

## EC Notice To Bagga Over His Campaign Song Expenditure



Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** BJP candidate from Delhi's Hari Nagar Assembly, Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga, is in trouble again. The Election Commission has issued a notice to him regarding the expenditure for a video song used in his campaign.

The notice from the poll panel to the Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) comes after he uploaded his campaign song "Bagga Bagga Har Jagah" was uploaded on Twitter minutes after his candidature was announced.

The one minute 53 second song describes the BJP candidate as a "Sardar who wages war on traitors".

In its notice to Bagga, the EC sought a reply within 48 hours as to why the expenditure for the song shouldn't be computed and added to his election expenses.

The notice also states that the decision of the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) will be final on the subject if Bagga fails to reply within the prescribed time.

Speaking to IANS over the EC notice, Bagga said: "They have asked for the expense on the song. But the reality is that the song was made before my candidature was announced, which is a set of collage of pictures taken on different occasions."

He further said that the song

was re-posted on his Twitter post after he filed his nomination.

"I respect the Election Commission and our lawyers are preparing the reply for the EC," Bagga said.

Lambasting AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, Bagga said: "They are fearing their defeat in the assembly elections this year and that is the reason why they are complaining to the Election Commission against the BJP candidates."

According to the BJP leaders, Bagga's song has been written by a third-year engineering student named Shashank Dixit, who hails from Lucknow and is studying computer science engineering at a Noida-based college.

From slapping former AAP leader and noted advocate Prashant Bhushan and disrupting Arundhati Roy's book event to selling tea outside Congress headquarters as a protest against Mani Shankar Aiyar's remarks, Bagga has never failed to hog limelight, including for his numerous Twitter spats. Political rivals accuse Bagga of being a "Twitter troll".

The elections for the 70-member Delhi Assembly is scheduled on February 8 and counting of votes will take place on February 11.

The BJP is looking for a comeback in the 2020 polls. In 2015, the party was reduced to 3 seats.

## Women Brigade Continues Their Anti-CAA Stir In Lucknow



**LUCKNOW:** The all women protest against Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) at Lucknow's Clock Tower continued on Saturday despite every effort by the administration to end it.

A woman, who has been at the protest site with her four-year-old child, said: "Citizens across the country are on the streets protesting against the new law, which is against the very basic tenets of Indian Constitution. The country is in the hands of those who are trying to destroy India. We Muslim women have to take out our veil and come on to the streets to protect India's democracy."

Another woman said: "God has given us the power to protect our country from the fascist forces and we will keep

fighting till the very end."

Women and children have been protesting against the CAA and NRC at the iconic venue in the Heritage Circle of the Uttar Pradesh capital for the last many days and have refused to budge despite repeated threats of eviction by the local administration.

"This law is 100 per cent wrong. Those sitting in power presently should understand that this law has been negated by the people, so they should withdraw it.

"But the government is trying every possible trick to discredit the peosters by levelling baseless charges that we have taken money to protest. This is ridiculous."

The protesters are also raising slogans and are holding placards with "No to NRC", "Will not show papers" written on them.



## "Nirbhaya Convicts Lawyer Using Delaying Tactics"

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** The Patiala House court on Saturday while disposing of the plea filed by Nirbhaya convict's counsel seeking relevant documents to exercise the remaining legal remedies noted that "jail authorities have already complied with the request".

Session Judge Ajay Kumar Jain stated that the jail authorities have already complied with the request made by the convicts. They have supplied the documents "whatever lying with them and today also brought, paintings, diary entry "Darinda".

"In view thereof, no further directions for supply of any documents required. However, the jail authorities are directed to hand over copy of paintings and note book titled "Darinda" to the counsel for convicts today in court itself against acknowledgement. Application disposed of accordingly," the court said.

During the course of hearing, Public Prosecutor said these were mere delaying tactics adopted by the convicts.

Advocate A.P. Singh, lawyer for three of the four death row convicts in the Nirbhaya gang-rape case had moved an application before the court seeking directions to the Tihar Jail authorities to supply him the relevant documents in order to exercise the remaining legal remedies available with the death row convicts -- Vinay Pawan and Akshay.

