

30-yr-old man burnt alive as bike catches fire on Hapur

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Meerut: A 30-year-old man travelling towards Delhi on his motorcycle on NH-9 was burnt alive after his two-wheeler caught fire in Hapur area around 8:30 pm on Thursday. Police said the flames spread rapidly, leaving the victim, Ajit Singh, with little time to stop the bike or escape. Singh, who belonged to Amroha's Bhogapura village, is survived by his wife and a six-year-old son.

"Prima facie, the fire appears to have been caused by a short circuit in the bike followed by fuel leakage, though the exact cause is being probed," CO Varun Mishra said on Friday. "It is likely that the fuel got spilled all over his body which caused the fire to spread quickly."

Passersby watched helplessly as the man screamed in pain before succumbing to severe injuries on the spot. "The flame spread rapidly. The rider fell on the road and his leg got stuck underneath the two-wheeler. Nobody had anything with them to immediately douse the flames. People were afraid of the bike exploding due to fire," added a passerby. Police said Singh was a daily wage earner and was going to meet his uncle for some work.

Ex-merchant navy captain arrested for 'selling' youths

Accused Trafficked UP Youths To Cyber Slavery Hubs In Cambodia, Laos

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Agra: A 35-year-old ex-merchant navy captain accused of running a cyber slavery racket that trafficked Indian youths to Cambodia on the pretext of overseas jobs was arrested by a cyber crime team, police said on Friday. Accused Nagesh Kumar alias 'Captain Chauhan' of Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district, was held in Chandigarh and brought to Agra on trans-

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it remand Thursday evening.

Police said Kumar, who quit his job and was involved in the racket for past three years, lured youths from major UP cities like Agra and Kanpur with promises of lucrative jobs and sent them to Thailand, from where they were further trafficked into Cambodia and Laos and "sold to Chinese-run cyber fraud firms".

DCP (cyber crime) Aditya said, "The racket came to light in Sept

CHAUHAN'S CYBER RACKET

- Trafficked youths to Cambodia on the pretext of overseas jobs
- Lured them mainly from major UP cities like Agra and Kanpur
- They were allegedly 'sold to Chinese-run cyber fraud firms'
- Youths' families later forced into sending money for release



AI image

The racket came to light in Sept 2025 after several youngsters from Agra, Kanpur and other parts of the country claimed they were cheated and trapped in cyber scam centres run by Chinese firms in Southeast Asia

—ADITYA | DCP (CYBER CRIME)

2025 after several youngsters from Agra, Kanpur and other parts of the country claimed they were cheated and trapped in cyber scam centres run by Chinese firms in Southeast Asia. The accused had been on the run for six months and his name surfaced during interrogation of three other arrested accused — Ajay Shukla, Rouni alias Atif Khan and Aamir Khan.

Complainants told cops about the scam and how they were forced to work in call centres targeting Indian citizens via WhatsApp calls and other online platforms. An FIR was subsequently filed at Agra's cyber crime thana under

BNS sections 143(3) (trafficking of person), 318(4) (cheating) and 61(2) (criminal conspiracy).

According to police, those refusing to work were confined, harassed and forced to recover the money spent on them. Families were pressured into sending money for their release, police said.

Aditya added: "Kumar used to work as a merchant navy captain and travel extensively. That's how he established contacts with global syndicates. Two of those forced by him into 'cyber slavery' managed to return to India on Aug 25, last year, and later approached police. Probe has been underway since."

In rare case, Sambhal woman delivers quadruplets over 5 days; firstborn dies

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Bareilly: In a rare obstetric case, a woman from UP's Sambhal gave birth to quadruplets over a span of five days through normal delivery at a private hospital in Moradabad. However, the firstborn child died Friday evening, a hospital official said.

Amina, in her late 20s, delivered a baby boy, weighing around 710g, at TMU Hospital on May 9. She later gave birth to another boy and two girls on Thursday. Hospital spokesperson Mandeep Singh said the firstborn child, who had an extremely low birth weight and was born prematurely, could not survive despite efforts.

TMU SPOKESPERSON

The firstborn child, who had an extremely low birth weight and was born prematurely, could not survive despite efforts
MANDEEP SINGH

"Of the remaining newborns, one is stable and breastfeeding, while the other two require special medical care," Singh said.

