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Army strikes back, kills 20 militants 'responsible' for Manipur massacre in Myanmar

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New Delhi: In the first such cross-border operation, special forces of the army in coordination with the air force on Monday carried out a surgical strike inside Myanmar, killing nearly 20 insurgents of the groups believed to be responsible for the deadly ambush in Manipur that killed 18 soldiers.

Elite commandos of the army went a few kilometers inside the Myanmar territory to destroy two camps of insurgents hiding there after their attacks in Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh last week by NSCN(K) and KYKL outfits.

The operation was guided by "specific and precise" intelligence input, highly placed

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A charred army vehicle at the ambush site in Chandel district of Manipur. PTI Photo
(<https://images.firstpost.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/army-manipur-pti.jpg>)

About 15 to 20 insurgents were killed in the assault, the sources said, adding there were no casualties among the Indian soldiers.

Commenting on the operation, MoS Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, a former colonel, said, "We crossed over to the Myanmar territory. We have good

relations with them and we carried out the strike."

Speaking to Times Now, Rathore said it didn't matter which country it was, anyone launching an attack against India will face a hot pursuit.

"This is a clear message for everyone who attacks our nation. We will strike back at a time and place of our choosing.

"When we need to be friendly, when we need to be aggressive is entirely up to us. This has nothing to do with a political party but it's the Government of India that will secure the nation," Rathore said.

Disclosing the operation, Major General Ranbir Singh, Additional Director General Military Operations, said army had been on "high alert" after Manipur attack on 4 June.

In the course of last few days, "credible and specific intelligence" was received about further attacks that were being planned within Indian territory.

"These attacks were to be carried out by some of the groups involved in earlier attacks on our security personnel and their allies," he told reporters in New Delhi while briefing on the operation without taking any questions.

"In view of the imminent threat, an immediate response was necessary. Based on intelligence, we conducted operations to counter these planned assaults," Maj Gen Singh added.

Rathore asserted that "any threat to our security, safety and national integrity will meet a firm response" while ensuring peace and tranquility along the border and in the border states.

He said while the army carried out the strike, helicopters were on standby. He described the strike as "unprecedented and extremely bold" by the government as Prime Minister Narendra Modi had ordered hot pursuit in two camps were completely annihilated.

While Maj Gen Singh said the operation was carried out "along the Indo-Myanmar border at two locations, along the Nagaland and Manipur borders", sources said the strike was carried out inside Myanmar with the coordination of local authorities.

Asked whether such strikes could be carried out on the western border also, Rathore said, "western disturbances will also be equally dealt with".

"This is a message to all such neighbours who harbour terror intentions. Friendship and zero tolerance (towards terror) will go hand-in-hand. This is a beginning. This message should go to everyone," the minister said.

This is the first time that the Indian army carried out a cross-border commando action, which marks the pro-active approach against terror, sources said about the retaliation planned ever since the insurgents struck in Manipur.

As part of an exercise to finetune the strike, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval had dropped out of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 6-7 June visit to Bangladesh, the sources said.

The sources said the operation was guided by "specific and precise intelligence" and there was a heavy exchange of fire between the commandos and insurgents.

"Significant casualties have been inflicted on them (insurgents). As a consequence, threats to our civilian population and security forces were averted," Maj Gen Singh said.

The sources underlined that it was a retaliatory action after the deadly ambush in Chandel in Manipur on June 4 when 18 soldiers were killed.

It was noticed that insurgents would sneak in from across the border to carry out their strikes and then return there, they said while justifying the cross-border assault.

"We are in communication with the Myanmar authorities on this matter. There is a history to close cooperation between our two militaries. We look forward to working with them to combat such terrorism," Maj Gen Singh said.

NSCN(K), which reneged from a ceasefire in March, has been involved in a series of attacks in tandem with some other militant groups under the banner of the so-called 'United Liberation Front of South East Asia'.

NIA visits ambush scene, seizes shells, IED

Meanwhile, a National Investigating Agency team seized some Lethod gun shells and an unexploded Improvised Explosive Device (IED) from the scene of the gruesome killing in Manipur's Chandel district.

The NIA, which has taken over the case from Manipur police, conducted a thorough search of the area, five days after the attack, the worst on the army in recent times, official sources said.