The Public Prosecutor also told the court that he spoke to the jail authorities over the phone and a report in this re-

gard will be filed shortly as the jail officials were on their way to the court.

The judge demanded from the convicts lawyer to show what he has filed.

Singh, said that he received some documents, but has still not been supplied with the personal diary of one of the convict -- Vinay Kumar Sharma and also the medical documents.

Judge then asked the lawyer to wait for until the report arrives form the Tihar Jail.

On this, the convicts lawyer said he was not questioning the intention of the jail. "I know the jail has been changed. It isn't there fault, too," he said.

The Public Prosecutor refuted the allegation saying that the defence counsel was trying to defeat the speed of law.

"We have supplied all the documents to the counsel. We have supplied all the documents except the painting and some other documents. We have nothing apart from that," public prosecutor said.

Singh, in his plea filed before the Patiala House Court sought urgent orders of the court in order to file a mercy petition of Vinay Sharma and in relation to requests for documents for convicts Vinay Sharma, Pawan Kumar Gupta and Akshay Kumar Singh.

He further said that the convicts undertook several steps to obtain relevant information necessary for filing the mercy petitions. In regular interval, the convicts requested the concerned authority to supply documents pertaining to their medical records from 2012 to 2015 and 2019-2020, records of cellular confinement, re-

## Convict Moves SC Challenging Rejection Of Mercy Plea By President

After President Ram Nath Kovind rejected Nirbhaya convict Mukesh Singh's mercy petition, he has moved the Supreme Court challenging it on Saturday. Sources report that he has also demanded the death warrant date on February 1 be set aside. Earlier in the day, slamming delay tactics, the Patiala House court dismissed the convicts' counsel A P Singh's plea alleging Tihar jail not handing over documents, stating that no further directions were required.

**President rejects mercy plea** Previously on December 17, President Ram Nath Kovind has rejected convict Mukesh Singh's mercy plea. His curative petition has already been dis-

missed by the Supreme Court. As the Delhi government told the High Court that the four rapists will not be hanged on January 22, the Patiala House court subsequently gave a new date for their death warrant - February 1. The four convicts- Vinay Sharma (26), Mukesh Kumar (32), Akshay Kumar Singh (31) and Pawan Gupta (25) are housed in Jail No. 3 where they will be hanged.

**Other pleas filed by convicts** On Friday, Nirbhaya rape convicts' lawyer A P Singh moved the Patiala House Court stating that Tihar jail authorities are yet to release documents to file curative and mercy petitions for convicts - Vinay, Pawan, and Akshay in the Supreme Court.

On Monday, a 3-judge Supreme Court bench comprising Justices R Banumathi, Ashok Bhushan and AS Bopanna dismissed the juvenility plea of Pawan Gupta, one of the convicts in the Nirbhaya rape and murder case. Previously, the Delhi High Court had reaffirmed that Gupta was not a juvenile when he committed the ghastly crime on December 16, 2012.

**What is the Nirbhaya case?** 23-year-old paramedic student Nirbhaya was gang-raped inside a running bus by six persons on December 16, 2012, in Delhi. The victim was severely assaulted and thrown out on the road along with her male friend and succumbed to injuries a few days later.

## Shiv Sena Backs MNS On Expelling Illegal Pakistan, Bangladeshi Muslims Migrants



Two days after Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray announced that his party take out a protest march on February 9 seeking eviction of illegal migrants from Pakistan and Bangladesh, the Shiv Sena on Saturday agreed "there is no doubt about it" although it maintained that the Citizenship Amendment Act has several loopholes.

But Shiv Sena which heads the coalition government in Maharashtra, also attacked Raj Thackeray for adopting a new flag for his party and a headline Hindutva stance at the behest of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Raj Thackeray unveiled his party's new flag on Thursday, which is saffron and bears the royal seal of Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

"There is no doubt that Muslims of Pakistan and Bangladesh should be thrown out of the country, but to do that you change the colour of your flag. This is very interesting.

Shiv Sena has never changed its flag. It will remain saffron always. Shiv Sena has always fought for Hindutva. The CAA has several loopholes," Sena said in an editorial in its mouthpiece Saamana.

