

Death toll 13; 250 are injured | Homes and shops set on fire | Kejriwal meets Amit Shah

Mob, courtesy Delhi Police

Right under police nose, men with rods, sticks assault, set homes ablaze, check ID cards, smash CCTVs

DIPANKAR GHOSE & SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 25

IN EMBATTLED neighbourhood after neighbourhood in north-east Delhi, which has been in the grip of violence for three days, one story played through Tuesday from morning to midnight — groups of young men armed with sticks and rods looking for a fight, setting shops and homes owned by Muslims on fire. All right under the nose of the police who either stood as silent spectators, looked the other way or were plain missing when they were most needed.

The death toll from the violence touched 13 by tonight, including a Head Constable who succumbed to bullet injuries, and 12 civilians, most of whom also died of bullet injuries.

The day saw a flood of bloodied men being rushed to GTB hospital, many of whom were severely assaulted by violent mobs. The Rapid Action Force and Central Reserve Police Force arrived in the area only around 3 pm and were repeatedly pushed back by those armed with sticks and stones. The situation remained tense until late tonight with SOS messages being sent out from Muslim neighbourhoods of being walled in and people locking themselves inside their homes.

Right through the day and into the evening, *The Indian Express* reporters witnessed several specific examples where the mob ruled the street as police stood right next to them:

■ Between 7 am and 12 noon, across the lanes and bylanes of Maujpur, Babarpur, Kabir Nagar, West Jyoti Nagar, Gokulpuri, *The Indian Express* witnessed young men bracing themselves for what they described as "action". Collecting metal rods, breaking chunks of brick into smaller pieces. "We can't repeat last night's mistake," said a 21-year-old pujari in a temple in Vrindaban. "We couldn't sleep last night. They rained bricks on our neighbourhood. So we have come prepared to defend ourselves." These preparations were in full view of small groups of police personnel.

■ At 11.15 am on Chajipur-Kabir Nagar road, six policemen stood by and watched as hundreds of men holding rods and sticks, many with faces hidden behind motorcycle helmets, raised chants of Jai Shri Ram. As the men gathered outside the Sanatan Dharm mandir, one of



A mob attacks a person at Khajuri Khas crossing in Delhi on Tuesday. Praveen Khanna

Divided in violence, united in grief: Families of dead say hate is to blame

ASTHA SAXENA & JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 25

AT HOSPITALS in northeast Delhi on Tuesday, grief knew no religion.

Sitting outside the mortuary of Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital was Hari Singh Solanki (69), who lost his eldest son in the clashes on Monday. Rahul Solanki (26), who had left home to buy some groceries, was on his way back when a bullet hit him on the neck.



A grieving relative of Rahul Solanki. The family blamed BJP's Kapil Mishra for instigating the violence. Gajendra Yadav

His family members blamed BJP leader Kapil Mishra for instigating violence in the area — relatives of some of the others killed or injured too blamed Mishra, and many demanded severe punishment.

On Sunday, Mishra, a former MLA from Karawal Nagar, had threatened anti-CAA protesters and issued an ultimatum to the Delhi Police to get Jafrabad and Chand Bagh road cleared of protesters.

"If this is not stopped, people will keep losing their children. CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Jafrabad protest cleared, NSA meets CP, visits violence-hit areas late night

Shoot-at-sight orders issued in affected areas of Capital

AMIL BHATNAGAR & MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 25

THREE DAYS into the violence and reports of arson and attacks coming in even late Tuesday night, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval visited riot-hit north-

east Delhi. Doval first headed to the office of DCP (Northeast) in Seelampur, Ved Prakash Surya, accompanied by Commissioner of Police Amulya Patnaik. Sources said he sought details of the dead and injured and the number of those arrested and detained.

Surya, incidentally, was the officer standing next to BJP's

Kapil Mishra when he warned Sunday that he "wouldn't listen to the police," once US President Donald Trump had left India and released a video threatening anti-CAA protesters.

After the meeting, around 12.30 am, Doval visited the areas hit by violence and arson.

