industrialists are shook to the core and are highly skeptical of resuming operations tomorrow. He noted that the immediate result will be a significant hit to manufacturing and production cycles, which were already struggling to keep pace with global demand.

Many industry representatives believe that the unrest may not be entirely spontaneous and have urged authorities to investigate the possibility of external elements instigating the violence. The incidents have also revived memories of the 2012 industrial violence in Manesar, which had severely impacted the region's industrial ecosystem.

Highlighting the broader economic implications, Deepak Maini, president of the Progressive Federation of Trade and Industry (PFTI), said the industry's confidence has been shaken to its foundation. According to Maini, industrialists are now scared of outsiders targeting their property, their labour, and even their lives. He warned that recurring instability could adversely affect the region's reputation as a preferred destination for investment, potentially discouraging foreign buyers and international investors.

The unrest has also affected the workforce, with concerns being raised about employee safety. Atul Mukhi, president of the Manesar Industrial Association, pointed out that even the labour force is scared, especially women workers who feel increasingly vulnerable. He noted that workers are being targeted by rumours and are deeply apprehensive about stepping out to work in such a volatile atmosphere. Mukhi has called for the strictest possible action against the conspirators to restore a sense of security.

Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh Government has initiated steps to address the wage disparity issue by forming committees to examine the workers' demands. Industry stakeholders emphasised that restoring law and order and enhancing security across industrial zones remain essential to rebuilding confidence and ensuring the continuity of economic activities in the NCR.

State to go for civic polls on May 10

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CHANDIGARH, APRIL 13
State Election Commissioner Devinder Singh Kalyan on Monday announced the election schedule for three Municipal Corporations — Panchkula, Ambala and Sonepat — the Rewari Municipal Council, and three Municipal Committees at Sampla, Dharuhera and Uklana.

In addition, byelections will be conducted for six vacant ward member seats in the Municipal Councils and Committees of Tohana, Jhajjar, Rajound, Tarawadi, Kanina and Sadhaura.

Under the Panchayati Raj Institutions, general elections will be held in the gram panchayats of Mandi Adampur and Jawahar Nagar in Hisar district, and Govindpura and Polad in Kaithal district. Byelections will also be conducted for 528 vacant posts, including those of panch, sarpanch, Panchayat Samiti members and Zila Parishad members, across the state.

Polling will be held on May 10 from 8 am to 6 pm. Counting of votes for municipal bodies will commence at 8 am on May 13, while counting for panchayat elections will begin immediately after the completion of polling.

With the announcement of the poll schedule, the model code of conduct has come into force with effect from April 13. Transfers of employees in the areas concerned have also been restricted until the completion of the election process.

Returning Officers will issue the public notice for nominations on April 15. Candidates can file their nomination papers between April 21 and April 25 from 11 am to 3 pm. Scrutiny of nominations will take place on April 27, and candidates may withdraw their nominations until 3 pm on April 28, after which election symbols will be allotted.