

FATEHGARH HOSTAGE CRISIS: TWO DAYS LATER

Hostage-taker had enough ammo to last several days: cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 1

FATEHGARH POLICE on Saturday said that the 40-year-old murder convict, who had held 23 children hostage at Karthiya village in the district on Thursday night, had enough ammunition to fight with the police for several days.

Subhash Batham, who was out on bail, was shot dead at the end of the nine-hour hostage crisis. His wife, Ruby Batham, died later in hospital early Friday after she was assaulted by a mob of local residents, police had said.

"At Subhas Batham's house, the bomb disposal squad found 15 kg cylinder bomb, four big size crude bombs connected to wires, 135 hand grenade-type bombs, four medium crude bombs, one paint box bomb — yellow and grey, around 3 kg — bulb element, fuse, white tape, electric wires and battery. This was in addition to a .315 bore country-made rifle and .315 bore country-made pistol along with 11 empty cartridges and 20 live cartridges," read a statement issued by the police on Saturday.

Police also said Subhash had meticulously planned the attacks and gathered knowledge of explosives and bomb-making from the Internet. He also extensively read about cases of children held hostage in other countries, police said, citing the search history of his smartphone.

"From the search history of his cellphone, the surveillance team found that Subhash searched for bomb-making technology and incidents in foreign countries related to children being held hostage," police said. "It seems Batham had planned it for a month... He had studied in detail a similar case in 2004 in Russia where children were held hostage, besides some other similar cases," Inspector General of Police (Kanpur Range) Mohit Agarwal said.

"He was in jail last time four months ago for robbery. It seems he had planned this there, learning details from other inmates. He collected arms and explosives with their help," he added.

The construction of a toilet in his house just a few days ago made the police draw the conclusion that Subhash had planned to keep the children hostage for several days. Three FIRs have been registered against Subhash and his wife Ruby.

Police to finance dead couple's 2-yr-old child's education: I-G

Lucknow: Inspector General of Police (Kanpur Range) Mohit Agarwal on Saturday said that police department will bear the educational expenses of the two-year-old daughter of Subhash Batham, who had taken 23 children hostage and was shot dead during the police operation on Thursday night.

The child's mother, Ruby, was also killed after she was assaulted by a mob of villagers. The two-year-old daughter, who was present in the house when the police broke in to rescue the 23 children held hostage, is currently being taken care of by a woman constable at the local police station.

"We have decided that the police department will take care of the expenses of the child's education. We will finance her education even if the girl is adopted through the proper procedure... We want the girl to become an IPS officer and we will provide her all the resources and opportunities," IG Agarwal told The Indian Express.

SHO of Mohammadabad Police Station, Rakesh Kumar, said that the child was doing well and bore no injuries. "After the child was rescued, she was given to a woman police constable who is taking care of her at Mohammadabad police station... We have even contacted her grandmother (Subhash's mother), but she has not responded," he said. ENS

UNION BUDGET

Old, polluting coal power stations to be closed: FM

Over Rs 4,000 cr announced for better air quality in cities

AMITABH SINHA & SOWMIYAASHOK PUNE, NEW DELHI, FEB 1

THE UNION government on Saturday announced that all coal-fired power plants not meeting prescribed carbon emission standards will be shut down.

In another major decision for the green sector in the Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced Rs 4,400 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal for improving air quality in cities with population of more than 1 million.

"There are thermal power plants that are old and their carbon emission levels are high. For such power plants, we propose that utilities running them would be advised to close them, if their emission is above the preset norms. The land so vacated can be put to alternative use," Sitharaman said.

Sources in the government said about 80 coal-fired power plants — all below 100 MW capacity — are likely to be affected by the government's decision. Many of these have already been served notice, they said.

"The process has already



About 80 coal-fired power plants — all below 100 MW capacity — are likely to be affected by the government's decision.

been initiated," a source said. "These power plants are old and below 100 MW capacity, and they have significant emissions with virtually no option to bring down their emissions through adoption of new technologies. Such power plants have already been identified and are being asked to close down."

However, many of these power plants are owned by state governments, and there might be some resistance to the decision to close down. India has already said it

would not sanction any new coal-fired power plants after 2022.

On clean air, Sitharaman said the Centre would actively help the state governments that are trying to improve air quality in their cities. "Parameters for the incentives would be notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. Allocation for this purpose is Rs 4,400 crore for 2020-21," she said.

Fifty cities with population of over 1 million will benefit from this decision.

Environmental activists, while welcoming the decisions, said the government needs to come out with the details soon.

Kanchi Kohli, senior researcher, Centre for Policy Research, said: "The allocation of Rs 4,400 crore implies that the government considers pollution as a critical issue to be addressed. However, this announcement does not come with clarity on what the money will be spent on. For instance, subsidies to waste-to-energy plants or investing in smog towers have been the solutions proposed in the past, which are non-starters and wasteful expenditure."

