

## Will Protect Core Values Of Constitution: Army Chief Gen Naravane



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**NEW DELHI:** Army Chief Gen M M Naravane on Saturday asserted that the conduct of the 1.3 million-strong Army will be guided by its "allegiance" to the Constitution and its core values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity, comments which came in the backdrop of criticism that the military was politicised under his predecessor.

Gen Naravane, addressing a press conference on the eve of the Army Day, also said that a "rebalancing" of the overall preparedness along the border with China has been initiated and a raft of measures are being taken including moving advanced weapon systems.

Talking about his overall focus as chief of the Army, Gen Naravane said it will be 'ABC' -- "allegiance, belief and consolidation", noting that protecting the core values of the Constitution will remain the driving force of his personnel.

"We swear allegiance to the Constitution of India. Be it officers or jawans, we have taken oath to protect the Constitution and that is what should guide us in all time and all our actions," the Army Chief said.

"What it translates into is also the core values which are enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution which are justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. That is what we are fighting for," he said.

"We are deployed on the border safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity, it is to secure for our people these core values. And, I think, that is what we and I would like to say that we need to keep in mind," he added.

Gen Naravane took charge as Army Chief on December 31, succeeding Gen Bipin Rawat.

In his three-year tenure as Army Chief, Gen Rawat faced allegations of not remaining politically neutral and allowing politicisation of the Army.

Last month, he triggered a huge row after he publicly criticised people leading protests over the new citizenship law, saying leadership is not about guiding masses to carry out arson and violence across the country.

He was slammed by opposition parties as well as former military officers who stressed that the armed forces must follow the decades-old principle of serving the country and not any political force.

Gen Naravane also said that his other focus areas would be 'ITPQ' -- which he explained as Integration, Training Personnel and Quality.

He said integration of purposes within the Army and with the two other forces would be a key area for him.

"The formation of the Chief of Defence Staff and the creation of a department of military affairs is a very big step towards integration. We on our part will make sure that this is a success," the Army chief said.

"Integration will also be within the Army and the integrated battle group is just one example of that. But I also want to assure everyone that in this process of integration, we will take everyone along. Nobody will be left behind," he said.

The Army Chief said the focus of training will be on preparing the Army for future wars which he said will be network-centric and complex.



## Kannauj: Sleeper Bus Goes Up In Flames, 20 Passengers Burnt Alive

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**KANNAUJ:** At least 20 people died and several others received serious burn injuries when a private sleeper double-decker bus burst into flames after colliding with a truck in Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj district, an official said on Saturday.

There were 45 passengers, including three staff, in the bus that was on its way to Jaipur from Farrukhabad when the accident occurred on the GT road near Chhibramau, 168 km west of Lucknow, on Friday night, the police had said.

Charred bodies of 10 people have been recovered by the forensic teams that were working to retrieve others from the completely-damaged bus, District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar said.

Twenty-one people are undergoing treatment in hospitals, Kumar said.

Unconfirmed reports said some people with minor injuries went for treatment at private hospitals and have gone back home, the official said, adding that efforts were on to contact them.

Superintendent of Police Amrendra Pratap Singh had said around 20 people were feared to have lost their lives in the incident.

State police chief O P Singh had said a diesel tank apparently exploded under the impact of the collision and the bus burst into flames.

Eyewitnesses said the bus caught fire after a head-on collision with truck.

The bus was full of passengers, around 60 people at the time of mishap, said a passenger undergoing treatment at the Sausaiyya hospital in Chhibramau.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has sent minister Ram Naresh Agnihotri to the spot and sought a report from the district magistrate about the incident.

Adityanath announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi have expressed condolences to the families of those who died in the bus tragedy.

Modi on Saturday expressed grief over the death of several people in a road accident in Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj.

"Many people have lost their lives in this accident. I express my condolences to the kin of the dead, and wish the injured recover soon," the prime minister tweeted.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday expressed condolences to the families of those killed in a fire that broke out after a bus collided with a truck in Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj district.

"I am saddened by the news of the death of 20 people and injuries to several people in a road accident in Kannauj in which a massive fire broke out after a bus and truck collision," Gandhi tweeted.

"I express my deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and wish speedy recovery for those injured," the former Congress president said.

At least 20 people were feared charred to death in a massive fire that broke out after a private sleeper bus collided with a truck in Chhibramau police station area on Friday, police had said.

## Oppn's Falsehood On CAA Created Anarchy In Country: Amit Shah



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**GANDHINAGAR:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday alleged that the falsehood being spread by the Opposition parties against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) has created anarchy in the country.

Shah also dared Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the Communists to show him any provision in the CAA, which would take away the citizenship of Muslims in the country.

"The opposition does not have any other issue, so they are spreading misinformation and falsehood on CAA. This has resulted in anarchy in the entire country," Shah said.

His statements comes in the wake of violent protests in parts of India over the CAA, the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR).

Shah was speaking at the inauguration of various projects of the Gujarat Police here.

"Persecuted minorities have to come to India to save themselves. However, the previous governments did not give any facilities to these migrants thinking that it would make others unhappy," he said.

"Rahulbaba, Mamata, Kejriwal and Communists are spreading lies that CAA will take away the citizenship of Muslims. I chal-

lenge them to show me any such provision in the Act," said Shah.

"I urge the BJP workers to visit every household and bust the lies and misinformation being spread against the CAA.

