

# 150 gathered, but no one helped him

**SHOCKING** Eyewitnesses say hero cop chased robbers after being shot, no passersby helped him out of fear of being killed

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**NEW DELHI:** "Pakad lo inko... maar dega (Nab them. They will kill you)" — these were the last words of Delhi Police constable Anand Singh, moments before he was shot by three men robbing a woman in outer Delhi's Shahbad Dairy.

An eyewitness, who saw Singh fight the men, said: "Despite being shot, Singh chased the fleeing bikers on foot while holding his gunshot wounds with one hand. More than 150 people had gathered near the spot but no one helped him. The bikers had a pistol," he said.

A man who called the police said Singh had fought like a hero. "He (Singh) kept shouting, urging passersby to corner the bikers. But no one listened. I could not help either as I am differently abled," the man said.

"All I could do was watch as people turned a blind eye to his requests. After Singh collapsed, they all gathered around and watched him die. No one cared to rush him to a hospital," he said.

He said Singh was rushed to a hospital after 20 minutes after the police arrived at the scene.

Singh's brother Vikas Sushil, who attended the wreath laying ceremony at the New Police Lines ground on Saturday, told HT the slain constable wanted to become a police officer and sacrifice his life for the force since his childhood.

"As a child, he dreamt of



Police commissioner Alok Verma pays tributes to Anand Singh at New Police Lines Ground on Saturday. (Below) The police chief interacts with the kin of Singh after the ceremony.

winning the gallantry medal. He always wanted to be an honest officer. Our father was in the Army and he was the one who taught us to be disciplined and honest," Sushil said. "He has made us very proud. But what about his family now? He was the only earning member of the family. Both his children are studying, his wife is a housewife," Vikas added. Daulat Singh, a childhood friend recalled: "As kids, we always talked chasing robbers. Who could have imagined my friend would actually die chas-

ing robbers while trying to save a woman," he said.

"We were selected together and completed our police training together. When I used to get tired during the harsh training and thought of quitting, he motivated me. He told me he can do anything to earn this uniform. His passion for his job was unparalleled. He was a true hero," Daulat said.

Singh had joined the Delhi Police in 1988. The Delhi government has announced a compensation of ₹1 crore for Singh's family.



Police chief interacts with the kin of Singh after the ceremony.

## they say

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AN EYEWITNESS, who first called up the Police Control Room

He has made us very proud. But what about his family now? He was the only earning member of the family. He has made us very proud. But what about his family now? He was the only earning member of the family.

VIKAS SUSHIL, brother of Anand Singh

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DAULAT SINGH, friend of constable Anand Singh

## NARROW SHAVE

# Police clueless about bullet that hit 10-year-old

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**NEW DELHI:** Forty-eight hours after a 10-year-old boy was hit by a stray bullet in an east Delhi colony, the police are struggling to find clues about the source of the bullet or the identity of the attacker.

Aman was hit by a stray bullet near his New Sanjay Amar Colony residence in east Delhi on Thursday evening.

His parents took him to a hospital on Thursday for treatment for what they thought was a simple wound. The doctors later told them that the boy was hit by a bullet, which has been removed from Aman's abdomen.

Police are questioning locals to find if they had seen anyone with a gun in the area but have not got any leads.

"The bullet wound is not very deep. We suspect it was fired from a distance and not with the intention to kill," said an investigating officer.

On Saturday, when HT visited the spot, they found forensic officers gathering evidence from outside the boy's house.

"We suspect someone may have fired a shot in the air and the bullet hit the child. We are trying to figure out the direction from which the bullet was fired," said a police officer.

Around 10pm on Thursday, Aman, a class 4 student, was



Aman Singh

**COPS ARE QUESTIONING LOCALS TO FIND IF THEY HAD SEEN ANYONE WITH A GUN IN THE AREA BUT HAVE NOT GOT ANY LEADS SO FAR**

returning home from a shop when he felt something had hit him in his lower left abdomen. Aman, who was bleeding, informed his uncle.

