Twitter Thread by Jugal / ■■■■



Jugal / ■■■■
@jugalrp

IMP ■ INVESTIGATION

India's lockdown was called world's largest, strictest etc. @ BBC, we wanted to know how the govt planned it.

So, what're we looking at?

Govt docs that reveal every department/agency who was consulted by PM Modi before imposing #lockdown.

#Thread



How did we access the docs? Well, for months my colleague Arjun Parmar and I filed RTI applications with the relevant govt depts - State & Centre. Hundreds in fact. We then filed appeals, then filed second appeals..phew!

Background - this day last year, India had less than 600 cases and nine deaths. Some European & Latin American nations (with way higher numbers) had imposed lockdowns.

China, with thousands of deaths and cases by March 2020, never imposed a national lockdown.

One more thing - India started monitoring and preparing it's response to coronavirus from January 8, 2020. It was repeatedly mentioned that none other than PM was personally leading the effort.

Let's start with what we've got now.

India's lockdown was imposed by an @ndmaindia order. Who heads NDMA? Prime Minister.

So we asked NDMA - who all were consulted before lockdown? Also, how many NDMA meetings did the PM attend? Their response.

NIL to both. Yes, NIL.



Select Language: English

Public Authorities Available

RTI Online

Version 2.0

An Initiative of Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India

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Final Status of NDMAU/R/E/21/00002

Applicant Name	Jugal Purohit
Date of receipt	12/01/2021
Request Filed With	National Disaster Management Authority
Text of Application	On March 24, 2020 NDMA issued its order number 1-29/2020-PP (Pt II) using provisions under section 6 (2) (i) of the Disaster Management act, 2005. With regards to the same, please share the following information: a. List all the public authorities/experts/individuals/government institutes/private institutes consulted by the NDMA before issuing the said order with the date and copy of their advice/representation/presentation to the NDMA b. Provide copies of communication whereby before issuing the above order, relevant state government authorities were consulted, their views solicited and queries responded to, if any. c. Between January 1, 2020 and March 24, 2020, list the number of meetings which took place on the above subject where Chairperson of the NDMA was in attendance d. Between January 1, 2020 and March 24, 2020, list the number of meetings which took place under the aegis of the National Executive Committee
Request document *(if any)*	document not provided
Status	REQUEST DISPOSED OF as on 14/01/2021
Date of Action	14/01/2021
Remarks	Reply :- The information from PP Division, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) with respect to part (a) to part (c) of the RTI request is nil. For part (d), Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs may be requested.

Print

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BBC BBC BBC BBC BBC BBC

Coming to @PMOIndia - our RTI applications were met with little or no info. A clause that is not even an exemption clause was used to not give info. We're contesting these decisions and shall see how it goes.

Am giving you an example below ■

PMOIN/R/E/21/00344

RTI No. : RTI/860/2021-PMR
Name of the Applicant : Shri Arjun Parmar
Date of Application : 22.01.2021

Pt. No.	Information Sought	Response
	On March 24 2020, the Prime Minister addressed the nation on vital aspects relating to the menace of COVID-19 where he said, from 12 midnight today the entire country, shall go under complete lockdown, this lockdown in the country will be for 21 days. Provide the following information	The information sought by the applicant is vague and roving in nature. Therefore, the same may not come under the definition of information under Section 2(f) of the RTI Act, 2005.
a.	Before declaring the said national lockdown on March 24, 2020, state the names of all / any Chief Ministers/Governors / Lt. Governors / Central or State Ministers / Cabinet Committees / Ministries / Authorities / Advisers / Think tanks / Individual experts with whom PM/PMO/delegated central authority discussed / consulted on some / any / all aspects of the national lockdown.	
b.	Provide copies of relevant communication containing minutes of the meetings and/or recommendations as per Section 2(f) of RTI Act, 2005 with respect to the above point.	