Doctors said Amina was diagnosed with four fetuses early in her pregnancy, making it a high-risk

and medically complex case. Throughout the pregnancy, she remained under close monitoring at TMU Hospital and underwent check-ups every 15 to 20 days. She also suffered from hypertension and liver-related complications, requiring multiple hospitalisations. Amina and her husband run a grocery store. According to the medical team led by Dr Shubhra Agarwal, labour began on May 8, but doctors deliberately delayed the remaining deliveries after the first child was born to allow the other fetuses more time to develop in the womb. "The biggest challenges were premature delivery and low birth weight," Agarwal said.

Pocso offender gets 20 yrs' jail after 6yo identifies him in court

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Agra: Aligarh additional district and sessions judge (Pocso court) Anil Kumar sentences a 22-year-old man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹50,000 for unnatural sexual assault on a six-year-old girl in 2020. Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Lalit Singh Pundir stated Friday that the victim's testimony played a decisive role in securing the conviction.

"The victim identified the accused in court and provided a detailed account of the incident," said Pundir. "In her examination, she confirmed she knew the accused as a neighbor whose roof is connected to hers. Peering from behind a curtain in the courtroom, she pointed to the man in the dock and confirmed he was the one who took her from a nearby temple to his room to commit the crime," he said.

The crime occurred on Aug 20,

2022, evening at a village in Aligarh district. The prosecution said the accused lured the child to his rooftop on some false pretext and sexually assaulted her. The traumatised child returned home and narrated the ordeal to her mother, leading to a family confrontation with the accused and a subsequent police complaint.

Following a complaint by the family, a case was registered under Section 377 of the IPC (unnatural offenses) and Sections 5 and 6 of the Pocso Act. The victim underwent a medical examination, and the police subsequently arrested the accused.

After examining all evidence, witnesses and the victim's testimony, along with medical evidence and FSL reports, the court sent him to jail for 20 years, said the SPP.

Month after Yamuna boat tragedy, SDRF platoon deployed in Mathura

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Agra: A month after 16 pilgrims from Punjab died in a boat tragedy in Yamuna near Keshi Ghat in Mathura-Vrindavan, UP govt has permanently deployed a platoon of the SDRF in Mathura to improve emergency response

Officials said the platoon will conduct round-the-clock relief and rescue operations during emergencies. SSP Shlok Kumar said the platoon consists of 36 personnel trained to handle floods, drowning incidents, earthquakes and other natural disasters.

"Earlier, SDRF teams had to be cal-



File photo

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

led in from Lucknow and Ghaziabad during emergencies. Now, with the team being available within the district itself, the response time will be significantly faster," senior superintendent of police Shlok Kumar said.

Bank of Baroda		Regional Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Rudrapur, 1 st Floor, Regional Office, Rudrapur, Near Gaba Chowk, Kashipur Road, Rudrapur -263153		E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE	
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6(2) and/or 8(6)]					
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/Movable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to 6(2) and/or 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.					
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s /Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -					
Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors	Details of Movable/Immovable Property	Reserve Price	Date and Time of Commencement of E-Auction	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession Outstanding Amount
STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002.					
1.	1. M/s Shri Guru Gopal Chand Store through its Proprietor Mr Mukesh Kumar S/o Mr. Laxman Chand, Address- Ward No. 7, Jafarpur Road, Dineshpur, Tehsil-Gadarpur, District- Udhm Singh Nagar-263160.	EM of commercial cum residential property bearing khata no. 000141, Khalsa no. 710 gha, area 133.82 sq mtr situated at village Chandayan, Tehsil- Gadarpur, District- Udhm Singh Nagar standing in the name of Mr. Mukesh Kumar S/o Mr. Laxman Chand through sale deed No. 2503 dated 12.11.2002 registered before Sub Registrar Bazpur at Bahi No. 1, zild 254/367 Pages 97 to 164. Bounded and butted as under:- On the North- Land of Satish Kumar, On the South- Land of Upendranath Mandal, On the East- Jafarpur Road, On the West- Property of other.	₹ 79,00,000.00 EMD ₹ 7,90,000.00 Minimum Bid Increment Amount ₹ 25,000.00	22.06.2026 12:00 PM to 05:00 PM Status of Possession Symbolic	30.09.2025 10.12.2025 ₹ 1,27,63,914.64 (Rupees One Core Twenty Seven Lakh Six Three Thousand Nine Hundred Fourteen And Paise Sixty Four Only) + ₹ 5,53,799.41 (Rupees Five Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Nine And Paise Forty One Only) (Unrealized interest u/s 13(2) of SARFESI Act 2002 + Legal charges + other charges)
2.	1. M/s Shubham Enterprises through its Proprietor Mr. Shubham Chatterjee S/o Mr Mukesh Kumar, Address- Ward No. 7, Jafarpur Road, Dineshpur, Tehsil- Gadarpur, District- Udhm Singh Nagar- 263160.	EM of Property situated at Khata no. 00025, khalsa no. 710 ka min, Village- Chandayan, Tehsil- Gadarpur, District- Udhm Singh Nagar measuring 549.31 Sq mtr in the name of Shubham Chatterjee through Gift Deed dated 12.10.2022 having Serial Number 5674 registered at SRO Bazpur. Bounded and butted as under:- On the North - Plot of Amarjeet, On the South - Plot of Anup Halder, On the East - Plot of Donor, On the West - Rasta 15 ft wide.	₹ 1,04,00,000.00 EMD ₹ 10,40,000.00 Minimum Bid Increment Amount ₹ 25,000.00	22.06.2026 12:00 PM to 05:00 PM Status of Possession Symbolic	14.01.2025 10.12.2025 ₹ 34,99,430.33 (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Four Hundred Thirty And Paise Thirty Three Only) + ₹ 55,846.40 (Rupees Fifty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Six And Paise Forty Only) (Unrealized interest u/s 13(2) of SARFESI Act 2002 + Legal charges + Other charges (u/s 13(2) of SARFESI Act 2002)
3.	Mr. Shubham Chatterjee S/o Mr Mukesh Kumar (Proprietor M/s Shubham Enterprises), Address- Ward No. 7, Jafarpur Road, Dineshpur, Tehsil- Gadarpur, District- Udhm Singh Nagar- 263160.				
3.	Mr Mukesh Kumar S/o Mr. Laxman Chand (Guarantor), Address- Ward No. 7, Jafarpur Road, Dineshpur, Tehsil- Gadarpur, District- Udhm Singh Nagar-263160.				
For details terms & conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in : https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.html and https://baanknet.com					
Prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Tel No. : 8477000519, 8477009621.					
Property Inspection Date & Time : 15.06.2026 from 12:00 PM to 05:00 PM					
The borrowers/guarantors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.					
Date : 15.05.2026		Place : Bank of Baroda, Regional Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, Rudrapur		Authorised Officer	

