

Jamia Firing: Shooter's Fb Post On 'Ending' CAA Protest



NEW DELHI: The man who opened fire on students protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Jamia area here on Thursday, had put up several posts on Facebook making his intentions clear that he would indulge in violence to "end" the Shaheen Bagh protests.

The man, who goes by the name of Rambhakt Gopal on Facebook, has written several posts that he would "end the protest" at Shaheen Bagh by January 31. The women and residents of Shaheen Bagh are protesting against the controversial CAA and the NRC for the past one month.

As the students were set to start their march from Jamia Millia Islamia to Rajghat, he took out a country-made .315

bore pistol and opened fire a student sustained an injury in his hand. The police, which was watching the actions of the youth from the side, instantly took him into custody after he opened fire.

Before opening fire, the youth had shouted, "If you people have to stay in India then you will have to say Vande Mataram, and now I am going to give you your freedom."

Even before firing the pistol, the youth was heard raising slogans of "Jai Shri Ram". While scrolling through his Facebook posts, it was found that Gopal went live a number of times from outside the campus of Jamia and made a numbers of posts in which he mentioned that he was a lone Hindu in the area and none of the mediapersons covering the protest were Hindus.

In one of his posts, he also asked the people to help his family in his absence and as a last wish he wrote that his body should be wrapped in the saffron cloth and people should raise the slogan of "Jai Shri Ram" on his last journey.

In one post he also mentioned that he will avenge the death of Chandan Gupta, who died in firing while taking out a bike rally in Uttar Pradesh's Kasganj two years ago.

In a January 28 post, Gopal said that "everyone should take his Facebook profile seriously".

Meanwhile, the student who received a bullet injury has been identified as Shadab Farooq, a student of MA Mass Communication. He was shifted to Holy Family Hospital for treatment.

The police is interrogating Gopal.

'Govt Incites People': Congress, AAP Blame BJP For Engineering Jamia Attack



The Congress and Aam Aadmi Party on Thursday blamed the Bharatiya Janata Party for the attack in Jamia, accusing the saffron party of inciting the attacker to shoot at the students.

Gopal Bhagat Singh, 19, brandished a gun in Jamia when students of the Jamia Millia Islamia were taking out a protest march against Citizenship Amendment Act and NRC from the campus to Raj Ghat.

Reacting to the incident, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra took to Twitter and said that Jamia's incident was a result of provocative speeches made by the BJP leaders.

"All this is possible when the ministers and leaders of the BJP government incite people to shoot, give provocative speeches," Gandhi wrote.

She further added: "The Prime Minister should answer what kind of Delhi he wants to build? Do they stand with violence or non-violence? Do they stand with development or with chaos?"

Aam Aadmi Party also charged

at BJP and said that BJP "leaders are continuously spoiling the atmosphere of Delhi by giving provocative speeches".

Singh and Gandhi were referring to the controversial speech made by BJP leader Anurag Thakur who had chanted "shoot the traitors" while leading a crowd at a BJP rally in New Delhi on Monday.

Party leader Sanjay Singh said the attack in Jamia was also part of BJP's plan to postpone Delhi elections for the fear of defeat.

CPI (M) also accused the BJP of inciting the Jamia attack, saying "hate speech, call to violence by ministers and BJP leaders, and silence of the Prime Minister has led to this shameful outcome".

Gopal, who hails from Greater Noida's Jewar, was arrested by Delhi Police after he shot at a student. The incident was caught on camera and took place in the presence of a large contingent of Delhi Police.

The injured student was rushed to a nearby hospital and is being treated upon.



Modi Says Ready To Discuss All Issues; Oppn Talks Of Anti-CAA Protests, 'Worsening' Economy

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Opposition on Thursday raised the issue of anti-CAA protests at an all party meeting and accused the government of "arrogance" in not reaching out to protesters, even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted his dispensation is open to discuss all matters in Parliament's budget session beginning from Friday.

Modi also called for a "greater focus" on economic issues in the session and how India can gain in the prevailing global situation, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi told reporters after the meeting, attended by 26 parties.

They raised a host of issues including the nationwide protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, "worsening" economic situation and "rising" unemployment. They also demanded the release of detained political figures in Jammu and Kashmir.

Congress leader Gulam Nabi Azad told reporters that opposition parties sought immediate release of former state chief minister Farooq Abdullah so that he could attend the session from Friday.

Anand Sharma of the Congress added that the issue of some "incendiary" statements made by BJP leaders during the Delhi poll campaign was also raised and Modi was asked to intervene in the matter.

