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## FIRST ADDRESS TO RAJYA SABHA AFTER RE-ELECTION

# PM speaks out on Jharkhand attack: Saddened, guilty must be punished

'AES deaths in Bihar biggest failure... a matter of shame'

**MANOJ CG**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

IN HIS first remarks after a Muslim man died after being attacked by a mob in Jharkhand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Wednesday that he was saddened by the incident and the guilty must be severely punished.

Arguing that it was "our constitutional responsibility to ensure the safety of every citizen of the country", Modi said all incidents of violence, whether in Jharkhand, West Bengal or

### THE EDITORIAL PAGE

#### NO MOBOCRACY

PM has expressed anguish over Jharkhand attack. His message must be urgently heeded — and enforced

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#### IN PARLIAMENT

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Kerala, should be treated with the same yardstick and law should take its course.

Addressing Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister also described the death of over 130 children this month from Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in Bihar as a matter of "shame". He said it is the "biggest failure" of seven decades that the outbreak of the disease continues to kill even many years after independence.

Speaking in the Upper House for the first time after winning a second term, the Prime Minister also continued his attack on the Congress, arguing that the party has become so arrogant that it was not willing to accept the

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## Meet the accused : Most under 30, daily wagers

**ABHISHEK ANGAD**  
SARAIKELA-KHARSAWAN (JHARKHAND), JUNE 26



Tabrez Ansari. Video grab

FROM DAILY wage labourers to men looking for work and from a gangman in the Railways to a farmer. They are among the 11 men arrested after Tabrez Ansari died on June 22 in a Jharkhand hospital, four days after he was attacked by a mob that accused him of theft.

On June 18, a mob tied Ansari

to a pole, assaulted him and allegedly forced him to chant "Jai Shri Ram and "Jai Hanuman".

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A video grab of BJP MLA Akash Vijayvargiya, son of BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, attacking an official

## BJP gen secy's MLA-son beats official with cricket bat, held

**MILIND GHATWAI**  
BHOPAL, JUNE 26

AKASH VIJAYVARGIYA, a first-time BJP MLA from Indore and son of the party's high-profile national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, was arrested and sent to judicial custody Wednesday for beating a municipal corporation official with a cricket bat while opposing a demolition drive in the city.

Video footage showed the 34-year-old Akash chasing and beating house inspector Dharmendra Bais, who was also assaulted by BJP workers accompanying the MLA and local residents. Another corporation official also suffered injuries in the attack.

Based on a complaint from Bais, officers at M G Road Police Station booked Akash and 10 others under various IPC sections, including for assaulting a public servant, criminal intimidation and unlawful assembly. The MLA was later produced before a local court, which denied bail and sent him to judicial custody.

Officials said the incident at Ganji Compound forced them to abandon the demolition of a building in the locality that had

been declared unsafe for occupation.

Speaking to reporters later, the MLA claimed that he had retaliated after the corporation staff behaved indecently with women. "The demolition squad did not have a single woman staffer, and there were no female police constables. Male officials dragged women by their feet," he claimed.

"In the BJP, we have been taught, *pehle aavedan, phir nivedan aur phir danadan* (first a plea, then request, and then attack)," PTI quoted Akash as saying.

Akash's father, Kailash Vijayvargiya, is the BJP's general secretary in charge of West Bengal, where the party emerged as the main challenger to the Trinamool Congress in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, winning 18 of the state's 42 seats. He was also in charge of the Haryana polls, and had served as a minister earlier in the Madhya Pradesh government.

The Vijayvargiyas wield immense clout in Indore, the commercial capital of Madhya Pradesh where a Congress government came to power last year after 15 years of BJP rule.

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## Assam NRC: Another 1 lakh names dropped month before deadline



At NRC Seva Kendra in Guwahati on Wednesday. Dasarath Deka

**ABHISHEK SAHA**  
GUWAHATI, JUNE 26

OVER ONE lakh people who were part of the final draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) published in July last year have been found ineligible and have been named in the Additional Draft Exclusion List published on Wednesday.

"As per provisions contained in Clause 5 of the Schedule of The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003, an Additional Draft Exclusion List consisting of 1,02,462 persons

RELATED REPORT  
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## MP govt cracks down on gau rakshaks: 5-year jail term, fine for violence

**MILIND GHATWAI**  
BHOPAL, JUNE 26

IN A bid to crack down on cow vigilantism, the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday proposed a jail term of six months to three years and a fine of Rs 25,000-50,000 for those who engage in violence against anyone booked under the anti-cow slaughter Act.

The Kamal Nath government cleared an amendment to the Madhya Pradesh Gauvansh Vadh

## EXPLAINED

### Checks & claims

THE FINAL draft NRC left out about 1.5 lakh who were included in the first draft. Now, over 1 lakh, who were listed in the final draft NRC, have been removed, adding to the 40 lakh found ineligible earlier. An NRC official said this was part of a "continuous process" of checks and verification. Those left out can file "claims", for which hearings will begin July 5.



## FATHER & CHILD, TEARS & SCREAMS

Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez and his 23-month-old daughter Valeria drowned while trying to cross the Rio Grande from Mexico to enter the US illegally. Valeria's mother, Tania, was still on the Mexican side of the river and survived. The family was fleeing from El Salvador. The bodies were discovered days after a six-year-old Indian girl died of heat stroke in Arizona, near the border, after crossing over from Mexico illegally with her mother to seek asylum in the US. Reuters

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## India-US ties: Pompeo says great friends disagree, Jaishankar firm on S-400 deal

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
OSAKA, JUNE 26

PLAYING DOWN the divergences in the Indo-US economic relationship, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo Wednesday underscored their political points on strategic, regional and global issues that include the S-400 de-



Modi with Pompeo. Reuters

fence deal with Russia, approach towards Iran and China, and common cause on terrorism.