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Circle Office : Recovery Center, Near Tehsil Office, Bairaj Road, Bijnor (U.P.)- 246701 Email- cobznsm@pnb.co.in, cobijnore@pnb.co.in			
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES			
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/Movable Assets under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to [Rule 6(6)/9(1)]/[Rule 6(2)] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower (s), mortgagor(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic (details mentioned as below) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized officer of Punjab National Bank, (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on the dates mentioned in table below for recovery of amount, as mentioned below due to the Punjab National Bank (Secured Creditor) from below Named borrower(s), mortgagor(s) and Guarantor (s). The amount of Reserve price and amount of earnest money of each asset is mentioned as under. A short description of the Secured asset with known encumbrances, if any, is mentioned as under. For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to link provided: BAANKNET.COM .			
SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS			
Sl. No.	Name & Address of Branch/ Borrower/Guarantor	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagors of property (ies)	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 C) Nature of Possession Symbolic/ Physical/Constructive A) Reserve Price B) EMD C) Bid Increase Amount Details of the Encumbrances known to secured creditors
1	Branch: Najibabad Kotdwar Road, Bijnor Borrower/Mortgagor: Sh. Dinesh Kumar S/o Late Sh. Bishambar Singh. Sh. Mehfooz Khan S/o Sh. Chuttan (Guarantor).	Property is in the name of Sh. Dinesh Kumar s/o Late Sh. Bishambar Singh Situated at Mohallah Jabtaganj, Najibabad, Distt Bijnor (UP). Total Area of property: 128.25 sq mt. registered in bahi no. 1, Zild no. 7223. pages:17-36, serial no: 8741 dated 08.06.2015, at Sub-Register Office Najibabad. Bounded: East: Plot of Seller (i.e. Sh. Mohd. Asif), West: Rasta 18'0" wide, North: Rasta 16'0" wide, South: Plot of Smt. Meenu.	A) 07.03.2019 B) Rs. 16,68,936.00 + Interest and other Charges C) Symbolic Possession Rs. 18,83,600/- Rs. 1,88,360/- Rs. 20,000/- Not Known any
2	Branch: Bundki, Bijnor Smt. Rekha Chawar w/o Sh. Bharat Chawar (Borrower/ Mortgagor), Sh. Bhargav Chawar w/o Sh. Bharat Chawar (Co-Borrower).	Residential Property situated at Mohalla Gulistan, Kasba Jalalabad, Pargana & Tehsil Najibabad, Distt. Bijnor (UP) (In the name of Smt. Rekha Chawar w/o Sh. Bharat Chawar), Total Area 40.61 sq mtr., Recorded in Bahi No. 01, Zild No. 10375, Pages No. 1 to 14, Sr. No. 907, Dated 19.01.2021, at Sub. Reg. Office Najibabad, Distt. Bijnor (UP). Bounded as: East- House of Sh. David West- Rasta 6'8" Wide North- House of Sh. Mohan South- House of Seller (Sh. Bharat).	A) 16.06.2025 B) 10,44,829.66 + Interest and other Charges C) Symbolic Possession Rs. 5,95,000/- Rs. 59,500/- Rs. 10,000/- Not Known any
3	Branch: Kotwali, Bijnor Sh. Rohit Chawar s/o Sh. Bharat Chawar (Borrower/ Mortgagor), Smt. Guddi Devi d/o Sh. Babban (Guarantor).	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property situated at Mohalla Gulistan, Kasba Jalalabad, Pargana & Tehsil Najibabad, Distt. Bijnor (UP). (In the name of Sh. Rohit Chawar s/o Sh. Bharat Chawar), Total Area 37.49 sq. mtr. Recorded in Bahi No. 01, Zild. No. 10837, Pages No. 353 to 366, Sr. No. 2175, Dated 11.02.2022, at Sub. Reg. office Najibabad, Distt. Bijnor (UP). Bounded as per sale deed: East- House of Hari, West- House of Bharat Chawar, North- House of David, South- Rasta 7 feet wide.	A) 21.02.2025 B) 10,36,072.11 + Interest and other Charges C) Symbolic Possession Rs. 6,17,000/- Rs. 61,700/- Rs. 10,000/- Not Known any
4	Branch: NAJIBABAD CHOWK, BIJNOR Borrower/mortgagor: Sh. Mohd. Akram S/o Sh. Bhoorey Sh. Deepak Singhal S/o Sh. Umesh Chandra Singhal (Guarantor)	Property is situated at Mohalla Jabtaganj, Najibabad, Bijnor (UP). (In the name of Sh. Mohd Akram s/o Sh. Bhoorey), Total Area: 95.98 sq mtrs. Registered in Bahi No.1, Zild No.-5862, Page No. 101-118 at Serial No.- 14933 dated 14/12/12 at SRO Najibabad. Bounded: East: Road 12 Feet Wide, West: Arajai, Suresh & Rajesh, North: Arajai Sultan Beg, South: Arajai Sultan Saifi.	A) 16.08.2018 B) 12,20,207.00/- + Interest and other Charges C) Physical Possession A) Rs. 10,26,778/- B) Rs. 1,02,678/- C) Rs. 10,000/- Not Known any
1. The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" portal https://baanknet.com/ 2. The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are requested to register on portal (https://baanknet.com/) using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 5 working days), the intending Bidders/ Purchasers have to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet before the e-Auction Date and time in the portal. The registration, verification of KYC documents and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance, before auction. 3. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount as mentioned above shall be paid online through 3 modes i.e. NEFT/ Cash/ Transfer (After generation of Challan from https://baanknet.com/) in bidders Global EMD Wallet. NEFT transfer can be done from any Scheduled Commercial Bank, however for Cash/ Transfer the bidder has to visit Punjab National Bank Branch. Payment of EMD by any other mode such as Cheques will not be accepted. Bidders, not depositing the required EMD online, will not be allowed to participate in the e-auction. The Earnest Money Deposited shall not bear any interest. 