

8 die in Indore as EV charging short-circuit triggers fire

Explosions, Locked Doors Trap Family And Relatives

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Indore: Eight members of a family, including children and guests who had travelled from Bihar for medical treatment, were killed and three others critically injured after a major fire broke out at a three-storey

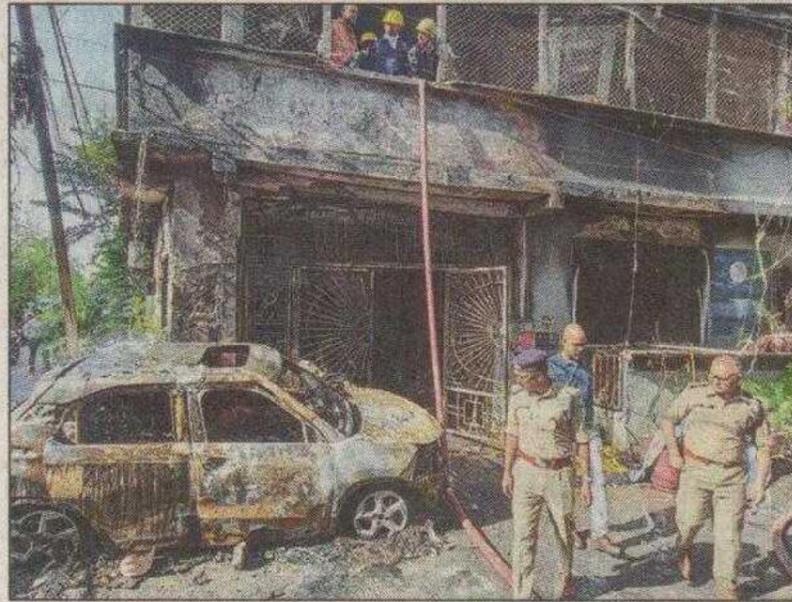
► **Full Coverage: P 2 & 3**

residential building at Brijeshwari Annexe near Bengali Square early on Wednesday.

The tragedy unfolded at approximately 3:30 am at the residence of Manoj Pugalia, a polymer businessman. According to police and eyewitnesses, a hatchback EV parked just outside the house was plugged into a charging point. A short-circuit in the charger reportedly ignited the electric board, which quickly spread to a nearby power pole.

DCP Kumar Prateek said FSL teams were working at the spot till late evening, adding that they briefed him about finding broken pieces of three cylinders at the scene. Besides, eight cylinders were earlier taken out safely from the house. "Based on the latest inputs, we are also considering that three cylinders may have exploded in the fire," he said.

The deceased were identified as Manoj Pugalia (65), his daughter-in-law Simran (30), brother-in-law Vijay Sethia (65), Vijay's wife Suman (60), Vijay's son Chhotu (22), Vijay's daugh-



Police and fire dept officials inspect the wreckage of a car after a fire broke out in a house in Indore's Brijeshwari Annexe on Wednesday

Experts flag EV charging risks

After fire in the city claimed eight members of a family reportedly due to a short circuit during EV charging, IIT Indore professor has flagged serious safety risks associated with improper charging practices and faulty equipment. Prof Amod Umarikar, faculty at electrical engineering dept said most EV fires are linked to battery defects, damaged cells, or unsafe charging systems while internal short circuits & overheating. **TNN P 3**

ter Ruchika alias Tinu (35) and Manoj's grandchildren Tanmay (8) and Rashi (12).

Commissioner of police Santosh Singh said the blaze may have been triggered by an explosion in an electric charging point for the hatchback car parked outside the premises. "Around 10 LPG cylinders were also stored in the house. People heard two

IIT-I to develop SOP for EV charging

State govt will rope in Indian Institute of Technology, Indore (IIT-Indore) and hold meetings with experts to develop a standard operating procedure (SOPs) for EV charging in residential areas, which will be implemented across the state. The move was prompted by the residential fire in Brijeshwari Annexe that claimed eight lives. Chief minister Mohan Yadav has set up a high-level task force to investigate the tragedy. **TNN P 2**

to three blasts, which was possibly caused by exploding cylinders, making the situation even more critical," he said.

Within minutes, the flames raced through the home's wiring and ignited the decorative POP (Plaster of Paris) ceilings. As the car's battery and the fuel tanks of nearby parked scooters exploded, the ground floor became a wall of

PM, CM condole deaths

In posts on X Prime Minister Narendra Modi and chief minister Mohan Yadav condoled the deaths

Deeply pained by the loss of lives in a fire mishap in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured.



An ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given ₹50,000 each

— Narendra Modi | PM

The Indore fire incident is very painful. I express my grief towards all those who lost their lives in the tragedy. My sympathies are with the families of the deceased. I pray to God for peace to the departed souls and strength to the family to bear this loss



— Mohan Yadav | MP CM

fire, trapping the sleeping family upstairs. The fire also reached the second floor through an electric pole and bunch of fires hanging on it after catching the flames.

The building had three occupied floors, and rescue operations were complicated by electronic locking systems.

► **Continued on P 2**

IIT-I prof flags EV charging risks, lists safety steps

Indore: After fire in the city claimed eight members of a family reportedly due to a short circuit during EV charging, IIT Indore professor has flagged serious safety risks associated with improper charging practices and faulty equipment.

Prof Amod Umarikar, faculty at Electrical Engineering Department, IIT Indore, said that the growing use of home-based EV charging setups has increased the need for awareness around safe practices, especially in residential areas where ventilation and electrical infrastructure may not always be adequate.

He said that most EV fires are linked to battery defects, damaged cells, or un-

safe charging systems while internal short circuits, overheating, and poor electrical connections can trigger failures that spread across the battery pack.

"Using certified charging equipment, proper installation, and avoiding prolonged or unattended charging are critical safety steps. Charging in enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces can lead to heat build-up. Besides, physical damage to batteries due to mishandling or crashes can also increase the risk of fire while overcharging and non-standard equipment further aggravate the problem. Basic precautions can significantly reduce the risk of such incidents," Umarikar said. TNN