"We thought it was a minor injury, probably caused by a stone or something. We took him to a nearby clinic where they advised us to take the boy to Dr Hedgewar Aarogya Sansthan. The doctors found a bullet and transferred him to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital," said Aman's father, Ranveer Singh.

A doctor at the hospital said that the bullet, which went a centimetre inside his abdomen, was removed. Aman's mother Prema said her son is recovering at the hospital.

# Shut for 6 months to breaking ridership record, how Airport Express scripted a turnaround

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**NEW DELHI:** When Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) took over the Airport Express Line in 2013, it was running off track. It remained shut for six months, carried only 9,000 passengers every day and chugged at a speed of 50 kmph instead of the promised 80 kmph.

Three years on, the line has bounced back to life. Last week, it recorded its highest ridership ever when a little over 50,000 people travelled on it in a single day.

The highest ridership on this line was 12,000 in March 2014, which increased to 19,466 in 2015. DMRC said the monthly average ridership on this section has more than doubled from 17,535 in April, 2015 to 37,772 in July, 2016. VIPs, including Union minister M Venkaiah Naidu, travel on this line often, tweeting pictures once in a while.

To attract passengers, DMRC revised the fare twice and made several passenger friendly changes to ensure more people use this line.

The maximum fare has been reduced to ₹60 from ₹180. The minimum is now ₹10 against ₹50 in 2013.

"Various steps such as extension of timings to suit the passengers of Shatabdi Express trains, improvement of frequency from 15 minutes to 10 minutes 30 seconds, improvement of speed from 70 kmph to 80 kmph, seamless interchange between the Indian



Last week, the Airport Express Metro line recorded its highest ridership of 50,000 people.

## SUCCESS STORY

- Service shut from July 7, 2012 to Jan 22, 2013 due to technical problems.
- After reopening, speed cut to 50 km/hr, extending journey time from airport to New Delhi Station to over 40 minutes.
- On June 27 2013, private concessionaire said it can't operate line beyond June 30, 2013.
- DMRC took over operations from July 1 2013
- DMRC reinstated 80 km/hr speed on the line in mid-2014.

Railways station at New Delhi and Metro stations resulted in increase in ridership to 14,200 a day from 9,000 when we took over," said a DMRC spokesperson.

Metro smart cards were made valid for travel on the airport line from May 1, 2015 and because of this, on May 11, 2015, the ridership was 26,580. Second fare reduction was introduced from September 18, 2015 and on November 5, 35,405 people used the line.

On August 12, the ridership reached to 50,077. "The increased

footfall has resulted in increase in revenue both from fare and non-fare. As more passengers are coming in, the land which were lying vacant are now attracting bidders. At Shivaji stadium, most of the space is out for rent," said a DMRC official.

To increase the number of airport-bound passengers, the DMRC had written a letter to the aviation ministry, asking it to either shift the low cost airlines from terminal 1D to Terminal 3 or provide connectivity to transport check-in baggage from aerocity metro station to Terminal 1D.

# DANCE TEACHER KILLED BY TWO TROUPE MEMBERS

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**NEW DELHI:** A 23-year-old dance instructor was stabbed to death on Friday afternoon by two members of his troupe in southeast Delhi's Jaitpur area.

Police said the victim, identified as Gaurav, had thrashed one of the accused some days ago and was killed for revenge.

The accused, Manoj and Deepak, attacked Gaurav with a 'khukri' and have been arrested, a senior police officer said.

Deepak stabbed Gaurav in his thigh and arms multiple times, the officer added. The accused had on Friday gone to Gaurav's house at Hari Nagar in Jaitpur area and called him outside to have a chat. They later had an argument and allegedly stabbed him with a 'khukri', the sheath of which was recovered by the police from the spot, the officer said.

The accused were arrested on Saturday from their homes in Molarband Extension area in Badarpur.

Deepak and Manoj were part of Gaurav's dance troupe that used to perform at events across the city. Deepak and Gaurav had an argument some days ago, after which Gaurav and his friends allegedly thrashed Deepak, the officer said.

Deepak then planned to teach Gaurav a lesson and involved Manoj in his plan to kill him. They fled the spot after stabbing him, leaving the 'khukri' sheath behind.

