

81% Delhi Voters Received Fake News During Elections: Survey



NEW DELHI: Over 81 per cent of Delhi's population received fake news through various social media platforms as the Assembly elections neared, according to a new survey by non-profit Social Media Matters and Institute for Governance, Policies and Politics.

Facebook and WhatsApp were the leading platforms that were used for the dissemination of misinformation, showed the results.

"The epidemic of fake news is threatening the basic fragment of our democracy. When the voter is in a constant state of cognitive dissonance how are they expected to make an informed choice. As a nation, it has to be our priority to bring an end to it," Amitabh Kumar, Founder, Social Media Matters, said in a statement.

The Delhi Assembly elections were held on February 8. The results declared on February 11 saw the Aam Aadmi Party winning 62 of the 70 seats, bringing the Arvind Kejriwal-led government back to power with a massive victory.

The survey "Delhi - #DontBeA-Fool" was conducted on a sample size of 400 people to interrogate dissemination, penetration and impact of fake news spread via social media on the elections.

Rumours spread ahead of the elections included allegations that women participating in the sit-in protests at Shaheen Bagh were being paid to demonstrate against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Moreover, tweets of renowned individuals proved to be volatile before elections. A tweet by BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra along with a video clip of AAP leader Amanatullah Khan falsely claimed that Khan was talking about creating a "Sharia" law.

About 40 per cent of the people who participated in the survey were between 18-25 years of age. While 63 per cent of the respondents were males, 36 per cent were females and 1 per cent were transgenders.

The survey, however, revealed that 60 per cent of the population stated that they made efforts to authenticate the news with a search on Google, Facebook, and Twitter.

Nearly 62.5 per cent of the respondents suggested that they have never been affected by fake news, but 72 per cent of them said they knew about people who have been misled by misinformation.

Gujarat College Asks Girls To Remove Undergarments To Prove They Weren't Menstruating

GANDHINAGAR: Although there is a growing "Pad Man" movement with every effort being made to end the stigma around menstruation, a college run by Swaminarayan sect in Gujarat's Bhuj town has sparked controversy after they ordered girl students to strip to check whether they were in period.

The diktat has landed them into trouble with both the state and the national woman commission.

The National Commission for Women in a letter to issued to the media said: "Have come across a media report captioned, '68 girls in Kutch institute hostel forced to undergo strip', reported on February 14, 2020.

"The Commission is disturbed by the report of this incident at Sahjanand Girls' Institute in Bhuj, Gujarat. The reports also states that, Kutch University authorities have taken the matter for internal query and based on the finding they would take further actions.

"National Commission for Women will set up an inquiry team and visit the girls at the institute hostel, to speak and inquire about the incident. NCW has also appraised the Kutch University in-charge Vice Chancellor Darshna Dholakia and the DGP of Gujarat, Shivanand Jha (IPS) to look into the matter thoroughly and report to the Commission at the earliest on their action taken reports to date.

"National Commission for Women has written to the Sahjanand Girls' Institute College Trustee, Pravin Pindora and the Principal, Rita Raniga to give explanation of this shameful exercise taking place in their Institute.

"The Commission encourages the girls from the Institute to come forward and speak without fear on their grievances from this experience to the finding authority, or on any other

similar incidents of exploitation if occurred to them in the past, and was not addressed before."

The Gujarat State Women Commission (GSWC) has also ordered the state police to carry out a probe regarding the alleged sexual harassment of students who were forced to remove their undergarments in order to allow the checking whether they were in menstrual cycles.

The women panel, taking cognizance of media reports ordered the probe.

"Through media reports, I came to know about the incident. I have spoken with the Police Commissioner and DSP Kutch regarding the matter.

"I have ordered them to carry out an investigation regarding the shocking incident. I have also asked our women members of 'Nari Adalat' to look into the matter and speak with the college students.

"We already have a team comprising four members in Bhuj, who will be leaving shortly for the said college," Leelaben Ankola, the GSWC chairperson told IANS.