Thanks

प्रवीन कुमार/PARVEEN KUMAR
अवर सचिव एवं के.ज.अ.अ./Under Secretary & CPIO
प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय/Prime Minister's Office
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

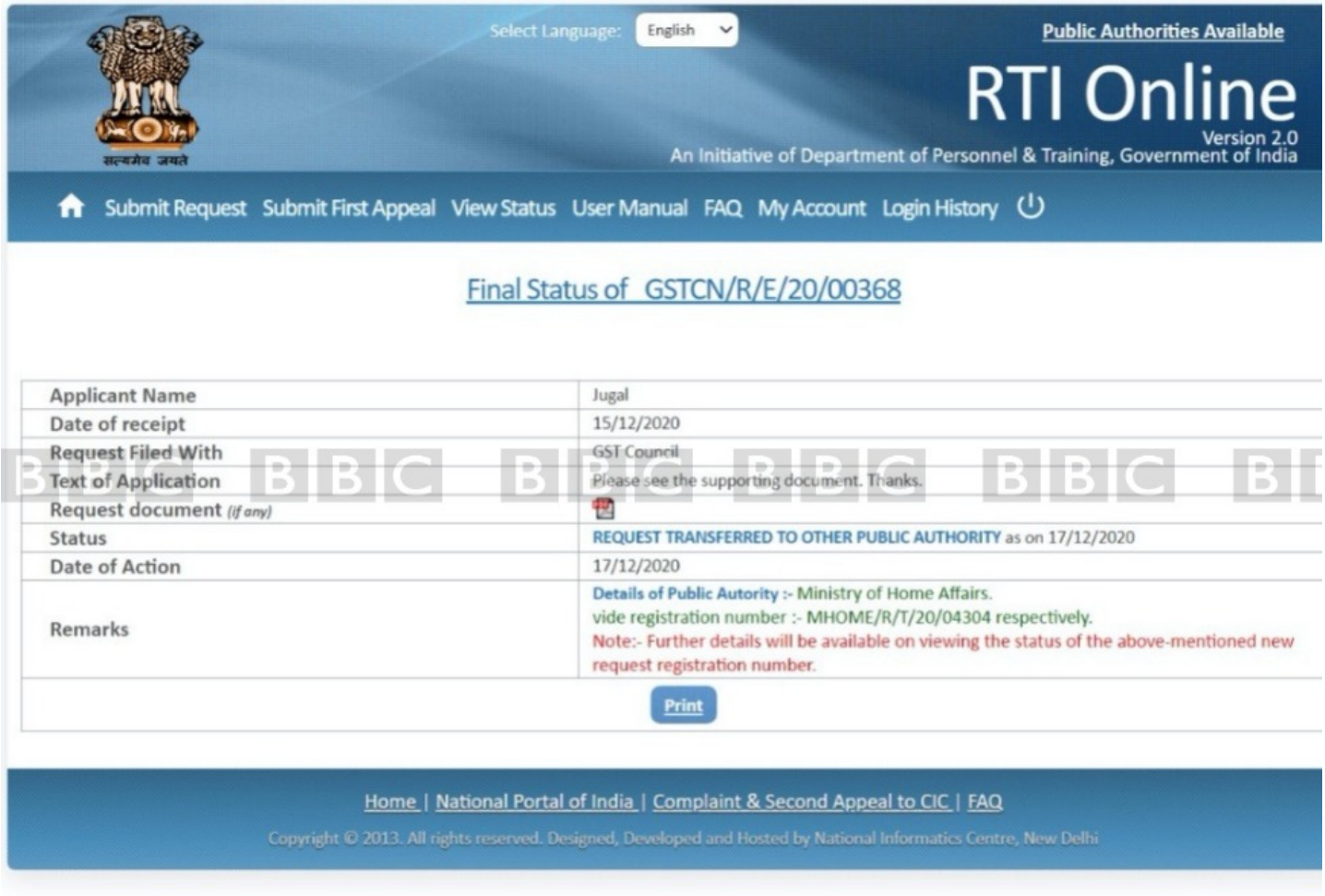
Like the PMO, so many key ministries/depts chose to transfer our RTI applications directed at THEM to the @HMOIndia - including @rashtrapatibhvn @MoHFW_INDIA @AgriGoI & @ICMRDELHI.



BBC

Coming to key economic ministries like @minmsme @MoCA_GoI @GST_Council @rsprasad - they said they had no information on consultations.

@FinMinIndia depts transferred our apps to MHA. But when MHA sent them all back, admitted it had no info on consultations.

