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Surat Fire Kills 18 Students At Coaching Centre

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Fire in Surat Coaching Centre Updates: Nineteen fire tenders and two hydraulic platforms were pressed into service to douse the flames and for rescue operations, an official at the Surat fire control room said.

The fire engulfed the third and fourth floor of a Taxshila Arcade in Sarthana area.

New Delhi (India): At least 18 students were killed after a building in Surat caught fire today afternoon. The students studying in a coaching centre died and many were seen jumping off the multi-storey building in Surat that caught fire.

The fire engulfed the third and fourth floor-- where the coaching centre ran-- of a Takshashila Arcade in Sarthana area of Surat, officials said. There were 120 students registered in the coaching class. Nineteen fire tenders and two hydraulic platforms were pressed into service to douse the flames and for rescue operations, an official at the Surat fire control room said.

Television footage showed students jumping off the third and fourth floors of the building.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted about the incident: "Extremely anguished by the fire tragedy in Surat. My thoughts are with bereaved families. May the injured recover quickly. Have asked the Gujarat Government and local authorities to provide all possible assistance to those affected."

Congress president Rahul Gandhi expresses his condolences to the families of the students killed in the fire incident, and says he prays for the early recovery of those injured.

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