



Shaheen dadis put riders

Protesters seek written assurance on citizenship to end agitation

SANJAY KAW | DC
NEW DELHI, MARCH 1

As parts of northeast Delhi continued to suffer in the aftermath of the worst communal clashes in the national capital in more than three decades, a large number of people at Shaheen Bagh, which has been the epicentre of the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests, on Sunday said that they were ready to call off their 75-day long agitation if they were given a written assurance by the BJP government at the Centre that a ₹10 self-attested affidavit, supported by one or two witnesses, would guarantee that their citizenship is not snatched away.

Soon after some TV news channels started a scroll that Section 144 of the Cr.PC, barring assembly of more than three people, was imposed in Shaheen Bagh, a large number of people, mainly women, came out of their homes to join the anti-CAA protesters.

Contrary to claims by channels that a heavy police deployment was put in place in Shaheen Bagh, a visit to the area revealed there was not a single cop near any lane or bylane of the protest site.

Despite living in constant fear of violence and apprehension that they can be removed forcibly at any time, protesters made it clear that they have resolved not to retreat.

"Either take back CAA or guarantee us that in the absence of any document like Voter Identity card, Aadhaar or Passport, even a self attested affidavit on ₹10 stamp paper, duly signed by one or two witnesses, will be enough to prove our citizenship," said a 28-year-old Mirza.

When asked if everybody agreed to the suggestion, the 100-odd people at the protest site shouted in unison "*Ha Bilkul Yeh Manzoor Ha..* (Yes surely this is acceptable to us)."

A 48-year-old Akthar Khan said that many protesters know that the BJP government would not roll back the CAA, but all they want was a clear assurance that their citizenship would not be snatched. "People are scared as many people do not have any document to even prove their date-of-birth. All that the government should now do is to assure us that a self attested affidavit would be enough to prove our Indian citizenship."

When asked what they would do if Section 144 was imposed, Asif (54) said: "We will continue with our protest. We are all peaceful citizens of this country. Instead of removing us, any Central government nominee can visit us. We will greet them with flowers."



Women during a sit-in protest against the CAA, NRC and the NPR, at Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi on Sunday. — PTI

■ Page 9: Four more bodies found in nalas



4 more bodies found in nalas

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 1

A week after deadly communal violence erupted in northeast Delhi, the situation in riot-hit areas remained peaceful but tense on Sunday though there was movement of more people and vehicles on main roads amid heavy police deployment.

Four more bodies were traced from drains in Gokulpuri and Shiv Vihar on the sixth day of the violence, taking the total death toll to 46. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has deputed a fact-finding team to investigate the cases of violence.

“The situation is under control and we did not receive any PCR calls of rioting in the last four days. There is adequate force deployed in all areas of northeast district. We are holding talks with locals and trying to rebuild confidence,” a senior police official told this newspaper.

No untoward incident has been reported from the northeast district over the past three days, he said, adding police are

urging residents to report about rumours directly to the authorities.

No untoward incident has been reported from the northeast district over the past three days, he said, adding that the police is urging residents to not pay attention to rumours and report them to authorities.

All the bodies recovered on Sunday were sent to GTB Hospital for post-mortem. The deceased are yet to be identified.

Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar visited some of the riot-hit areas, including Brahmapuri, and consoled the people disturbed by the worst violence in three decades in Delhi.

Even days after the violence, there was an eerie silence in the streets that once used to be teeming with people and hawkers.

In Shiv Vihar, among the worst hit areas, the lanes were deserted and almost all the houses were locked. In Mustafabad, people were wary of stepping out of their homes in narrow bylanes.



NHRC steps in

Seeks a report from police on 'grave human rights violations' during riots

By **Tanushree Pandey**
in New Delhi

THE NATIONAL Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has deputed a fact-finding team to investigate the cases of violence in northeast Delhi, an official told India Today TV.

At least 42 people have been killed and over 200 injured as frenzied mobs torched houses, shops, vehicles, a petrol pump, and pelted stones at locals and police personnel earlier this week, the worst riots in Delhi in over three decades.

On Sunday, a team of the NHRC visited DCP's office in Northeast Delhi. Officials told media, "There have been grave human rights violations in the riots. We have asked Delhi Police to give us a report." "Our team would also visit the riot-hot areas", official added.

In a statement, the NHRC said it had asked its Director General (Investigation) to depute its fact-finding team for on-spot inquiries into violation of human rights during the violence.

"The National Human Rights Commission has taken suo motu cognisance of violence in Delhi and specifically in northeast district, as reported in the media, and directed its Director General (Investiga-

tion) to depute two fact-finding teams to conduct on-spot inquiry into allegations of human rights violation due to these incidents," the statement said.

"The teams will also visit the northeast district police control room, affected people and also meet the families of those who lost lives in the violence," the statement said.

Meanwhile, Delhi Police on Sunday said that 254 FIRs have been registered and 903 people either detained or arrested in connection with the violence that erupted in North East district on February 23.

...We have directed DG to depute two fact-finding teams to conduct on-spot inquiry into allegations of human rights violation due to these incidents.

— NHRC STATEMENT

There have been grave human rights violations in the riots, an NHRC official told media on Sunday



PHOTOS: QAMAR SIBTAIN



Security personnel patrol a violence-affected area of northeast Delhi on Sunday.