"It will be only after the police investigation, that we will be able to tell whether the incidents requires a formal complaint to be lodged or not," added Ankola.

The GSWC orders came following media reports that dozens of women students residing in the girls hostel of the college run by the Shree Swami Narayan Kanya Mandir in Bhuj were asked to remove their undergarments following suspicion that they were menstruating (when certain norms were expected to be followed under archaic societal tradition).

The humiliating and public crackdown on students came after the college administration thought that the girls were violating norms banning menstruating women from touching others and entering some spaces.



Dr. Kafeel Khan Booked Under NSA For Remarks Against CAA

LUCKNOW: The stringent National Security Act (NSA) has been slapped on Dr Kafeel Khan, who is lodged in Mathura jail, in connection with his anti-CAA speech at the Aligarh Muslim University.

Khan was arrested by the UP Special Task Force from Mumbai on January 29 for allegedly promoting enmity between different religions through the speech he had delivered during a protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) at AMU on December 12.

"NSA has been slapped on Dr Kafeel. He will remain in jail," Aligarh Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Akash Kulhari to PTI over phone.

In Aligarh, District Magistrate Chandra Bhushan Singh told reporters that Kafeel Khan's speech at AMU was instrumental in triggering violent incidents at the university on December 13 and 15.

"We had apprehensions that after his release on bail, Dr Kafeel Khan would have caused more law and order issues in the state," the district magistrate said.

Criticising his detention un-

der the stringent law, Khan's brother Adil Khan said the government wanted him to "remain quiet".

The NSA allows preventive detention for several months if the authorities believe the person is a threat to national security or law and order.

Kafeel Khan is currently lodged in Mathura jail despite bail granted to him by a court in the case, registered against him at the Civil Lines police station in Aligarh for promoting enmity between different religions.

Adil Khan said, "The government is trying to silence my brother. A few days ago, during a programme on a TV news channel, he had revealed that at BRD Medical College (Gorakhpur), many children are dying daily but the government is hiding the facts and data."

"The (Mathura) jail was about to release him on Friday at 6 am. My brother Kashif along with the lawyer reached the jail but by 9 am police presence at the jail was increased and we were told verbally by jail authori-

ties that the NSA has been invoked on him," Adil Khan said.

After his arrest in Mumbai, Kafeel Khan was brought to Aligarh, from where he was immediately shifted to the district jail in neighbouring Mathura.

According to the police, this was done as a precautionary measure in view of the anti-CAA protests on the AMU campus and at the Eidgah grounds in the old city.

Police had said that Kafeel Khan's presence in the Aligarh jail could have worsened the law and order situation in the city.

The doctor was earlier arrested for his alleged role in the death of over 60 children in one week at the BRD Medical College in Gorakhpur in August 2017. Short supply of oxygen at the children's ward was blamed at that time for the deaths.

About two years later, a state government probe cleared Kafeel Khan of all major charges, prompting him to seek an apology from the Yogi Adityanath government.

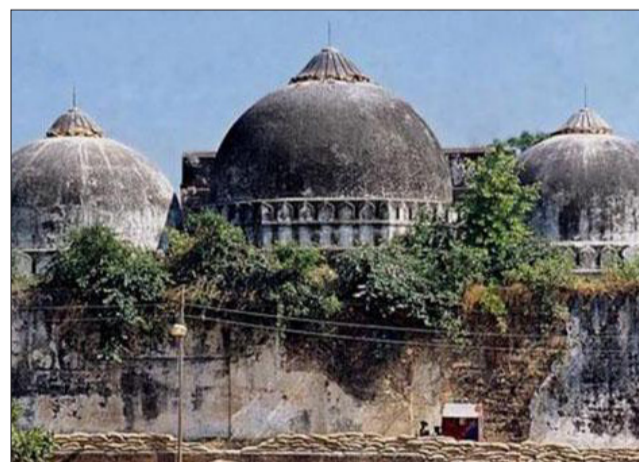
Petition Soon In Sc To Seek Babri Rubble

LUCKNOW:- The All-India Babri Masjid Action Committee will move the Supreme Court seeking rubble of the demolished Babri mosque in Ayodhya, said AIBMAC convener Zafaryab Jilani here on Friday.

