

# News

## Deoband Is "Gangotri" Of Terrorism: Giriraj Singh



**SAHARANPUR :-** Union minister Giriraj Singh has once again triggered controversy by claiming that Islamic seminary Deoband in Saharanpur is a factory producing terrorists. He has termed it as "aatankvaad ki Gangotri". Talking to the media persons in Saharanpur on Tuesday, he said that Deoband produces terrorists like Hafiz Saeed. "I had once said earlier that Deoband is the Gangotri of terrorists. All most wanted terrorists of the world came from Deoband, including Hafiz Saeed or any of the others," said Giriraj Singh. "These people are not against CAA, they are against India. This is a kind of a Khilafat movement," said Giriraj Singh while attacking the ongoing anti-CAA

protests in Deoband. Deoband has seen fierce anti-CAA protests by Muslim women over the past months and has faced attack from BJP leaders. Giriraj Singh had earlier alleged that "suicide bombers" are being raised in Shaheen Bagh. Referring to a video, in which a few children are purportedly making some objectionable comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Giriraj Singh said poison is being drilled into the minds of kids. "This Shaheen Bagh protest is no longer an agitation. A group of suicide bombers is being raised here and conspiracy against the country is being hatched in its capital," he claimed. Singh had made a similar statement in December too.

## Court Grants Bail To 1 Arrested For Dec 15 Anti-CAA Protests



**NEW DELHI:** A Delhi court has granted bail to one person who was arrested in connection with protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act near Jamia Millia Islamia University here on December 15 last year. Additional Sessions Judge Gulshan Kumar granted the relief to Mohd Haneef on furnishing a bail bond of Rs 20,000. During the hearing, police opposed the bail plea and said allegations against Haneef were serious in nature, and the investigation was at its initial stage. Police claimed that he was part of the mob which had allegedly turned violent during protests against the CAA in south Delhi's Jamia Nagar on December 15, 2019. They alleged that Haneef was involved in burning of police booths, pelting stones and hurling petrol bombs at the police personnel wherein several of them were injured. Khalil A Ansari, appearing for the accused, said Haneef has been in judicial custody since December 17 last year, and no useful purpose was going to serve by keeping him behind the bars for any longer period. Ansari said Haneef was falsely

implicated in the case and had nothing to do with the commission of the alleged offence. He was at his work place at the time of the incident and was arrested from his residence, the counsel said. The lawyer said the Delhi High Court on February 3 granted bail to co-accused Danish in the case and Haneef should also be released on bail on the ground of parity. The court had earlier sent 10 arrested people -- Haneef, Danish alias Jafar, Sameer Ahmed, Dilshad, Shareef Ahmed, Mohd Danish, Yunus Khan, Jumman, Anal Hassan, Anwar Kala -- to judicial custody. Police had said that some locals, instigated by politicians, participated in the violent protests at JMI and damaged property. The FIR in the case also named seven others, including local politicians and student leaders of JMI university, in the case but they have not been arrested yet. The university had virtually turned into a battlefield on December 15 as police entered the campus and also used force following the protest that led to violence and arson in which four DTC buses, 100 private vehicles and 10 police bikes were damaged.



## Kejriwal To Take Oath As Delhi CM At Ramlila Maidan On Feb 16

**NEW DELHI:-** Arvind Kejriwal, who led the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to a stupendous victory yet again in Assembly poll, will take oath as the Delhi Chief Minister for the third straight time on February 16. The oath ceremony will be held at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on Sunday, sources have said. According to the final figures released by the Election Commission, the AAP won in 62 of the 70 seats with a total vote share of 53.57 per cent. The BJP emerged victorious in the remaining eight seats, getting 38.51 per cent of the total votes. The Congress could not even manage a single seat and ended with 4.26 per cent vote share. The AAP's stupendous victory comes nearly eight months after it suffered a severe drubbing in the Lok Sabha polls in which