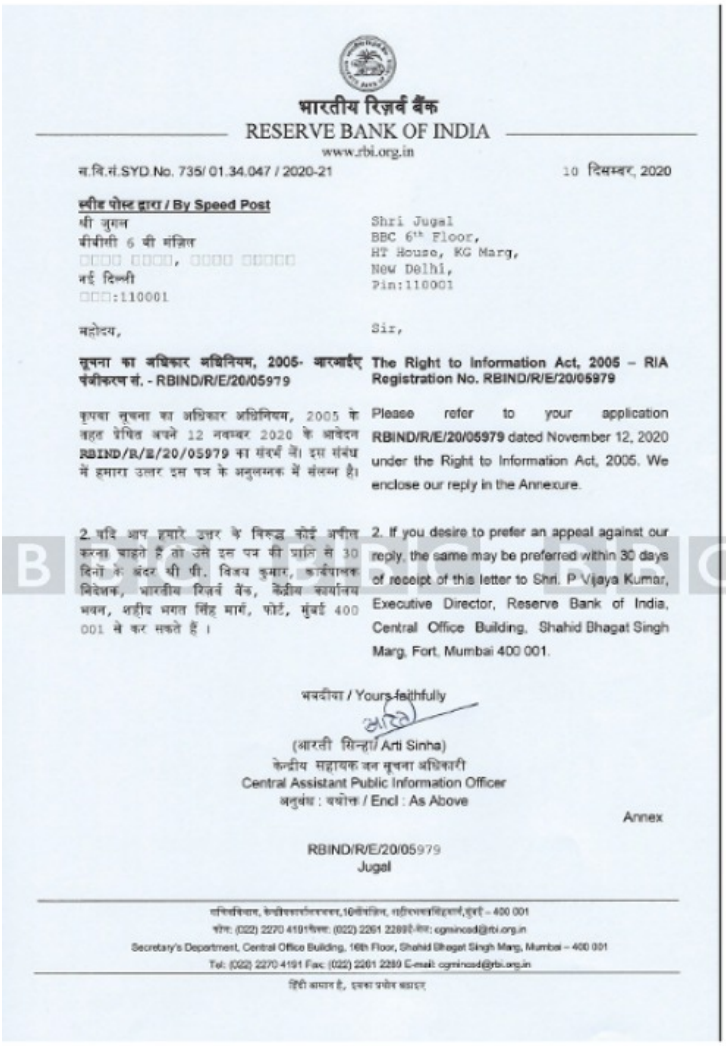


BBC

What about specialist bodies like @RBI, SEBI, @NCDCgov or Dept of Military Affairs (remember domains of disaster management, AFMS doctors etc)?

They had no information on consultations.

In fact, nothing to show they were EVEN INFORMED before lockdown.



भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
www.rbi.org.in

ग.वि.सं.SYD No. 735/ 01.34.047 / 2020-21 10 दिसम्बर, 2020

स्पीड पोस्ट द्वारा / By Speed Post

श्री जुगल
बीबीसी 6 वी मंज़िल
[redacted]
नई दिल्ली
[redacted]:110001

Shri Jugal
BBC 6th Floor,
HT House, KG Marg,
New Delhi,
Pin:110001

महोदय,

Sir,

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005- भारभाईए पंजीकरण सं. - RBIND/R/E/20/05979

The Right to Information Act, 2005 – RIA Registration No. RBIND/R/E/20/05979

कृपया सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के तहत प्रेषित अपने 12 नवम्बर 2020 के आवेदन **RBIND/R/E/20/05979** का संदर्भ लें। इस संबंध में हमारा उत्तर इस पत्र के अनुलग्नक में संलग्न है।

Please refer to your application **RBIND/R/E/20/05979** dated November 12, 2020 under the Right to Information Act, 2005. We enclose our reply in the Annexure.

2. यदि आप हमारे उत्तर के विरुद्ध कोई अपील करना चाहते हैं तो उसे इस पत्र की प्राप्ति से 30 दिनों के अंदर श्री पी. विजय कुमार, कार्यपालक निदेशक, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक, केंद्रीय कार्यालय भवन, शहीद भगत सिंह मार्ग, फोर्ट, मुंबई 400 001 से कर सकते हैं ।

2. If you desire to prefer an appeal against our reply, the same may be preferred within 30 days of receipt of this letter to Shri. P Vijaya Kumar, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India, Central Office Building, Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg, Fort, Mumbai 400 001.