He said that he would soon discuss the issue with senior lawyer Rajiv Dhawan and would file a petition in the Supreme Court later this month.

"We could have raised the rubble issue during the review petition's hearing, but the plea was dismissed.

"According to the Shariat, a mosque's debris cannot be used in any other construction. The apex court has not given any direction on the mosque's



debris," he said.

Jilani said the Supreme Court stated that the demolition of the mosque was illegal and unlawful.

"The pillars, stones and other wreckage of the demolished mosque should be handed over to Muslims. We will soon file a petition for this," he said.

'He Is Mentally Stable': SC Rejects Nirbhaya Case Convict's Plea Against Mercy Petition



The Supreme Court Friday dismissed the plea of Vinay Sharma, one of the four death row convicts in the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case, challenging the rejection of his mercy petition by the President alleging that it was done in a "mala fide" manner.

A bench of Justices R Banumathi, Ashok Bhushan and A S Bopanna said no ground was made out for judicial review of the rejection of the mercy petition Sharma, one of the four death row convicts in the 2012 case.

The court rejected contention of Vinay Sharma that he is mentally ill. The court said his medical report suggests he is stable.

"The note put up before the President of India is a detailed one and all the relevant materials were placed before the President and upon consideration of same, the mercy petition was rejected," the bench said.

"We do not find any ground for exercise of judicial review of the order of the President of India rejecting the petitioner's mercy petition and this writ petition is liable to be dismissed," it said.

All material including Sharma's medical report was placed before the President, who did apply his mind in rejection of the mercy plea, it said.

The apex court dismissed the contention of Sharma that he is mentally ill, saying the medical report suggests he is stable.

The trial court had on January 31 stayed "till further orders" execution of the four convicts in the case -- Mukesh Kumar Singh (32), Pawan Gupta (25), Vinay Kumar Sharma (26) and Akshay Kumar (31), who are lodged in Tihar Jail.

Sharma claimed on Thursday that while rejecting his mercy plea the President did not consider his mental illness following torture in jail, an allegation denied by the Centre saying "he is fit and has sound mind".

Through his counsel, he made a last ditch effort to escape from the gallows claiming that all the relevant records were not brought before the President including that he had been subjected to torture and ill-treatment in jail due to which he had developed mental illness.

The Centre however had opposed his claim and produced a medical report dated February 12 which said he was fit and had a sound mind.

The top court had also rejected

Sharma's counsel A P Singh's request to peruse the original file of recommendation made by the Lieutenant Governor and Delhi home minister Satyendra Jain for rejection of his mercy petition.

Singh contended that signatures of Delhi home minister and LG were not obtained on the original files recommending rejection of mercy petition of Sharma.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and NCT of Delhi, opposed the arguments of Singh and said that signatures were obtained on the original files and submitted the documents for the perusal of the court.

He said Sharma was kept in solitary confinement and subjected to inhuman treatment against the guidelines of the apex court.

Singh argued that there was history of physical assaults on Sharma and his medical records establish that he was taken for psychiatric treatment several times.

Mehta opposed the arguments saying all due process of law was followed.

The apex court had earlier dismissed a plea filed by Mukesh challenging the rejection of his mercy petition by the President.

Pawan has not yet filed a curative petition -- the last and final legal remedy available to a person which is decided in-chamber. Pawan also has the option of filing a mercy plea.

The mercy petition of Akshay was also rejected by the President.

The 23-year-old physiotherapy intern, who came to be known as 'Nirbhaya' (fearless), was gang-raped and savagely assaulted on the night of December 16, 2012, in a moving bus in South Delhi. She died of her injuries a fortnight later in a Singapore hospital.