The meeting between Jaishankar and Pompeo will set the tone for the G-20 Summit at Osaka Friday, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet US President Donald Trump for the first time since winning a second term. Pompeo also called on Modi in the morning and conveyed the greetings of President

Trump and congratulated him on his electoral victory.

After meeting for almost three hours followed by lunch in New Delhi, Jaishankar made it clear that Delhi will look at the "outstanding issues" in trade with a "constructive and

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## Staffer son undergoes sex change, Rlys in fix over family pension

**AVISHEK G DASTIDAR**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

THE RAILWAYS has referred to the central government a letter from a 32-year-old, who underwent a sex-change operation years ago to become a woman, demanding the family pension of her father, a retired employee

who died in 2017.

Officials told *The Indian Express* that the letter was received by a division under the Chennai-based Southern Railway in the middle of 2018. But with its rules providing no clarity on the "unprecedented" request, the Railways sent the letter last week to the Ministry of Personnel, Pensions and Public

Grievances, and the Department of Personnel and Training, for "wider consultations".

Officials said that according to pension laws, sons over 25 years of age are not eligible for family pension in these cases. But there is no such bar on an unmarried or divorced dependent daughter, who is eligible for

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**BUSINESS AS USUAL**  
By UNNY  
Unprovoked by PM's address, all he wants is a change of address

## WORLD



**MUELLER TO TESTIFY PUBLICLY BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEES**

**TRUMP: NO BOOTS ON GROUND IF ACTION TAKEN AGAINST IRAN**  
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**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**SOMYA LAKHANI**  
ALIGARH, JUNE 26

FOR THREE days this month, his only job was to watch dough balls being flattened and dunked in oil; *aloo ki sabzi* being thrown in plastic bowls and *raita* poured on top. And as people jostled for a plate of *aloo-kachori*, he diligently took notes.

This was outside Aligarh's famous Mukesh Kachori Bhandar, and he was a member of the special investigations branch (SIB) of the state GST department in Aligarh deputed to prepare a "profile". The department had

received a tax evasion complaint last month. And on June 20, Mukesh Kachori Bhandar was raided by a team of 12 officials.

"Our estimate is that Mukesh Kachori Bhandar's yearly turnover is between Rs 60-70 lakh, which means he is liable for GST registration but hasn't got it done... our estimate is that the owner sells *aloo-kachori* worth Rs 17,000-20,000 per day," said A K Maheshwari, Commercial Tax Officer, Aligarh.

R P S Kauntey, deputy commissioner, Commercial Tax Office, who led the investigation and the raid, told *The Indian Express*, "We did the recce in

three phases — peak hours (7 am-11 am), normal hours (11 am-2 pm) and dying hours (2 pm-4 pm). The official waited for 45 minutes at 8 am for a plate of *aloo-kachori* and didn't get it because it was that crowded. During normal hours, he waited for 10 minutes, and during dying hours, he got his plate in a couple of minutes."

On June 20, during the "dying hours," Kauntey raided the Mukesh Kachori Bhandar. "Even as the raid was going on, at least 45 people were eating *aloo-kachori*, and a 100 dough balls were being readied," he said.

At the hole-in-the-wall



Bunty (centre) and his brother Bhagwan Das (right) run Mukesh Kachori Bhandar with their father. Karan Saraf

*kachori* shop, there's not enough space to stand for owner Makhan Lal (70), his three sons Mukesh (40), Bhagwan Das (35) and Bunty (29) and their two helpers. And though business is still brisk, Lal hasn't eaten properly since the raid, while his sons run the shop. A plate costs Rs 24 and a cup of *raita* Rs 5.

"They have received the wrong information, I don't make more than Rs 2,000-Rs 3,000 a day... less than Rs 12 lakh a year. This means I am not liable to do GST registration. I am just making enough to feed 15 mouths in the family. Do they want me to add GST on *aloo-kachori* now? It

will be too expensive, who will buy it?" said Lal.

Incidentally, states like Uttar Pradesh have been proactive in curbing evasion, including a renewed focus on tracking those liable to pay tax but who continue to stay out of the tax net. Apart from small businesses that attempt to stay out of the net, other evasion methods include retailers masquerading as end-consumers in their purchases from wholesalers and lakhs of registrants not filing returns despite having made purchases.

The Centre has also been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Eight-foot tall statue to mark 180th death anniversary

## Ranjit Singh statue to be unveiled in Lahore today

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN**  
MUMBAI, JUNE 26

A LIFE-SIZE statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who ruled over Punjab for close to 40 years in the early 19th century, is to be inaugurated in Lahore Thursday, on the occasion of his 180th death anniversary.

The statue has been located in an open space outside the Mai Jindian Haveli in Lahore Fort, close to the building that houses the Ranjit Singh samadhi and the Gurudwara Dera Sahib of Guru Arjan Dev. The haveli, named after Ranjit Singh's youngest queen, now houses a permanent exhibition of Sikh artefacts and is called the Sikh Gallery.

According to the invitation card for the event, the eight-foot tall statue, which depicts Ranjit Singh mounted on a horse, is being installed under the auspices of the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) — an au-

tonomous body for the conservation of the city's heritage — in collaboration with SK Foundation, a UK-based Sikh body.

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