They said the IED was defused by explosives experts from the army.

Naga insurgent outfit NSCN (Khaplang) had in a release dated the day the attack took place, claimed responsibility for the ambush which left 18 army personnel dead and 10 others injured.

The militant outfit in the release claimed the attack was a joint operation by it, Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup and Kangleipak Communist Party.

NIA has taken over the case from Manipur police and registered a case in the agency's Guwahati branch under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, Arms Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

PTI with additional inputs

Updated Date: Jun 10, 2015 09:24 AM



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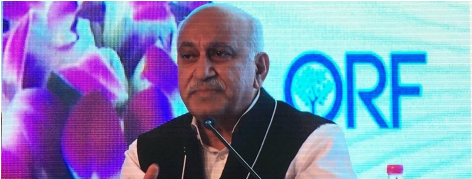
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New Delhi: The Election Commission does not have any "material information" on the number of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) needed to conduct simultaneous elections, the panel has said in a reply to an RTI query.



(<https://images.firstpost.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Election-Commission-380.jpg>)
 Representational Image. News18

Pune-based Vihar Durve, through his RTI application, had approached the Commission seeking to know the availability and need of EVMs and VVPAT to carry out elections across the country in 'one nation, one poll' mode.

In his response, Election Commission undersecretary Madhusudan Gupta said, "The information sought by you is not

available in any material form as mentioned under Section 2 (f) of the Right to Information Act."

The section defines information as "any material in any form, including records, documents, emails, opinions, advices, press releases, logbooks, contracts, reports, papers, samples, data material held in any electronic form and information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a public authority under any other law for the time being in force".

In their discussions on holding simultaneous elections in the country, the EC officials had said they would need around Rs 4,500 crore to buy nearly 12 lakh additional EVMs and an equal number VVPAT machines.

The estimate was based on the current cost to procure the devices.

BJP president Amit Shah had written to the Law Commission on 13 August supporting holding the Lok Sabha and assembly polls simultaneously.

A paper by the Law Commission had recommended holding the Lok Sabha and assembly polls in two phases beginning 2019.

Political parties are divided on the issue.

Besides, NDA constituent Shiromani Akali Dal, AIADMK, Samajwadi Party and the Telangana Rashtra Samiti have supported it.

The Congress, Trinamool Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, DMK, Telugu Desam Party, Left parties and the JD(S) have opposed the proposal.

"On the issue of 'one nation, one poll', the Election Commission had given inputs and suggestions in 2015 itself...Other requirements of additional police force, polling personnel would also be needed," Chief Election Commissioner OP Rawat had said.

The Election Commission had told the Law Commission that in case of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies in 2019, they will require nearly 24 lakh EVMs, double the number required to hold only the Parliamentary polls.

In case simultaneous polls are held, two separate sets of EVMs and VVPAT machines will have to be placed in separate compartments for those contesting the Lok Sabha polls and the assembly elections respectively.

"There are nearly 10 lakh polling stations across the country. Since EVMs and paper-trail machines are deployed in every polling station, the requirement is for 10 lakh EVMs and an equal number of paper-trail machines. "In addition, 20 per cent of the machines are kept in the reserve. That comes to two lakh. Therefore, to hold the Lok Sabha polls in 2019, the EC needs 12 lakh EVMs and an equal number of VVPAT machines," a functionary had explained.

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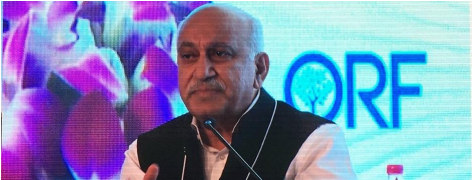
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CP Surendran named in multiple #MeToo allegations; says 'I believe sexism is an intellectual reality'

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What happens when a female journalist complains to the HR department of her publication about her editor's inappropriate behaviour towards the women in the newsroom?

Joanna Lobo, a freelance journalist who was previously employed with the features team at *DNA*, says HR tipped off the said editor about her complaint, revealed her identity as the complainant, while making no attempt to resolve the concerns she had raised.

Repeated emails from *Firstpost* to a representative of *DNA*'s HR department went unanswered.

The incident is one that has been reported as a number of women — mostly journalists and writers — came forward with #MeToo allegations against editor and poet CP Surendran.