भवदीया / Yours faithfully

(आरती सिन्हा/ Arti Sinha)
केन्द्रीय सहायक जन सूचना अधिकारी
Central Assistant Public Information Officer
अनुबंध : यथोक्त / Encl : As Above

Annex

RBIND/R/E/20/05979
Jugal

सचिवविभाग, केंद्रीयकार्यालयभवन,18वींमंज़िल, शहीदभगतसिंहमार्ग, मुंबई – 400 001
फोन: (022) 2270 4191फैक्स: (022) 2261 2289ई-मेल: cgmincsd@rbi.org.in
Secretary's Department, Central Office Building, 18th Floor, Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg, Mumbai – 400 001
Tel: (022) 2270 4191 Fax: (022) 2261 2289 E-mail: cgmincsd@rbi.org.in

हिंदी आसान है, इसका प्रयोग बढ़ाइए

Annex

RBIND/R/E/20/05979
Jugal

Sr. No.	Information Sought	Our Reply
	On March 24 2020, the Prime Minister addressed the nation on 'vital aspects relating to the menace of COVID-19' where he said, "Keeping in mind health sector experts and experiences of other countries, the nation is about to take a very important decision today. From 12 midnight today the entire country shall go under complete lockdown…this lockdown in the country will be for 21 days. The next 21 days are of great importance for us. As per health experts, a period of at least 21 days is critical to break the infection cycle of Coronavirus." **Based on Section 2(F) of the RTI Act 2005 where information means material in any form including records, documents, memos, emails, opinions, advices, circulars, press releases, orders, logbooks reports, papers, models, data material in electronic form that may be held by this office, you are requested to share information on the following aspects:**	
a.	Please state whether or not this office/any other relevant authority delegated by this office had discussed the issue of lockdown, planning and its impact with the Prime Minister/Prime Minister's Office/any other authority delegated by the PM/PMO **before the lockdown was declared on March 24, 2020.**	We do not have any information to provide.
b.	If so, kindly share information in the form of copies of the communication or recommendation(s) made by this office/relevant authority delegated by this office to the PM/PMO/relevant authorities with regards to the lockdown and its impact or any other aspect.	We do not have any information to provide.
c.	Please state whether or not this office was informed/made aware by the PM/PMO/relevant authorities about this decision to enforce a nationwide lockdown	We do not have any information to provide.

BBC BBC BBC BBC BBC

BBC

To state administrations now.

CMs/Govs from Assam, Delhi, Punjab, Gujarat, UP, DONER (centre's bridge to North East) all of them had nothing to show they knew.

*UP CMO threw our application out when it was asked about its own prep and info.



Remember migrant workers crisis?

Over 1 crore workers had to return home post lockdown.

@LabourMinistry could not produce ONE DOCUMENT to show it had given any suggestions/foreseen the crisis/provided means to avert it - before the lockdown came.

.@NITIAayog's @RajivKumar1 told my colleague Nidhi Rai that @narendramodi 'consulted everyone' before lockdown.

Proof?

Well even NiTi Aayog's own documents don't support what Rajiv Kumar is saying.

We asked them TWICE.

Four days before the #lockdown - PM met CMs.

In the release issued afterwards, we found no mention of the word 'lockdown'. When we asked PMO if the topic was even broached, no information was provided. @HMOIndia asked us to see the press release again.

From Jan to March 2020, I located many bold pronouncements by Modi govt.

It was claimed India had adequate PPEs, isolation beds, masks. Then, on Feb 22, 2020 - 2 days before Trump arrived, @drharshvardhan claimed India had 'stalled' entry of coronavirus.

We met many citizens - from a young project manager whose both parents tested positive in April & a nurse who became jobless and was nabbed by police - who were desperate.

They were looking to their government.

Found it absent.

India suffered - whichever way you see.

Without lockdown, would suffering have been more? We don't know.

To be fair, few govts world over did well against the virus.

Q remains - why did India dive into something MINUS it's best & relevant experts on board?

Our digital documentary is out now.