Since there is no option to Modiji in politics at present, the opposition is resorting to falsehood," he said.

"We have the power to make people understand the truth. After our campaign is over, people of the country will understand the importance of the CAA," Shah said.

He also said that there was no violence in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and not a single person has died there due to it.

"Some leaders from the opposition had claimed in the Parliament that there will be blood-

bath (if special status of Kashmir is revoked). Such statements are on record. But people gave a befitting reply to such leaders. Not a single person has died there ever since Article 370 was abrogated," the BJP chief said.

Praising the Gujarat Home Department and the state police force for effectively tackling crime, he said maximum use of technology can be made by the governments to curb crime.

Shah had earlier served as the minister of state for home in Gujarat when present Prime Minister Narendra Modi was chief minister of the state.

## Nirbhaya Case: SC To Hear Curative Petitions Of 2 Death-Row Convicts On Jan 14



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**NEW DELHI:** A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court will hear on January 14 curative petitions of two of the four death-row convicts in the Nirbhaya case.

A bench of Justices N V Ramana, Arun Mishra, R F Nariman, R Banumathi and Ashok Bhushan will hear the curative petitions filed by Vinay Sharma (26) and Mukesh Kumar (32) at 1.45 pm on Tuesday.

Curative petitions are decided in-chambers by the judges. It is the last and final legal remedy available to a person.

Mukesh Kumar and Vinay Sharma had filed curative petitions in the apex court on Thursday.

Two other death-row convicts, Akshay Kumar Singh (31) and Pawan Gupta (25), against whom death warrants have been issued by a Delhi court, have not filed curative petitions.

A 23-year-old paramedic student, referred to as Nirbhaya, was gang-raped and brutally assaulted on the intervening night of December 16-17, 2012, in a moving bus in south Delhi by six people before being thrown out on the road. She died on December 29 at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore.

A Delhi court had on Tuesday issued death warrants against the four convicts and said they would be hanged on January 22 at 7 am in Tihar jail.

The Supreme Court had in 2017 upheld the capital punishment awarded to them by the Delhi High Court and a trial court.

One of the six accused in the case, Ram Singh, allegedly committed suicide in Tihar Jail.

A juvenile, who was among the accused, was convicted by a juvenile justice board and was released from a reformation home after serving a three-year term.

## 'Indians Are Innocent, Believe Anything': Chidambaram's Dig At Govt

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**CHENNAI:** Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Friday said that he has never seen innocents like the Indian people, who believe the claims made by the government on implementation of its programmes.

The former Union Minister, addressing a literary event, said, "I have never seen innocents like the Indian people. If something appears on print (and named two newspapers also), we believe it. We believe anything."

Claims like all villages having been electrified in the country and toilets built for 99 per cent of families in India were being believed, he said.

Similar was the case of the Ayushman Bharat scheme, (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana or PM-JAY is a flagship health care scheme of the Centre), he alleged.

Stating that his Delhi-based driver's father had to get a surgery done under the scheme, he said, however, it could not



be performed.

"I asked him (car driver) if he had the Ayushman card and he showed a card and I told him to take it (to hospital). In hospital after hospital, they said they were not aware of anything like that (Ayushman scheme). But we believe that the Ayushman scheme has come to the

whole of India," he said.

Further, he said "we believe that for any disease, treatment will be done (indicating the Ayushman scheme) without shelling out money. We are being innocents."

Many news items and data were contrary to the truth, he added.

## AAP Gives Services To People Instead Of Carrying Out Corruption: Kejriwal

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**New Delhi, Jan 11 (PTI)** Asserting that the Aam Aadmi Party serves the public instead of indulging in corruption, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday slammed rival BJP for opposing his government's policies of providing free services to residents of the national capital.

"BJP is opposing free electricity, water, education, medicine, bus travel in Delhi. We have given these facilities to the people of Delhi by saving the money which would have been siphoned off in corruption.

"My question to the BJP is - Is it okay to steal the money of the public or is it okay to stop the theft and give the people free facilities with that money?" Kejriwal said in a tweet.

The AAP has been claiming that BJP is against the Delhi government's pro-people policies, and if the saffron party is voted to power in next month's assembly polls then it would stop all these policies.

## 37 students identified in WhatsApp group linked to JNU violence: Cops

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**New Delhi:** Delhi Police has identified 37 students from a WhatsApp group created during the January 5 violence on the JNU campus, sources said.

They said the identified persons do not belong to any organisation - Left or Right. Those identified are students who were in favour of the semester registration process and wanted to enrol themselves, the sources said.

On Friday, police said the WhatsApp group, 'Unity Against Left', believed to have been created while the violence escalated on the JNU campus, was under the scanner.

## Six dead, 20 injured as bus overturns in Gujarat

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**JUNAGADH:** Six persons were killed and at least 20 others injured after a private bus in which they were travelling overturned in Junagadh district of Gujarat on Saturday, police said.

The mishap occurred at Lalpur village in Visavadar taluka in the afternoon, police said.

"The private bus was on its way to Junagadh from Savarkundla when it overturned after the driver lost control over the vehicle. Six persons were killed and at least 20 others suffered injuries," an official of Visavadar police station said.

The injured were rushed to Junagadh civil hospital, he said, adding that around 50 people were travelling in the bus at that time.

The deceased included the driver of the bus, the official said.