At least nine women have named Surendran in their #MeToo allegations; some of these women met him at literary festivals and say they were subjected to unwelcome advances and inappropriate comments of a sexual nature. The others have worked under Surendran in various publications over the years, and describe sexual harassment at the workplace — including comments on their physical appearance, touching them in the newsroom, and lewd remarks.

Joanna Lobo, the former *DNA* employee, was with the newspaper from June 2008 to March 2014. It was Lobo's first job and when Surendran came on board (as executive editor), she was principal correspondent with the Sunday features team.

In a series of tweets

(<https://twitter.com/thatdoggonelady/status/1051005622827798528>) on Saturday, 13 October, Lobo wrote of colleagues being subjected to sexist, misogynistic comments from Surendran, being asked to ideate for stories like "Weirdest places people have sex" in edit meetings, remarks in which he allegedly victim-blamed the survivor of a gang-rape, among others. Lobo says Surendran also "had a habit of" massaging female colleague's shoulders even when it was evident his actions made them deeply uncomfortable.

Lobo says she confided her reservations about Surendran's behaviour to a senior editor, who dismissed her concerns by saying "that's just the way he is".

However, Lobo was not ready to simply shrug off these concerns and flagged them in a complaint to HR. "A few days later, CP calls the only man in our team and asked him what my problem was with him [CP] is, and why did I make a complaint. This colleague called and told me about it. I remember going to work shaking with fury and in tears because of this betrayal," Lobo said.

She adds: "To make things worse, the whole office knew. I had a person on the city desk come to talk to me, pause mid sentence and take two steps back jokingly saying: I should be careful of standing too close. 'Who know, you will make a complaint

1 2 3 4 5

against me'. It became a joke."

Lobo says the way her complaint was handled made her disinterested in working with *DNA* and she resigned.



(CP Surendran at Kolkata Literary Festival 2018, Facebook/ Speaking Tiger Books
(https://images.firstpost.com/wp-content/uploads/large_file_plugin/2018/10/1539692614_CPSurendran825.jpg)

Lobo told *Firstpost* that she wishes her complain had been properly investigated. "I wish they hadn't somehow leaked the fact that I complained, which was the biggest betrayal for me. I wish they had created a safer space for other women who faced his (Surendran's) advances to come forward and share their story," she said.

One of Lobo's *DNA* colleagues stepped forward on Twitter to corroborate her account of how her complaint was handled. *Firstpost* sent this colleague an email questionnaire requesting additional details, but didn't receive a response at the time of publishing this article.

Meanwhile two other female journalists who previously worked at *DNA* under CP Surendran also shared their experiences.

One of them, Shikha Kumar, who now works as a freelance writer, detailed how she was called in by Surendran for a meeting with a representative for a company that retailed sex toys. In another incident, when Kumar — who had worn shorts to work while recuperating from an injury to her leg, but had now reverted to regular

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trousers — walked into a meeting, Surendran allegedly quipped over how sad it was they wouldn't see her legs anymore. Kumar, who was flustered about reaching the meeting a few minutes late, says it took her a few moments to register the comment.

Recounting the harassment, Kumar told *Firstpost*, " (The incident with the sex toys) was a very uncomfortable experience for me. I remember, I kept trying to come up with a reason for why he had called me, and did he not understand these things were no appropriate. Another colleague, who left a few months after me and was at the paper for less than a year, had told me how — during her interview — he commented that she has "really long fingers." He would hover around employees' desks and wouldn't think twice before touching their shoulders, catching them off-guard while they were working. Once, I had interviewed an author who had written an erotica book and was working on the copy when he swung by my desk. The headline of the piece was 'Let's Talk About Sex' and he peeked into my computer and read it out loud — which I thought was extremely intrusive and uncalled for. Another female journalist in the office had mentioned that he had grabbed her hand and caressed it."

"I was a very different person at 24 than I am now, in that I just let all these things pass because I wasn't even sure if they constituted as harassment even though they did make me angry and uncomfortable," says Kumar, whose stint at *DNA* lasted from 2012 to early 2014. She adds that she never filed a complaint with HR because the incident with Joanna Lobo had played out in front of her. "We would sometimes discuss this within the team... What was really unfortunate was how our features editor let his behaviour pass, because apparently being 'politically incorrect' and 'inappropriate' — my words — was 'just how he was'."