Advertisement for उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लि. (Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd.) featuring a photo of a man and text about electricity services.

Advertisement for CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PLASTICS ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY (CIPET) with contact details and website information.

Advertisement for NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (Online) for CIPET/DDN/Tender/Equip/2019-20/01, detailing technical specifications and bidding procedures.

Advertisement for VISHVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking) for VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division.

Advertisement for SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 03/2019-20 Dated: 31.01.2020 (TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Only through E-procurement system).

Advertisement for Government Licensed Super grade electrical and PWD Class I license Contractors, detailing project scope and bidding information.

Advertisement for SALUTE THE SOLDIER 16.06.1975 to 02.02.2011, honoring a soldier's service with a photo and text.

Advertisement for REMEMBERED WITH PRIDE DG AND ALL RANKS OF RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE PERSONNEL.

Advertisement for GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, JEYPORE (R&B) CIRCLE, JEYPORE INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB).

Advertisement for पश्चिमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि, विकटोरिया पार्क, मेरठ.

Advertisement for पश्चिमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि, विकटोरिया पार्क, मेरठ, detailing various tender notices and contact information.

Advertisement for S. E. RAILWAY TENDER Two open Tender (Tender Notice Elect-Chg-85-19-20-05) invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer.

Advertisement for SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE EL-G-E-OT/Adv/1/2019-20/07, detailing tender specifications for maintenance work.

Advertisement for e-Tender (Tender Notice No. TRD-KGP-W-2019-20-19RTT) for maintenance work in the Western Railway zone.

Advertisement for DAKSHINANCHAL VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED (UNDERTAKING OF U.P. GOVERNMENT) e-Tender Extension Notice.

Advertisement for OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, PURI, ODISHA INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB).

Advertisement for Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. 34 of 2019-20 Dated 31.01.2020, detailing procurement of DI pipes.

After teacher 'talks up' CAA, NSUI workers vandalise school

MILIND GHATAWI BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 1

ACCUSING A teacher of talking up the new citizenship law and NRC, NSUI activists allegedly vandalised a private school at Mandla in Madhya Pradesh on Thursday. But even two days after the incident, no police case has been registered.

The management of Bharat Jyoti Higher Secondary School, the largest private school in the tribal-dominated district, has said in their complaint to police that activists of NSUI — students' outfit affiliated to the Congress — reached the campus on Thursday and sought permission to enter a classroom to meet a Class IX teacher.

When the management refused to let them enter, the activists allegedly hurled abuses and vandalised furniture in the school. A video clip showed activists kicking some tiffin boxes on their way out.

Accusing the teacher of having an "anti-Muslim mindset", NSUI leader Akku Thakur said, "The teacher asked if there are any Muslim students in the class. There was one girl but she kept mum. The teacher then told the students that Muslims are being driven out of the country for good. The girl later told her guardians about it and they got in touch with us."

"Even elders don't know

much about CAA or NRC. If you start teaching students like this and poisoning their young minds, they will grow up with a divisive mindset," said the NSUI activist.

Asked about the vandalism, he criticised the management for not acting against the teacher and said, "Normally we don't do such things but what will we do when we are not heard."

The school has lodged a complaint to the police and demanded security cover. It has said the teacher had engaged in a general discussion on CAA and NRC.

"When the NSUI activists were denied permission to enter the classroom, they misbehaved with other teachers and broke furniture," the complaint said.

Mandla SP Deepak Shukla said the police had tried to get in touch with the school management on filing an FIR in the matter, but it hasn't come forward. "We will wait till Monday and then act on our own because we have the video (of vandalism)," he said.

Despite repeated attempts, school manager James D'souza did not answer calls.

Meanwhile, NSUI's rival student outfit ABVP submitted a memorandum to district authorities, demanding action against NSUI for vandalism.

"A student had asked a question out of curiosity. The law has been passed by Parliament, what's wrong in talking about it. It's not against any particular community. If the administration does not act against NSUI activists, we will take to the streets," said district ABVP convener Manglesh Chakravarti.

The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded swift action from the Kamal Nath government.

"Has the Congress decided to end the rule of law in the state? Will there be strict action against these goons," asked BJP spokesperson Rajneesh Agrawal.

Advertisement for WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION BULK ADVERTISEMENT CONTRACT IN SWARNA JAYANTI RAJDAHANI EXPRESS, detailing tender specifications.

Advertisement for उत्तराखण्ड कृषि उत्पादन विपणन बोर्ड, मेरठ, detailing tender information for agricultural products.

Advertisement for Uttarakhand Transport Corporation (U.T.C.) Tender Notice, detailing tender specifications for transport services.

Advertisement for NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY Open E-Tender Notice, detailing tender specifications for maintenance work.

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