It said that Raj Thackeray started the party 14 years back with 'Marathi' mannos agenda. "But Shiv Sena has done a lot of work in that. Now it seems to have taken a turn towards Hindutva. However, it seems not much will be achieved here as well," it said.

It also attacked Raj Thackeray for his change of stand on the CAA and his shift towards Hindutva.

"Yesterday he said that the Citizenship law should be supported and will take out a morcha in it's support. But one month back Shri Raj Thackeray had opposed the Act. He had said that Amit Shah has brought the law to take away attention from burning issues of inflation and unemployment," it said.

## BJP Takes To Hindutva As AAP Has Delhi Edge



**NEW DELHI:** With opinion polls and reports indicating that the Aam Aadmi Party led by Arvind Kejriwal has an edge in the forthcoming Delhi polls, the BJP has fallen back on its nationalist plank to consolidate the Hindu vote bank. The top leaders of the party ranging from home minister Amit Shah to information and broadcasting minister Prakash Javadekar have begun evoking Pakistan to woo the voters. The saffron camp is trying to project that the Delhi elections was actually a contest between India and Pakistan.

On Friday, Mr Javdekar, also BJP's election in-charge for Delhi, speaking to the media said that the voters in the national capital need to decide on whether they want "Jinnah wali azadi or Bharat Mata ki jai." On Thursday, the home minister said that Mr Kejriwal, Congress

leader Rahul Gandhi and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan "speak the same language."

Referring to Shaheen Bagh's anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests, Mr Javedkar said: "We have seen 'Jinnah Wali Azadi' slogan being raised there. Now, Delhi people need to decide if they want 'Jinnah Wali Azadi' or 'Bharat Mata ki Jai'."

The Union minister blamed the AAP and the Congress for instigating violent protests against the CAA in the national capital. "Delhi people should ask both the parties why did they instigate violence...? The nexus of AAP and Congress is behind the Shaheen Bagh protest. Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has supported the protest. Mr Kejriwal sympathises with people raising 'Jinnah Wali Azadi' slogans," he said.

## Global Airline Passenger Fatalities Decline Sharply

**NEW YORK:** Airline passenger fatalities around the globe has declined sharply over the past decade as new research has revealed that the fatalities rate is now one death per 7.9 million passenger boardings, compared to one death per 2.7 million boardings during the period 1998-2007, and one death per 1.3 million boardings during 1988-1997.

The commercial airline fatality risk was one death per 750,000 boardings during 1978-1987, and one death per 350,000 boardings during 1968-1977, said the study published in the journal Transportation Science. "The worldwide risk of being

killed had been dropping by a factor of two every decade," said study author Arnold Barnett, Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Sloan School of Management.

"Not only has that continued in the last decade, the (latest) improvement is closer to a factor of three. The pace of improvement has not slackened at all even as flying has gotten ever safer and further gains become harder to achieve," Barnett said.

The new research also revealed that there is discernible regional variation in airline safety around the world. Nations housing the lowest-

risk airlines are the U.S., the members of the European Union, China, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Israel, showed the results.

The aggregate fatality risk among those nations was one death per 33.1 million passenger boardings during 2008-2017.

For airlines in a second set of countries, which Barnett terms the "advancing" set with an intermediate risk level, the rate is one death per 7.4 million boardings during 2008-2017.

This group -- comprising countries that are generally rapidly industrialising and have recently achieved high overall life expectancy and GDP per capita --

includes many countries in Asia as well as some countries in South America and the Middle East.

For a third and higher-risk set of developing countries, including some in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the death risk during 2008-2017 was one per 1.2 million passenger boardings -- an improvement from one death per 400,000 passenger boardings during 1998-2007.

"The two most conspicuous changes compared to previous decades were sharp improvements in China and in Eastern Europe," said Barnett. Overall, the rate of fatalities has



declined far faster than public fears about flying," Barnett said.

"It's a factor of 10 safer than it was 40 years ago, although I bet anxiety levels have not gone down that much. I think it's good

to have the facts," he added. To conduct the current study, Barnett used data from a number of sources, including the Flight Safety Foundation's Aviation Safety Network Accident Database.

He mostly used data from the World Bank, based on information from the International Civil Aviation Organisation, to measure the number of passengers carried, which is now roughly 4 billion per year.