Six people including the four convicts, Ram Singh and a juvenile -- were named as accused.

The trial of the five adult men began in a special fast-track court in March 2013.

Ram Singh, the prime accused, allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in Tihar jail days after the trial began. The juvenile, who was said to be the most brutal of the attackers, was put in a correctional home for three years.

The juvenile was released in 2015 and sent to an undisclosed location amid concerns over a threat to his life. He, when released, was 20 years old.

Nirbhaya Case: Supreme Court Judge Faints In Courtroom

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court-judge Justice R Banumathifainted in the courtroom on Friday while dictating the order on the Centre's plea seeking separate hanging of the four death row convicts in the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case.

Justice Banumathi soon regained consciousness and was taken to the chamber by other judges on the dais and Supreme Court staff.

She was taken on a wheel chair for medical treatment.

Justice A S Bopanna, while rising,



said that the order in the matter will be passed in-chamber. Justice Ashok Bhushan was also part of the three-judge bench hearing the matter.

Plea Claims Violation Of Judicial Orders On Loudspeaker Use: Hc Seeks Report

NEW DELHI:- The Delhi High Court on Friday sought the Centre and AAP government's response on a plea seeking contempt action against them for not implementing judicial orders on use of loudspeakers in the national capital.

Justice A K Chawla asked them to file status reports on the issue raised in the petition and listed it for hearing on May 15.

On the plea by Sanjiv Kkumar, has claimed there has been wilful disobedience of the high court's September 4, 2019 order to abide by the circulars, standing orders and



rules which permit use of loudspeakers and amplified music systems only up to 10 pm.

He has contended that even the Supreme Court has given directions that loudspeakers should not be used between 10.00 pm to 6.00 am.

Apart from seeking con-

tempt action for alleged non-compliance of the high court's September 4, 2019 order, the petition has also sought directions to the Delhi government and police to "ban use of loudspeakers (and not holy azaan or fazz) in all mosques in Delhi" between 10.00 pm and 6.00am.

NEWS MAKERS

Pulwama: CPI-M'S Salim Says No Need For Memorial

NEW DELHI:- On the anniversary of Pulwama terror attack that left 40 CRPF personnel dead, CPI (M) leader Md. Salim on Friday launched a scathing attack on the government, saying "we must find out how the attack occurred rather than set up a memorial to remind us of the country's 'incompetence'".

Expressing that "justice for Pulwama attack needs to be done", Salim sought to know how explosives weighing about 80 kg reached the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Pulwama.

"We don't need a memorial to remind us of our in-

competence. The only thing that we need to know is how 80kg of RDX got past the international border and reached the 'most militarised zone on earth' and exploded in Pulwama," Salim tweeted.

Salim's remarks came following a news article which mentioned that a memorial to the 40 CRPF personnel killed in the Pulwama terror attack in February last year will be inaugurated at the Lethpora camp.

He also pasted the web-link of the article on his twitter account.

As per the information, names of all the 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

personnel along with their pictures will be a part of the memorial that will carry the motto of the paramilitary force 'Seva and Nishtha' (service and loyalty).

The memorial has been set up inside a CRPF camp adjacent to the place where Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist Adeel Ahmed Dar, driving an explosive-laden car, blew himself next to a convoy of security forces killing the 40 personnel.

The convoy consisted 78 buses carrying around 2,500 security personnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway when it



came under attack on February 14 last year.

Almost all the conspirators behind the dastardly attack have been killed with the last one being Qari Yasir, the self-styled chief of Pakistan-based JeM terrorist group, who was killed last month.

The Pulwama attack

turned out to be a tipping point in the already stricken India-Pakistan relations. In the aftermath of the attack, the Indian Air Force jets on February 26 last year crossed the Line of Control (LoC) and struck JeM terror camps in Balakot in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.