A third journalist from *DNA*, Roshni Nair, has also shared an incident in which Surendran slapped her thigh during a meeting. Nair says she didn't say anything as she was a rookie journalist and no one else in the room seemed to realise that something was amiss. "I didn't think much of the slap on my thigh at that point; I was young and of the belief that so many of us have — that harassment is 'supposed to be more explicit'," Nair told *Firstpost*. Nair had heard of at least one other colleague being subjected to Surendran's 'predatory behaviour'; she also told *Firstpost* while

Joanna Lobo was no longer working at *DNA* at the time that she (Nair) was, most employees knew about her complaint regarding Surendran's behaviour — and its aftermath.

Her hope, in raising her concerns over Surendran's behaviour — Nair said — was simple: "Greater accountability and cognisance of what consent is. It may have been 'socially acceptable' to massage a woman colleague's shoulders, slap her thigh, or say you want to sleep with her. No more. Verbal overtures are also harassment if not consensual. Men still don't get that sexual persuasion or pleading and even sexual/body shaming or jibes are forms of harassment. It's up to men to change, not for women to put up with such behaviour any longer. We all know how women journalists are treated when they've rebuffed such men. It's also a question of our mental and professional well-being," she said.

DNA wasn't the only newsroom from which #MeToo allegations naming Surendran have emerged. A woman who worked with him at another media house has spoken out a lewd remark Surendran reportedly made in her presence. (We do not have her permission to quote the account here.) At *Arré*, where Surendran also worked, in 2015, a female employee — Namaah Kumar — flagged his behaviour to the HR team. Namaah told *Firstpost* no action was taken on her complaint.

In an email interview with *Firstpost*, Namaah detailed instances in which she says Surendran behaved in disturbing ways. Once, when commissioning a story on the dark web, Namaah says Surendran asked her questions like "Do you buy leather/other kinky stuff" to "You look like someone who might" (not verbatim). Namaah recounts finding the questions strange and inappropriate, but wasn't sure if it was enough to report him.

Later, Surendran picked up an illustration Namaah was working on for a story on BDSM and said the woman in the picture resembled Namaah; the drawing in question was of a faceless, scantily-dressed, leather-clad woman, Namaah adds. "Several such comments followed, always somehow directed at me. But there was also a barrage of casual old-fashioned sexism in every edit meet," Namaah says.

Initially, she told herself that her workplace was a liberal environment, and stories that dealt with subjects like the dark web and BDSM might lead to difficult conversations. Over time, and on speaking with two other colleagues (one male, one female), Naamah concluded that Surendran's behaviour had made many others uncomfortable. "His blatant misogyny and inappropriate comments started to seem normalised," she says.

Namaah says she approached a representative from HR who — in a strikingly similar manner to what Joanna Lobo says happened when she flagged the issue at *DNA* — told Surendran that she had complained about him. "My understanding of the due process is that there should be an internal committee that deals with this (which there was not), and even more importantly, that the authorities were to respect the complainant's anonymity, especially when requested as such. This didn't happen. This led to CP stopping all communication with me in the fair few months for which he continued to work there, which as I'm sure you can understand, made work not only harder, but also quite hostile; especially considering most approvals of commissioned stories and illustrations were routed through him," Namaah says.

Namaah says Surendran became irregular at work a few months later, and then stopped coming in.

"There was never an apology. Never a mention of all this. I continued to work with *Arré* till October 2016 and maintained a wonderful relationship with everyone there despite CP's behaviour, and upper management's complicity in it. I need it to be known that I have nothing but the utmost respect for the editorial team that put in all the work that makes *Arré* what it is. I don't hold *Arré* as a whole at fault for the above. I also think it's troubling that they wrote to me, telling me that the issue was dealt with, rather than confirming with me that it was. It was not," she told *Firstpost*.

In response to an email from *Firstpost*, Niyati Merchant from *Arré* said, "In late 2015 before we launched *Arré*, our then employee, Namaah Kumar, brought to our notice CP Surendran's inappropriate remarks. CP, who was a consultant with the organisation since June 2015, was informed unequivocally that such behaviour would not be acceptable at *Arré*, which is committed to creating a culture that is above all,

respectful to women. Subsequently, *Arré* did not renew CP Surendran's contract and he ceased working in any capacity with us from December 2015. We launched *Arré* in April 2016, and Namaah continued to work at *Arré* until October 2016."