@BBCHindi: https://t.co/W2bwjcZn8B

@bbcnewsmarathi: https://t.co/kGrilse7C4

@bbcnewsgujarati: https://t.co/XVkxMsvy5F

Hindi Text:

https://t.co/9HNKJnvmyx

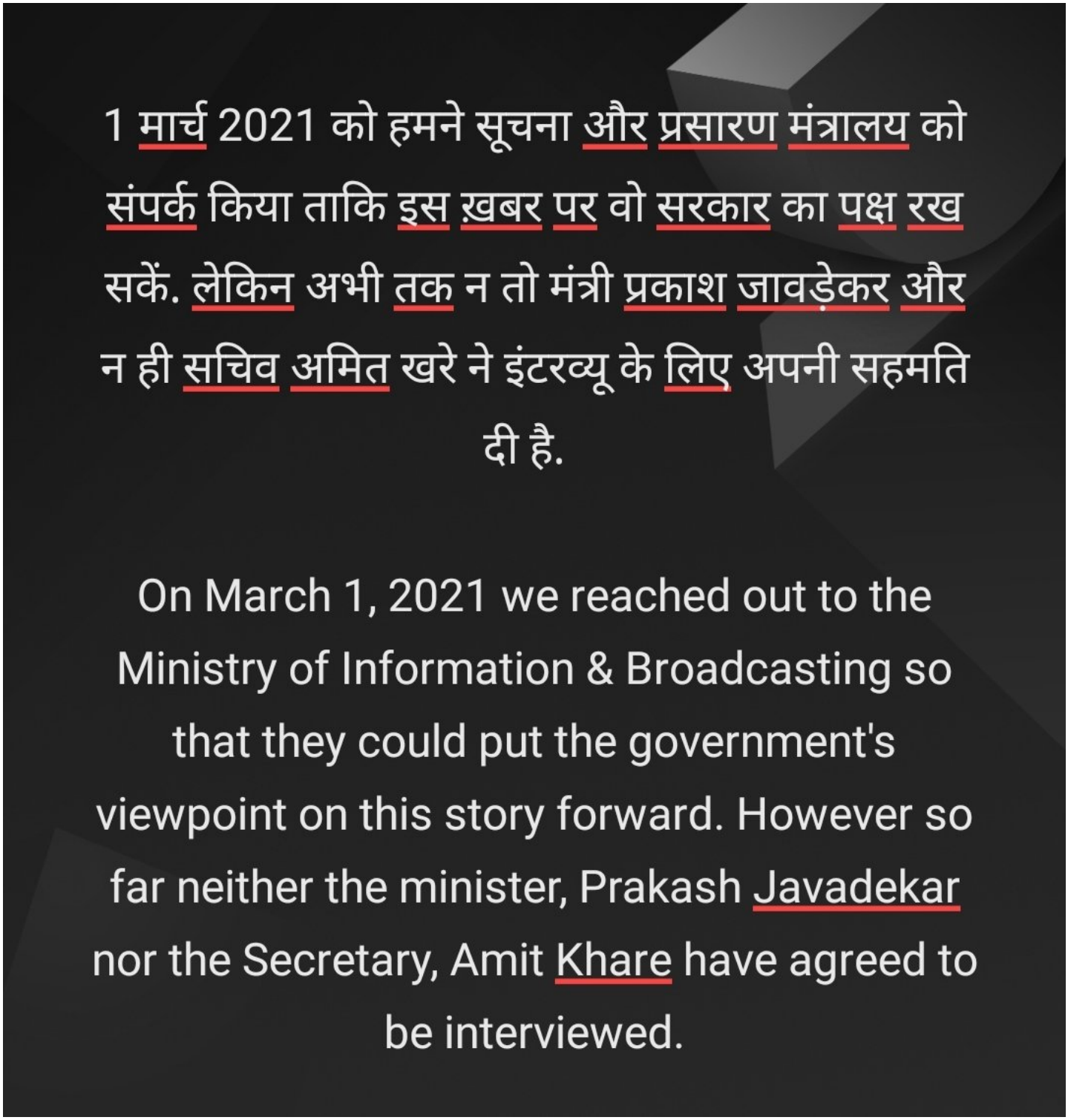
https://t.co/lFpnXr4lL7

Marathi Text:

https://t.co/g9990wX6DE

And yes - you must know this.

We requested the Modi Govt to put its point of view forward and waited for @PrakashJavdekar @MIB_India for OVER THREE FULL WEEKS.



Here's the story on other outlets:

@bbcnewspunjabi: https://t.co/I7SbWS7Quw

@bbctamil: https://t.co/87TJo61GTl

And now, investigation into @narendramodi government's #lockdown planning goes global. Please watch■■



Sorry - here's the concluding part.


Anjali Bhardwaj
Transparency Activist
BBC WORLD NEWS
Boulder shooting: Ten victims and suspect identified by police