The Election Commission on Thursday barred Union minister Anurag Thakur and BJP MP Parvath Verma from campaigning for three and four days respectively for their objectionable remarks.

Joshi said the prime minister told the leaders that parties

should not confine themselves to mere "charcha" (debate) but should have rich and structured discussion on every issue.

In his concluding remarks, Modi welcomed the suggestions of most members that the session should focus on the prevailing economic situation in the country, an official statement later said.

"Most of the members have asked for discussion on the economic situation concerning the country. I welcome this and we need to discuss the economic issues as suggested by you all. We should focus on how we can turn the global scenario in favour of India," he said.

"In this budget session and in the beginning of the new year, if we can give a proper direction to the country's economy, it would be in the best interest of the country," he said, according to the statement.

Referring to various other issues raised by opposition parties, Modi said there should be an open discussion on all.

He asked the leaders at the meeting to see to it that they contribute to increasing the productivity of the session and Parliament.

"This is about the productivity of the session and the Parliament. In the last two sessions, we saw the increased productivity and the great public response in favour of it. As people's representatives, it is our responsibility to increase the productivity of the House, while we discuss all issues with an open mind," he said.

Asked about the opposition's charge that the government is being arrogant in not reaching out to anti-CAA protesters, Joshi noted that the bill was passed by Parliament follow-

ing a long discussion and asked rival parties to introspect their role in these protests.

The BJP has accused the Congress and other opposition parties of inciting protests and violence against the law which, the ruling party has asserted, does not affect the citizenship of any Indian.

In his remarks, Azad said Parliament's sessions have been shortened gradually by the government.

He said opposition parties are willing to back the government on its legislative agenda if it is in national and public interest.

He then accused the government of focussing merely on the passage of its bills and spoke about the nationwide protests against the CAA.

"We brought the government's attention to these protests. The government has displayed arrogance by not reaching out to protesters to hear their concerns... Economic condition is worsening, GDP growth is down and unemployment is at its peak," he said.

Joshi rejected the charge that the government has been reducing the duration of sessions and noted that opposition parties have often opposed the move to extend sessions.

The government's legislation agenda for the budget session has 45 bills, including seven financial items and two ordinances, Joshi said.

DMK's T R Baalu shared the concerns of other opposition parties and also spoke about problems of farmers in Tamil Nadu.

The budget session will conclude on April 3 with a recess in between. The budget will be presented on Saturday.

Rahul Gandhi Lashes Out At PM, Says Modi, Godse Share Same Ideology

WAYANAD: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said the latter believed in the same ideology as Nathuram Godse.

Addressing thousands of party workers after leading the "Save the Constitution" march at Kalpetta, organised to protest against the Citizenship law coinciding with the 72nd death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Congress MP also said Modi was making Indians to prove that they are citizens of the country.

Referring to Mahatma Gandhi assassin Godse, he said Modi shared the same ideology with him (Godse).



"Today, an ignorant man is trying to challenge Gandhi's ideology. He is so full of hatred and anger that he cannot even understand what India's strength is," he said.

"The ideology is same. Nathuram Godse and Narendra Modi, they believe in the same ideology. There is no difference except that Modi does not have the guts to say he believes in the ideology of Godse," the Wayanad MP added.

India's First Case Of Coronavirus Reported In Kerala



A positive case of Novel Coronavirus has been reported in Kerala, the Health Ministry said Thursday. The patient is a student of Wuhan University.

The patient tested positive for Novel Coronavirus and is in isolation in the hospital, the ministry said. The patient is stable and is being closely monitored, it said.

The outbreak of novel Coronavirus has taken a heavy toll in China where atleast 170 people have died of the virus till Thursday, with 7,711 confirmed cases.

The Indian government has taken several precautions to contain and prevent the spread of the disease. The passengers coming from China are subjected to thermal screening as a precautionary measure. The

government has also appealed to those who have returned from China after January 1 to report to state-run hospitals if they are suffering from cough and mild fever.

Novel coronavirus belongs to the coronavirus family that causes illnesses ranging from the common cold to acute respiratory syndromes. It has emerged from a seafood and animal market in Wuhan city of China and is suspected to have spread as far as the United States.

Several people, who had exhibited the symptoms of the disease, have been put in isolation and are being closely monitored. At least 27 persons are under observation in Maharashtra and as a precautionary measure 10 of them have been quarantined.

Coronavirus Outbreak: China Assures India Of Cooperation In Epidemic Prevention And Control



NEW DELHI: China on Thursday said it is closely watching the report about one confirmed case of the Coronavirus in India, and assured cooperation to the Indian side in jointly strengthening the epidemic prevention and control.