Apart from women who worked with Surendran, others who encountered him at events like literary festivals have also spoken out about being subjected to discomfiting behaviour.

The writer Nilanjana Roy tweeted about having to fend off Surendran at the Kovalam Literary Festival in 2012; he was drunk at the time and leaned onto her and she had to push him off. (Initially, Roy's account had been shared anonymously (<https://twitter.com/TheRestlessQuil/status/1048632605841616897>) by journalist Sandhya Menon via her handle @TheRestlessQuil; later, Roy revealed that it was her story.)

Roy told *Firstpost* about her #MeToo allegation against Surendran, "This is not about any one individual, it's about calling out and trying to change patterns of harmful, abusive behaviour across entire industries. And while the incident I described is not an assault, I still remember stepping out of CP's path and him walking into me, and having to push him and his hands off me. I share it just to support the accounts by other women who went through far worse; their accounts were believable in any case, but my experience made me see what they'd gone through even more clearly."

Another journalist — who we do not have permission to quote in this report — alleged that Surendran made repeated passes at her at a literary festival; despite her disinterest, he attempted to massage her neck, stopping only when she told him he was hurting her. A third journalist has tweeted about being asked questions about her sex life by Surendran, whom she met at a literary festival.

Firstpost sent a seven-point questionnaire to CP Surendran, referring to these specific allegations, and for his response to them.

Surendran wrote back (in a statement he has since shared with other media houses as well): "I may have made what some people consider to be sexist comments. I believe sexism is an intellectual and physical reality. And I may be a victim of it myself. I choose not to think in given categories. This may be construed as arrogance. I may

1 2 3 4 5

have put an arm around a woman at a party, never at work. That act of familiarity may have caused offense, which I regret, but I have never meant to give grief. I have not made obscene comments or gestures. I have not played with 'breast shaped' balls as alleged. I have not massaged unwilling necks and said my door is open, as alleged. I can't recall making any remarks about clothes in bad taste at *DNA*. Drunk, I have not chased women across gardens as alleged. I have no gender or political loyalties. I have paid a price for this all my life. It is quite easy to hate me. I often rub people of both genders the wrong way with my often ill-considered views. The majoritarianism that liberals deplore in political discourse is what is at stake here. This is the lynch mob of the drawing room at work. I am being shamed in a *Scarlet Letter-meets-The Crucible* social media-produced movie. I have no power to stop this. The #MeToo movement needs victims to feed and fatten itself. I won't be the last."

Incidentally, the '*Scarlet Letter-meets-The Crucible*' reference is one Surendran's wife Manjula Narayan also used to describe the #MeToo movement in an earlier tweet (<https://twitter.com/utterflea/status/1050872215389040640>).

Meanwhile, Joanna Lobo has continued to question *DNA* on social media, asking why they haven't issued a statement yet about why her complaint against Surendran was dealt with, the way it was.

"I am happy #MeToo is finally addressing the imbalance of power in the newsrooms. This all-boys' club, which brings with it a sense of entitlement and complacency, needs to be dismantled and thrown out," she told *Firstpost*. "Male editors and seniors have managed to get away with a lot of problematic behaviour without suffering the consequences. I am hoping this movement ensures that women's voices are heard and believed."

Adds Shikha Kumar, "This is a watershed moment for Indian newsrooms, and other creative professions too. Having anti-sexual harassment policies, conducting sensitisation sessions means nothing unless you proactively crack down on issues."

Updated Date: Oct 16, 2018 18:25 PM

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F.