According to police, around

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INSIDE



MoS SAID VIOLENCE ORCHESTRATED, HOME MINISTRY SAYS SPONTANEOUS

CBSE BOARD EXAMS DEFERRED IN EAST, NORTHEAST DELHI PAGES 5, 6, 7

Sabarmati Ashramul!



Amul Sabne charkha hai!

TRUMP, MODI HOLD BILATERAL TALKS

India, US decide to elevate ties, be global strategic partners



The Trumps at Rashtrapati Bhavan for the banquet hosted by President Ram Nath Kovind. PPT

Defence deal announced, Trump says tremendous progress on trade pact

Leave CAA to India... didn't discuss Delhi violence with PM: Trump

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 25

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump, on his first State visit to India, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided Tuesday to elevate ties between their countries to a "comprehensive global strategic partnership", giving it broader scope and scale.

Trump, who held bilateral talks with Modi at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, announced a defence deal of more than USD 3 billion under which India will buy US military equipment including MH-60R naval and AH-64E Apache helicopters.

While no trade deal was signed, Modi said Trump and he had agreed to initiate negotiations for a bigger deal. Trump, on his part, said they have made "tremendous progress" on a comprehensive trade agreement and he is optimistic they will reach a deal.

According to the joint statement issued late Tuesday, the two leaders said they looked forward to "early conclusion" of defence cooperation enabling agreements including Basic

JOINT STATEMENT

- Early conclusion of defence cooperation enabling pacts
- Expressed interest in concept of Blue Dot Network
- Added Haqqani network and TTP to terror list
- Backed Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process
- US reaffirmed support for India's entry into the NSG "without any delay"
- Hope to conclude Phase 1 of comprehensive bilateral trade pact

FULL COVERAGE
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SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 25

WRAPPING UP his India visit intended to deepen bilateral ties, US President Donald Trump, responding to a query Tuesday on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, said he did not discuss that with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and "I want to leave that to India". Asked about the violence in Delhi, he said, "I heard that but I didn't discuss that with him (Modi)."

Not known for measured words, Trump was extremely careful in his statements — he made it clear at the beginning of his press conference that he did not want to overshadow the visit with his statements.

"As far as individual attacks are concerned, I have heard about them. I didn't discuss that with him. It is up to India," he told reporters.

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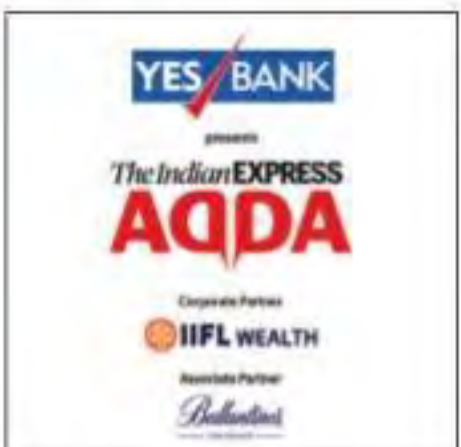
Chief Economic Advisor Subramanian at Adda today

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 25

HIGHLIGHTING THE importance of wealth creation through liberalisation of the economy and promotion of private sector, Chief Economic Advisor Krishnamurthy V Subramanian laid out a blueprint for India to chart the path towards achieving the \$5 trillion economy target in the Economic Survey 2019-20. While listing the government interventions that have failed to yield results, Subramanian, in the Survey,



Krishnamurthy V Subramanian



Bihar first NDA state to say no to NRC, new NPR format

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, FEBRUARY 25

THE BJP, which is part of the JD(U)-led ruling alliance in Bihar, became party to an unanimous resolution of the state Assembly Tuesday against implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) — the first NDA state to do so — and in favour of the National Population Register (NPR) exercise only under the 2010 format which did not include questions relating to the date of birth and place of parents and last residential address of

EXPLAINED
BJP's first official retreat

A WEEK after protests erupted mid-Dec, PM read down Amit Shah's assertion of nationwide NRC saying there was no discussion on the issue. A nationwide NRC is BJP's manifesto promise. The Bihar BJP's decision endorsing the resolution against NRC is the first direct retreat.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

TRUMPING THE NAYSAYERS
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WORLD

HOSNI MUBARAK, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT OUSTED DURING PROTESTS, DIES AT 91

COUNTRIES LIMIT TRAVEL TO STOP CORONAVIRUS SPREAD
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PAGE 1 ANCHOR

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 25

AT LEAST 3,400 bottles of cough syrup ColdBest-PC from the batch suspected to have contained a poisonous compound — which allegedly led to the deaths of 11 children in Ramnagar area of Udhampur district in Jammu region between December 2019 and January 2020 — have been sold since September last year.