the party drew a blank while the BJP won all the seven seats. The victory also assumes significance as it came in the face of BJP's no holds barred attack against protesters opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act as "supporters of Pakistan" during the bitterly-fought campaign. "Dilliwalon, ghazab kar diya aapne (Delhiites, you have done the impossible). I love you," Kejriwal, flanked by his wife, daughter and senior party leaders, said in a brief thank you address at the party's headquarters here. "It is the beginning of new kind of politics today. This is very auspicious message for the country and the politics of work can only take our country to the 21st century," he added. "It is a victory for Bharat Mata (mother India)," he said as a large number of supporters cheered him. Later, he visited the famous Hanuman temple near Connaught Place along with his family and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. Modi congratulated Kejriwal for his party's win and wished him "the very best" in fulfilling the aspirations of the people. "Congratulations to AAP and shri Arvind Kejriwal ji for the victory in the Delhi assembly elections. Wishing them the very best in fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Delhi," the prime minister tweeted. Opposition leaders also hailed AAP's landslide win as a defeat of the politics of polarisation and hate and a victory of inclusive politics, saying "winds of change" are blowing in the country.

## Delhi Rejected Politics Of Hate, Says Okhla MLA

**New Delhi:-** Blaming the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for spreading only hate, Amantullah Khan, newly elected Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator, said here on Wednesday, two crore people of Delhi had given electric shock to Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Speaking to IANS, a day after winning the Okhla seat with a margin of over 71,000 votes -- the second largest winning margin in this polls -- he said the people rejected the politics of hate. "I want to thank the people of my constituency for their love and support. The voters have proved that they wanted leaders to talk about issues concerning the people and not religions or playing the politics of hate. People have preferred politics of work over politics of hate," Khan said. Stating that the BJP could have bagged more seat if it had told people the work they wanted to do after polls, Khan said the hate had lost and the development had won. "People voted for the AAP as they trusted Arvind Kejriwal," he said. Rejecting the claims that he won because of religious factor, Khan said, "People voted me for my work." On his big margin victory, he said the people reposed faith in him because of the work done by him for the



several years. The BJP had launched a vitriolic attack on the AAP and Khan saying they were supporting and instigating Muslims in and around Shaheen Bagh. Taking a jibe at Shah who had said during the campaign that people should press the EVM button so hard that "the current is felt in Shaheen Bagh," Khan said the people have given their reply. However, the Okhla MLA said the BJP should look into the Shaheen Bagh issue. "As an MLA, I would like to say that Shah should go to Shaheen Bagh. He should talk to people, ask them about the issue. "People are sitting there for the past two months. It's not a short time. It's time to resolve the issue." Stating that Shah is the Home Minister of India and the issue is related to the central government, Khan said, "If Shah himself can't go to the protest site, he should send someone." People, particularly women and children, are staging sit-in at Shaheen Bagh since December 15.

## Ram Mandir Construction May Not Start From Apr 2: Report



**NEW DELHI:-** The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirath Trust is yet to decide on the date of construction of the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya. There is doubt about its commencement from April 2. "There are many hurdles in deciding the date and the Trust is working to resolve all those issues first," a source clarified. The Trust will discuss the matter during its first meeting. The Trust sources said that there will be 15 to 20 lakh people in Ayodhya on the occasion of Ramnavami. It will be difficult to start the process of temple construction on that day as it will be a big challenge for the administration to control the crowd and check it from going towards the Ram Janmabhoomi site. So the Trust will consider another date. Sources in the Trust say it will take a lot of time to level the 67 acres of land, equalise the excavation done by the Archaeological Survey, fill the pit, prepare the layout. Sources have also said that no one has been allowed to visit the Ramlila temple complex for the past 30 years. So no one knows what is the situation there. Without taking stock of it, it is not possible to set any date. Also, due to security reasons, the construction of the temple cannot be started immediately because it is not possible to do anything there without the per-

mission of the security agencies. Before starting the construction work, Ramlalla must be placed at some other place and for this also, permission has to be taken from the security agencies, this will also take some time. All these issues will be discussed in the Trust's meeting. Also, all the initial work is related to the architects and engineers. Without their suggestions it will be difficult to decide the date of construction of the temple. The Trust will decide on basic infrastructure in its first meeting, the source said. The Trust will also consider the matter of completing the legal process of land and ownership, obtaining documents and taking over the system there. Only then will the Trust proceed with the help of architects and technical people. Sources say that the selection of the remaining two members of the Trust will also be discussed. Sources said that it is difficult to include Mahant Nritya Gopal Das and Vishwa Hindu Parishad Vice-President Champat Rai in the Trust due to legal hurdles. Significantly, both are on trial in the Babri Masjid demolition case. The Modi government does not want any one to raise finger on the Trust or any legal difficulties. In such a situation, Rai and Das can be included in the committees of temple construction.

