

A 6-hour op, cutting through metal: How Noida firemen rescued a child whose fingers got stuck in park bench

The incident happened at Central Park in Noida's Sector 53, where the girl had come along with her two sisters; the Fire Services team was alerted after several initial attempts to release her fingers failed.

What started as a fun evening at Central Park in Noida's Sector 53 for seven-year-old Anshika turned into a nightmare. On Tuesday, the girl, along with her three sisters, had walked to the park near Kanchenjunga Market, just two kilometers from their home, but within minutes, her tiny fingers got stuck in the perforation of a metal bench. What followed was a six-hour-long rescue effort by the Noida Fire Services team, and Anshika's fingers were finally freed around 12.30 am. With a sigh of relief, she exclaimed, "It's out!"

According to officials, the girl's fingers, one on each hand, got stuck in a bench in the park near Gate No. 3 around 6 pm, and after several initial attempts to release her fingers failed, the Fire Services team was alerted.

"The officials cut through the metal bench from all sides around which the girl's finger was stuck. Then we put the girl along with the metal sheet, which was stuck around her fingers, and took her to a private hospital," read a statement of the Noida Police.

"Since the doctors did not provide any treatment, the Fire Services team again resorted to rescue tools and called ironworkers from outside who cut the metal again into small pieces from near both the fingers of the girl, and the metal parts adjoining the fingers were safely removed after about six hours. Later, the girl was sent home after administering first aid," said an officer.

Initially, the security guard at Central Park tried to free the girl's fingers by applying oil. "Her fingers had swollen, and they did not come out. Then someone called the fire department," Santosh, the security guard, told The Indian Express.

Chief Fire Officer Pradeep Kumar said that they were informed about the incident quite late. "It was 8.30 pm when we received the information. A team of six officials was rushed to the spot. We thought to use some oil and try, but her fingers had badly swollen. We called two people from outside – an iron cutter and a gas cutter – and cut the bench into pieces and admitted her to Kailash Hospital," the CFO told The Indian Express.

Neetika Jha is a trainee reporter with The Indian Express, Delhi. She covers crime, health, environment as well as stories of human interest, in Noida and Ghaziabad. When not on the field she is probably working on another story idea. On weekends, she loves to read fiction over a cup of coffee (cold coffee if it is summer). The Thursday Murder club and Yellow face were her recent favourites. She loves her garden as much as she loves her job. She is an alumnus of Asian College of Journalism, Chennai. ... Read More