Chinese Embassy Spokesperson Ji Rong said the mission has maintained close communication with the Indian government on the issue by briefing regularly on the novel Coronavirus (nCoV) development and China's efforts in preventing and controlling.

"The Chinese side pays close attention to the report of the emergence of one confirmed case of pneumonia caused by the novel Coronavirus in India, and will cooperate with the Indian side to jointly strengthen the epidemic prevention and control," Ji said.

The Chinese statement came after a positive case of the deadly virus, originated in China's Wuhan, was reported in Kerala.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to safeguarding the safety and health of every foreign national in China, including the Indian people, Ji said.

"We are willing to continue to maintain close communication with the Indian side, provide necessary assistance and convenience to ensure the health and safety of Indian citizens in China, and address their legitimate concerns timely," he said.

China also hope Indian side could continue to render understanding and support to China's efforts in epidemic prevention and control," Ji said.

India has requested China for permission to operate two flights to bring back its nationals from worst-affected central Hubei province.

The nationwide death toll in China from the Coronavirus has jumped to 170 with 38 more fatalities reported on Thursday mainly from Hubei province, the Chinese government said, while confirming more than 1,700 new infections.

China's National Health Commission said on Thursday that 7,711 confirmed cases of pneumonia caused by the Coronavirus have been reported in 31 provincial-level regions and in the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps by the end of Wednesday.

Alarm Bells For Modi Govt As Quality Of Life, Inflation, Income Indicators Worsen

IANs

NEW DELHI: Just eight months into the second term, it is not good news for the Modi government on the economic and inflation front, with the IANS-CVoter Budget Tracker findings showing that people are unhappy, income are going down and household expenditure is going up.

On the eve of the Economic Survey and Union Budget, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman have much to worry about going into the flagship economic event of the year 2020.

The key takeaways of the

IANs-CVoter Budget Tracker are that life has gotten worse over last year on all parameters and over 2015 after the Modi government took over. All the economic parameters are in bad shape and respondents to the tracker are in a despondent mood.

The findings come at a time when the GDP is at decadal lows, investment is floundering, investigative agencies are unearthing new scams and business confidence is law which in turn is hurting consumers, households which are struggling to make ends meet. To make matters worse, the dependency in the country on economic is-

suues is touching the rock bottom levels of 2014 when PM Modi riding on promises and high aspirations rode to power promising jobs, prosperity and growth.

The poll sample size for the tracker is 4292 and the survey was conducted in third and fourth week of January 2020.

An enormous number of respondents at 72.1 or almost three fourths in 2020 said that inflation has been unchecked and prices have gone up after Narendra Modi became Prime Minister. The number was much lower at 48.3 per cent in 2019 or last year and only 17.1 per cent in 2015, a year after PM Modi as-

sumed charge.

In a stinging rebuke to the economic policies and economic performance of the Union government, almost half the respondents at 48.4 per cent said the overall quality of life for the Aam Aadmi has deteriorated compared to 32 per cent in 2019 but in an uncanny way similar to the 54.4 per cent seen in 2014.

To a question whether the quality of life will improve or get worse in the coming, 37.4 per cent said it will improve which is sharply down from 56.6 per cent in 2019. However, one fourth or 25.8 per cent say that the situation will deteriorate.

A large number of respondents aver that income remained the same but expenditures went up at 43.7 per cent, up sharply from 25.6 per cent last year.

Almost two thirds or 65.8 per cent says that expenditures have become difficult to manage compared to 44.6 per cent last year.

Almost half or 46.4 per cent of the 4000 plus respondents say that the performance of the central government on the economic front has been worse than expected. Things were not so bad in 2014, the nadir of drift in the economy and policy paralysis.

High inflation coupled with

concerns over the general economic slowdown as well as low job creation seems to have dented the Central government's image as prudent economic manager, a survey report showed.

Ahead of the Union Budget a new survey shows a growing unease among the general public due to rising prices of everyday use items under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Nearly three-fourths of the respondents in the IANS-CVOTER survey this year said that inflation has gone up and nearly 40

per cent said that high inflation has had an adverse impact on their quality of their life.

The pre-budget survey comes as crude reality and a reflection of current economic indicators on the ground, as wages have stagnated while prices of essentials including food items have surged in the past few months.

Not to forget, unemployment rate released last year shows that it at a 45-year high level.

Interestingly, the sentiment was at the same level as in 2014, the UPA era. About 65.9 per cent people then had said that they were unable to manage their expenses.