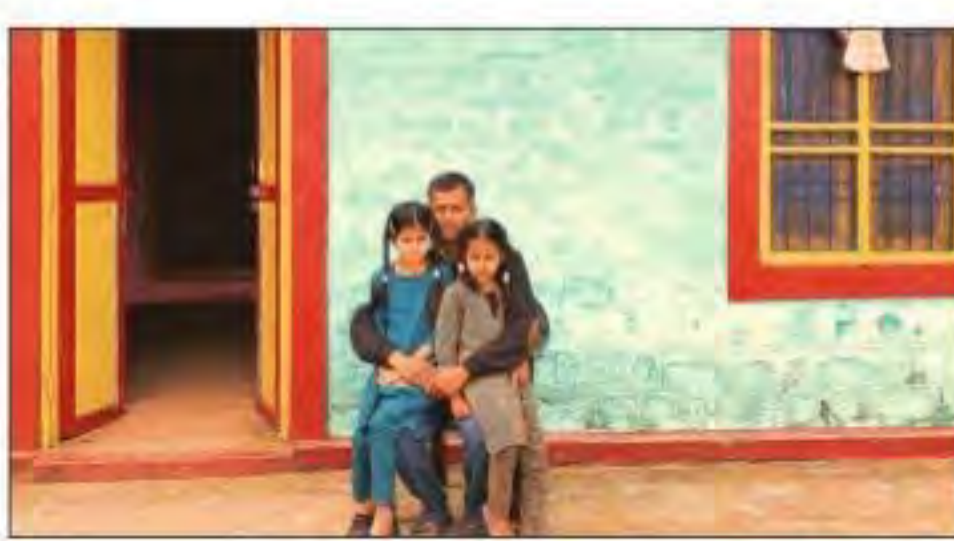
the market since September," said Himachal Pradesh Drug Controller Navneet Marwah. "We are trying our best to track down consumers through sales receipts, but this is an old batch. It's a 60 ml bottle, so if someone took 5-6 ml in each dose, it would finish in 10-12 doses," he told *The Indian Express*.

About 5,500 bottles of the cough syrup, manufactured by Himachal Pradesh-based Digital Vision Pharma, were sold in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Tiruchirappalli (Tamil

Nadu), Shillong (Meghalaya) and Tripura, in September 2019.

Between December and January, at least 17 children experienced adverse effects in Ramnagar area of Udhampur. Eleven of these children died from acute kidney failure. While investigations are still on, initial findings point to the cough syrup as the cause of death.

After a PGIMER laboratory found prima facie presence of Diethylene Glycol in the batch, production of the cough syrup was halted and the regions where it was distributed were



Susheel Kumar, who lost his three-year-old son, with his two daughters, in Jammu. Arun Sharma

asked to stop its sale. According to Marwah, about 1,500 bottles of the batch have either been seized or are being recalled from the market. "More than 500 have been taken by drug inspectors for sampling across India," he said. As a precaution, the state regulator has suspended the company's manufacturing licence, demanding six-hourly status reports of the recall.

"We have taken into possession all their (Digital Vision Pharma's) documents. It is part of the investigation, so it would be premature to say at this stage

what happened," he said, adding that he has sought the results "urgently". The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), India's apex drug regulatory body, has also taken up the issue, he said.

However, it is unclear what steps the CDSCO has taken so far. The Drug Controller General of India (DCCI), VG Somani, India's top drug regulator, did not respond to an email or phone calls.

Meanwhile, experts and activists pointed to serious lapses in regulatory enforcement. CONTINUED ON PAGE 12