MeToo in India: Event manager Vibhu Sharma accused of assault, writer Sachin Garg of misconduct

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[in-india-event-manager-vibhu-sharma-accused-of-assault-writer-sachin-garg-of-misconduct-5365861.html](https://www.firstpost.com/india/metoo-in-india-event-manager-vibhu-sharma-accused-of-assault-writer-sachin-garg-of-misconduct-5365861.html))

Kailash Kher accused of sexual misconduct; singer says he's 'extremely disappointed, not aware of such an act'

([https://www.firstpost.com/entertainment/kailash-](https://www.firstpost.com/entertainment/kailash-kher-accused-of-sexual-misconduct-singer-says-hes-extremely-disappointed-not-aware-of-such-an-act-5338741.html)

[kher-accused-of-sexual-misconduct-singer-says-hes-extremely-disappointed-not-aware-of-such-an-act-5338741.html](https://www.firstpost.com/entertainment/kailash-kher-accused-of-sexual-misconduct-singer-says-hes-extremely-disappointed-not-aware-of-such-an-act-5338741.html))

My #MeToo moment:

Founding editor of national paper forced himself on me, planted shame, fear, almost broke me

(<https://www.firstpost.com/india/my-metoo-moment-founding-editor-of-national-newspaper-forced-himself-on-me-planted-shame-fear-almost-broke-me-5337121.html>)

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Firstpost at Asian Games 2018: Indonesian culture and the love for Shah Rukh Khan

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Kerala, After The Flood: How ill-timed release of dam water, lack of warning led to Periyar laying waste to Idukki

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Thursday, August 23, 2018

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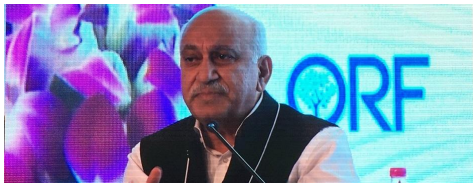
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score-2nd-test-at-abu-dhabi-day-1-5385901.html)

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Ex-BSP MP's son Ashish Pandey threatens couple with pistol outside five-star hotel in Delhi, booked under Arms Act

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The Delhi Police has registered a complaint against a former Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MP's son after a video of him brandishing a pistol at a five-star hotel in the city was widely shared on social media. The incident took place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel late on Saturday.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs of India, Kiren Rijiju reacted to the news on Twitter (https://twitter.com/KirenRijiju/status/1052107224259092480) and said "strong and appropriate action will be taken." The minister also added that an FIR has been registered under Arms Act and IPC by the Delhi Police and that verification of identities of others involved was being undertaken.

According to *India Today*, a team of the Delhi Police has left for Lucknow to work with the Uttar Pradesh Police to nab the Ashish Pandey. "Ashish Pandey does not live in Delhi. He lives in Lucknow. We have sent a team to Lucknow to locate the man," a police officer told IANS.

The accused was identified as Ashish Pandey, son of former BSP MP Rakesh Pandey, reported *ANI* (<https://twitter.com/ANI/status/1052068933681987584>). Ashish Pandey is the brother of Ritesh Pandey, the BSP MLA from Jalalpur in Uttar Pradesh's Ambedkar Nagar, reported *CNN-News18* (<https://www.news18.com/news/india/bsp-mlas-brother-whips-out-pistol-to-threaten-couple-outside-delhi-five-star-hotel-1910359.html>). The video, obtained by Firstpost, shows Ashish Pandey with a gun at the entrance of the hotel in South Delhi. He appears to be threatening and hurling abuses at a man and woman, even as the hotel staff at the foyer try to calm him down. A woman joins the accused in intimidating the couple.

The video appears to have been shot on a mobile phone by someone accompanying Ashish Pandey in his car.

Ashish Pandey, who was booked under the Arms Act, is absconding. The police have launched a search for him. Officers told *CNN-News18* that the staff at the five-star hotel in Delhi registered an FIR against the accused.

A senior police officer was quoted as saying: "A complaint from Assistant Security Manager, Hyatt Regency Hotel, RK Puram, has been received regarding incident that occurred on the intervening night of 13 and 14 October. A male is seen brandishing a weapon in the footage. A case under the Arms Act has been registered."

The hotel issued a statement saying they were taking the incident seriously and the safety and security of guests is a primary concern, *ANI* reported.

The safety & security of our guests is our primary concern. We take the incident seriously & have been working with the local police authorities on the same: Hyatt Regency Delhi on Ashish Pandey, son of former BSP MP Rakesh Pandey, seen brandishing a gun outside the hotel [pic.twitter.com/HxtVz35Ulg](https://t.co/HxtVz35Ulg) (<https://t.co/HxtVz35Ulg>)

— ANI (@ANI) October 16, 2018

(https://twitter.com/ANI/status/1052128902729146368?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The Delhi Police said an FIR has been registered under the Arms Act and sections of the IPC, including those related to causing hurt (323), criminal intimidation (506) and using force with the intent to outrage the modesty of a woman (354). Initially the case was registered under the Arms Act and sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) were added later, police said, adding that they have also reached out to their Uttar Pradesh counterparts, reported PTI.