4. Platform (https://baanknet.com/) for e-Auction will be provided by e Auction service provider M/S PSB Alliance Private Limited having its Registered office at Unit-1, 3rd Floor, VIOS Commercial Tower, Near Wadala Truck Terminal, Wadala East Mumbai-400037 (Contact Phone & Toll free Numbers +91 8291220220, E-mail- psba@psballiance.com). The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are required to participate in the e-Auction process at e-Auction Service Provider's website (https://baanknet.com/). This Service Provider will also provide online demonstration/ training on e-Auction on the portal. 5. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 6. For Further rules and regulations of the auction either visit these websites or contact Nodal Officer Shri Jitendra Kumar Jha, Mob. 9634200162 at the address Circle Office: Recovery Center, Near Tehsil Office, Bairaj Road, Bijnor (U.P.)- 246701. The bank reserves the right to cancel/suspend the auction process without any reason. 7. The successful bidder shall immediately, i.e on the same day or not later than next working day, as the case may be, deposit 25% of the bid/sale amount (which is inclusive of earnest money deposited) to the account mentioned as above or by way of Demand Draft, to the Authorized Officer conducting the sale. In case of default in payment of the remaining 25% of the bid amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited will be forfeited and the secured shall be resold. 8. The successful bidder shall be required to deposit the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale. In case of default in payment of the remaining 75% of the bid amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited will be forfeited and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold. In case the date of auction is declared a holiday, then the auction shall be held on the following day. 9. GST/TCs & Other Taxes as applicable of Plant & Machinery will be borne by the purchaser. 10. The Auctioneer has to be increase minimum 1 bid factor over fixed Reserve Price to be a successful bidder. 11. It is the responsibility of intending Bidder(s) to properly read the Sale Notice, Terms and Conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-auction and follow them strictly. 12. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officers, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on auction physical area of property and claims/rights/dues/affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid further the bidder/Purchaser should make their own inquiries regarding any statutory liabilities, arrears of tax, claims etc, by themselves before making the bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment of any representation on the part of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any claims/rights/dues. 13. The Bank does not undertake any responsibility to procure any permission/license, NOC, etc. in respect of the property offered for sale or for any dues like outstanding water/service charges, transfer fees, electricity dues, dues to the Municipal Corporation/locate authority/Co-operative Housing Society or any other dues, taxes, levies, fees, transfer fees if any in respect of and/or in relation to the sale of the said property. Successful Bidder has to comply with the provisions of Income Tax regarding purchase of property & to pay the tax to the authorities as per applicable rates. 14. Bidders are advised/cautioned to verify the concerned Revenue Records/other Statutory authorities such as Sales Tax/Excise/Income Tax etc. and shall satisfy themselves regarding the nature, description, conditions, encumbrance, line, charge, statutory dues, etc over the property before submitting their bids. 15. The sale Certificate will not be issued pending operation of any stay/injunction/restraint order passed by the DRT/DRAT/High Court or any other court against the issue of Sale Certificate. Further no interest will be paid on the amount deposited. 16. Stay/Cancellation of Sale: In case of Stay of further proceedings by ORT/DRAT/High Court or any other Court, the auction may either be deferred or cancelled any persons participating in the sale shall have no right to claim damages, compensation or cost for such postponement or cancellation. 17. The Bank has the absolute right and discretion to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale/modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice and assigning any reason. 18. Borrowers/Guarantor are informed that according to the demand notice, deposit all the amount (including interest and other expenses) before the date of the auction. If it is not done, the property will be a auctioned and remaining amount, if any, will be recovered along with interest and expenses from the Borrower. Note: For more information, Contact these Mobile numbers: 9634200162. 19. Any Bid Increment will be treated to have increased proportionally on both Land & building and Plant & Machinery.			
Date: 15.05.2026		Place: Bijnor	
		Authorised Officer / Secured Creditor	