## Patiala House Court Favouring Convicts: Nirbhaya Parents



Nirbhaya's parents on Wednesday hit out at the Patiala House Court, saying the court did not want to issue death warrant again for the convict in their daughter's gang rape and murder case. Speaking to media, Nirbhaya's mother Asha Devi said: "This Patiala House Court is not in a mood to issue death warrant again. The court is favouring the convicts." "The father of the convict came to the court after seven years today and pleaded before the court. The honourable judge got merciful at him and death warrant is not issued. I am the mother of the victim. I am also

pleading the court for justice. Then why the court is not listening to me," she asked. She further said: "I urge the Supreme Court to issue the death warrant as the Patiala House Court is not going to issue the death warrant again." Nirbhaya's father Badrinath Singh said: "First of all, I think that honourable judge is supporting the convicts. They could have issued a death warrant. This shows the judge is affectionate towards convicts." "If they can call for providing lawyers to the convicts, then they could have also given a death warrant for a period of 14 days," he added.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Andhra Man Hangs Self Over Fear Of Contracting Coronavirus

**TIRUPATI:-** Fearing he could be infected with coronavirus, a 50-year-old man in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district committed suicide, his family members said. K. Balakrishna, who had flu-like symptoms, suspected that he was infected with the deadly virus. Fearing that he could spread the infection to his family and other people, he ended his life by hanging. The incident took place Tuesday in Seshamnaidu Kandriga village near temple town of Srikalahasti. According to his family members, he left the house in the early hours of the day and was later found hanging from a tree near his mother's grave on the

village outskirts. Balakrishna, an agriculturist, used to watch videos about coronavirus on internet and was also behaving in a weird manner with the family members by warning them against coming close to him. It was on February 1 that Balakrishna complained of cold and fever. Four days later, he went to a hospital in Tirupati, where was diagnosed with viral infection. The doctors advised him to wear mask. Two days later he returned home and as there was no relief from cold, cough and fever, he started suspecting that he had coronavirus. The man had learnt about the deadly virus through media. He confined him-

self to a room and warned his wife and children not to come closer to him. Family members and others tried to convince him that he had no coronavirus but in vain. He started to throw stones and other articles at the family members to keep them away from him. Balakrishna's son Balamurali said he was watching videos about coronavirus on the mobile. In the early hours of Tuesday, he left the house and bolted the door from outside. When the family members woke up, they did not find him and started searching for him. He was later found hanging on the village outskirts. Police said they have not registered any case as the family did not lodge any complaint.

## Bhim Army Chief Calls For Feb 23 Shut Down Against Sc Verdict

**NEW DELHI:-** Bhim Army Chief Chandrashekhar Azad on Wednesday called for a Bharat Bandh on February 23 against the Supreme Court's verdict on reservation in promotions. Azad asked leaders from the OBC to SC-ST and minority groups to participate in the shut down. He also warned that if the MPs and MLAs of the backward and Dalit classes did not support the call, there would be a demonstration in front of their houses. The Bhim Army has also demanded reservation in jobs and promotions in the private sector. At a press conference at the Press Club of India here, Dalit leader Chandrashekhar said that the BJP government at the Centre is trying to end the reservations. Now, "save the reservation, save the constitution" and "remove the CAA, NRC, NPR, save the constitution" movements will be launched.

He said: "On February 17, people from Dalit and backward organisations will march from Mandi House to Parliament. If the central government does not reverse the decision on reservations of the Supreme Court by bringing an ordinance, then India will be closed on February 23. This will be the same kind of demonstration as was done against the earlier decision regarding the SC-ST Act".

Chandrashekhar, while advocating reservations in promotions, said that people from these castes join the IPS through reservations but they have to toil hard for promotions to become an IG or DIG because their confidential report gets marked with a red pen. The Supreme Court while hearing a case related to Uttarakhnad had said that reservation or quota is not a fundamental right in promotions.