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How Newspapers Downplayed the Fatal Chand Bagh Police Attack

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma**

The author argues that several newspapers downplayed the fatal attack on police in Delhi's Chand Bagh by omitting the attackers' links to the anti-CAA protest. The article compares coverage of two police videos, citing front-page reporting in the Delhi edition of The Times of India, less specific descriptions in other papers and a later account in the Bengaluru edition that disputed whether such an attack had been substantiated.



Representational image: popular Indian newspapers (Daniel Berehulak/Getty Images)

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- The footage was said to be from the afternoon of 24 February. It captured violence in which head constable Ratan Lal was killed and DCP Amit Sharma was seriously injured.
- The Indian Express and The Hindu called the attackers a "mob". Sharma notes that both papers omitted the firing at police.
- Hindustan Times put the footage report on page five and called the attackers "groups of rioters", leaving out their identification as anti-CAA protesters.
- The Times of India's Bengaluru edition said on 14 March there had been no news substantiating claims of anti-CAA protesters attacking police, contradicting its Delhi edition's earlier coverage.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in March 2020. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.