Fuel hike rolled out fortnight after polls

►Continued from P 1

Fuel prices in India had remained frozen since April 2022, barring March 2024, when the Centre reduced excise duty by Rs 2 a litre. The increase came a fortnight after polls in four states and Puducherry ended. Earlier this week, the daily under-recovery for Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum was pegged at Rs 1,000 crore.

Ratings agency ICRA said that they may now be incurring losses of around Rs 500 crore a day, including on sale of cooking gas cylinders to households below market price. Besides, govt has only allowed partial adjustment of aviation fuel prices for domestic airlines.

Some questions were compromised: Min

►Continued from P 1

He said the decision was difficult but necessary because the credibility and fairness of the admission process was at stake. "We admit there was a breach somewhere in the chain of command despite implementing the Radhakrishnan committee recommendations. We take responsibility to fix this," Dharmendra Pradhan said.

Pradhan said govt had adopted a "zero tolerance" policy towards examination malpractice and added that authorities confirmed within days that some questions had indeed been compromised.

The NTA had cancelled earlier examination after allegations surfaced that parts of the question paper had been leaked before the test.

HC directs Centre to take over Bhojshala

►Continued from P 1

We have noted the continuity of Hindu worship at the site, though regulated over time, but never extinguished," it states. The judgment came on a batch of petitions seeking to reclaim the Bhojshala complex and prohibit Muslims from offering namaz on the premises. The judges had conducted an inspection of the site on March 28.

The 2003 ASI order restricted Hindu worship at the site to Tuesdays while permitting Muslim prayers on Fridays, an arrangement that was contested for years through petitions by both communities.

The high court directed the Union govt and ASI to take over the administration and management of the site as a Bhojshala and centre of Sanskrit learning.