Updated Date: Oct 16, 2018 18:04 PM

Also See



Ex-BSP MP's son booked for brandishing gun: Hyatt Regency 'taking incident seriously', says guests' security primary concern

(<https://www.firstpost.com/india/bsp-mps-son-booked-for-brandishing-weapon-hyatt-regency-says-taking-incident-seriously-security-of-guests-primary-concern-5388301.html>)



Mayawati to launch BSP's election campaign for Chhattisgarh on Saturday, will address mega rally in Bilaspur

(<https://www.firstpost.com/politics/mayawati-to-launch-bsps-election-campaign-for-chhattisgarh-on-saturday-will-address-mega-rally-in-bilaspur-5360321.html>)



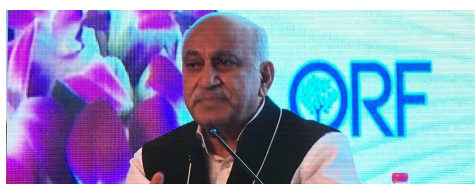
Mayawati's exit 'can't dent fortunes' of Congress, says Madhya Pradesh party chief Kamal Nath ahead of Assembly polls

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Law Ministry endorses proposal to remove time limit to report child sexual abuse, says Maneka Gandhi

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New Delhi: The Law Ministry has endorsed a proposal of the Women and Child Development Ministry to remove the time limit for reporting child sexual abuse, WCD Minister Maneka Gandhi said Tuesday.

Maneka Gandhi had, on 3 October, written to Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad asking him to remove the time limit for reporting child sexual abuse and allow people to complain even "10-15 years later".

She told reporters that the Law Ministry has agreed to their proposal and endorses removal of time limit for reporting such crimes.



"Further course would be decided soon," a senior WCD official said.

Under Section 468 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), any offence, including child abuse, which can lead to a prison term of three years has to be reported within three years of the incident.

According to Section 473 of the CrPC, a court may take cognisance of an older case if it is in the "interest of justice" or if the "delay has been properly explained".

However, victims of child sexual abuse often face problems in registering an FIR once they are 18 years of age or more.

In her letter, Maneka Gandhi had urged the Law Minister that people should be allowed to lodge their complaint even "10-15 years later".

"It doesn't matter how much later. If you're going to complain, the avenue is open," she had earlier said.

"We are of the view that cases of child sexual abuse can be reported by the victim at any time and law enforcement agencies would be required to take appropriate actions on the complaint of such victim," she said in the letter.

Many children, the minister said, are unable to report such crimes as the perpetrator in most cases is either a family member, a relative or a closely known person.

"Studies have also shown that the child continues to carry the trauma of sexual abuse till very late in life," Maneka Gandhi wrote to Prasad.

She had earlier proposed that child sexual abuse victims be allowed to register complaints until they are 30.

Updated Date: Oct 16, 2018 18:05 PM

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Union Cabinet nod to pact for mutual cooperation with Russia in highways sector; MoU will be signed during Putin's visit

(<https://www.firstpost.com/india/union-cabinet-nod-to-pact-for-mutual-cooperation-with-russia-in-highways-sector-mou-will-be-signed-during-putins-visit-5312531.html>)



'Matter between MJ Akbar and women': Uma Bharti on sexual harassment allegations against junior minister

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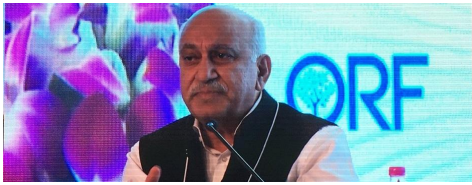
Kailash Satyarthi seeks international legally-binding UN convention on 'moral epidemic' of child sexual abuse

(<https://www.firstpost.com/world/kailash-satyarthi-seeks-international-legally-binding-un-convention-on-moral-epidemic-of-child-sexual-abuse-5337761.html>)

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