## HONOURED



Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia felicitates Olympic Sakshi Malik, in Rohtak on Saturday. Sakshi won the bronze medal for wrestling in the 58 kg category at the Rio 2016 Olympics.

MANOJ DHAKA/HT PHOTO

# Uttar Pradesh govt may reduce circle rates in Noida, Ghaziabad

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**NOIDA:** The Uttar Pradesh government is considering a proposal to reduce circle rates in 12 districts, including Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad.

The principal secretary of Uttar Pradesh (stamp and registration) has asked district magistrates to submit details of circle rate hikes in the last 5 years.

Demands from home-buyers, industrialists and realtors among others had prompted this rethink. The government has sought suggestions from all stakeholders on this proposal.

"I had a meeting with the realtors' body- confederation of real estate developers association of India (CREDAI) in sector 27 office and sought their suggestions," said NP Singh, district magistrate of Gautam Budh Nagar.

"The government has asked realtors and others to submit factual data on why circle rates should be reduced. We will send all details demanded by government soon," he said.

The administration hiked circle rates up to 14% for residential properties, effective from August 1, despite objections

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NP SINGH, district magistrate, Gautam Budh Nagar

# HC glare on 900 extra trees cut for road-widening project in S Delhi

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**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi High Court has directed the government and the public works department to submit a report on the number of trees cut during a road-widening project in south Delhi's Vasant Kunj. The court wanted to know the status of the wood of the trees.

Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva issued notice to Unified Traffic & Transportation Infrastructure (Planning & Engineering) Centre (UTTIPPEC) and directed it to submit a report on the number of trees planted under the scheme of compensatory plantation, the nature of trees planted, the dates of plantation and their present status.

The high court order came on petitions filed by Bindu Kapurea and Ranjana Mitra, both Vasant Kunj residents.

The petition claimed that despite an undertaking given to the court, the authorities had felled about 900 trees "over and above what was permitted" for the Mehrauli-Mahipalpur road widening project.

The court was informed that of the total 810 trees listed for felling, at least 298 could be rescued.

"Petitioners appallingly found that 892 trees over and beyond what was permitted were felled by the respondents," the petition filed through advocate Manoj V George said. George said even after felling of 892 trees on the stretch of road, no compensatory plantation had taken place in and around the areas from where the trees had been cut.

# Pedestrian first in Metro's Phase-III expansion

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**NEW DELHI:** Separate lanes for pedestrians and cyclists, corridors for non-motorised vehicles and space for bus stops — Delhi Metro is taking steps to deal with haphazard traffic movement outside stations.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) will develop 300 metres outside about 15 stations to accommodate all types of vehicles.

The stations in old Delhi, part of the Heritage Line, will provide separate space to rickshaws and a cycles.

"When we hand over land to the agency, it will have a separate lane for every vehicle. Pedestrians will have a safe passage to walk to the desired mode of transport. A pick-up point has been created," said a DMRC official.



DMRC will develop 300 metres outside 15 upcoming stations to accommodate all types of vehicles.

According to DMRC, passengers walk, ride a bicycle or scooter or a taxi and a bus from a metro station to the destination.

"Delhi Metro has taken steps to provide its commuters last-mile connectivity and other facilities in upcoming phase III

Metro stations. Pedestrians will get maximum priority," said a DMRC spokesperson.

"The control over first and last-mile connectivity is outside metro's direct jurisdiction but, in phase III, with intervention of UTTIPEC, integrated propos-

als have been worked out for all metro stations within a 300M radius," the spokesman said.

Pedestrian zones around stations will help commuters walk safely towards the bus stop, cycle stand, and bays for three-wheelers, e-rickshaws and feeder buses.

UTTIPPEC finished the integration proposal in coordination with DMRC, traffic police and road-owning agencies such as Delhi Development Authority, the public works department and municipal corporations and the lieutenant governor approved it.

"In addition to drop-off facilities, crossing junctions are proposed for improved visibility and shortened crossing time," the spokesperson added.

For convenience and safety of bicycle users, separate cycle tracks are planned along with cycle parking/rental facility. A bus service is also being proposed.