

BAJRANG DAL ACTIVISTS ALLEGEDLY HARASSING MUSLIM SHOPKEEPER

Will take gym membership: Rahul meets 'Mohammad' Deepak

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday met a gym owner from Uttarakhand who shot into the limelight as "Mohammad Deepak" for taking on Bajrang Dal activists allegedly harassing a Muslim shopkeeper, and expressed support by telling him that he would come to Kotdwar to take membership in the gym.

Congress leader Vaibhav

Walia, the gym owner Deepak Kumar and his friend Vijay Rawat, along with several others, were present at the meeting, which took place at the 10, Janpanth residence of Congress Parliamentary Party chief Sonia Gandhi.

Deepak also met Sonia Gandhi. "Every human being is equal. This is Indianness, this is 'mohabbat ki dukaan'. Meeting with brother Mohammad Deepak from Uttarakhand - This same flame of unity and courage should burn in every Indian

youth," Rahul Gandhi, who also spoke with Deepak's wife over the phone, said in a Facebook post. After the meeting, Kumar told reporters, "Rahul ji invited me.

He introduced me to Sonia ji and also spoke with my wife over the phone. He told me that you have done a good job and I will come to Kotdwar and take a membership at your gym."

Congress leader Vaibhav Walia, who had walked with Rahul Gandhi during his Bharat Jodo Yatra, said, "Mo-

hammad Deepak has carried forward the message that Rahul Gandhi gave through the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' -- which is of opening 'Mohabbat Ki Dukaan' across the country.

"We are grateful to Rahul ji for honouring a young man from Uttarakhand who stood up for humanity and love. We hope that love will prevail and hatred will lose in Uttarakhand and the entire country," Walia said.

On January 26, Bajrang Dal activists protested outside the 'Baba' clothing store

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on Patel Marg in Kotdwar to pressure its 70-year-old owner, Vakil Ahmed, to change the name of the shop. During the protest, clashes broke out between the activists, shop owner Vakil Ahmed and his son's friend Deepak Kumar, after which Kumar, identifying himself as Mohammad

Deepak, forced the protesters to retreat.

On January 31, a larger group of activists again gathered outside Ahmed's shop and Kumar's gym, blocked the road and shouted slogans. However, police intervention prevented escalation.



Saini slams AAP over 'unfulfilled' promises

HANS NEWS SERVICE
LUDHIANA

ASSERTING that Punjab is suffering under the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) "misrule", Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday exuded confidence that the BJP will come to power in the state after the 2027 assembly polls.

Addressing the BJP's 'Purvanchal Samman' rally in Giaspur here, Saini said people see through the AAP's tactics. The rally was attended by several senior BJP leaders, including Ashwani Sharma and Anil Sareen.

Highlighting the strong bond between Punjab and Haryana, Saini likened it to "nail and flesh". He expressed concern over Punjab's condition under the AAP. He contrasted the Haryana government's welfare measures, including the Lado Lakshmi Yojana under which a monthly assistance of Rs 2,100 is provided to eligible women and procuring 24 crops at minimum support price (MSP), with the AAP's "unfulfilled" promises of giving Rs 1,000 to women and buying crops at MSP.

Saini further accused the AAP of corruption, alleging that the Arvind Kejriwal-led party has surpassed the Congress in graft. People see through the AAP's tactics, the CM said, adding that he is confident that the BJP will come to power after the 2027 polls in the state. Saini said the rally is not just an event, but a message of change.

'RSS DOES NOT PRACTICE HINDUTVA POLITICS'

•The Sangh's objective is individual development because only strong individuals can build a strong society and nation'
•Some mistake the Sangh for a paramilitary organisation, others for a service sector body, but the RSS is a social force'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has said that the Sangh does not practice Hindutva politics, rather it believes in building a strong society and nation through individual

development.

"The Sangh's objective is individual development because only strong individuals can build a strong society and nation," Bhagwat said at a programme to mark the Sangh's 100 years on Sunday, emphasising that the reality of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) cannot be

understood from the outside.

Some people mistake the Sangh for a paramilitary organisation, others for a service sector body, but the RSS is a social force working beyond these boundaries, he said, speaking on the theme 'Sangh Yatra - New Horizons, New Dimensions'.

"The world now hopes to

see India in a leadership role once again," Bhagwat said, as he called upon the gathering to empower society and the nation by joining the Sangh's activities.

Stating that only those who work to unite are Hindus, he said, "Devotion to the motherland is essential. The world understands power more than truth; therefore, acquiring power is essential, but its use should be restrained. On the role of women, Bhagwat said they are completely independent and their participation in governance should be 50 per cent, and not limited to 33 per cent. He also emphasised the need for a coordinated policy and local participation to conserve Uttarakhand's rivers and the environment.

Rs 1 cr ex-gratia each for two Pb cops found dead

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

PUNJAB Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs 1 crore each for the kin of two police personnel found dead with bullet wounds at a checkpoint near the India-Pakistan border in Gurdaspur district on Sunday.

The bodies of ASI Gurnam Singh and Home Guard Ashok Kumar, who were posted at Adhian, about 2 km from the international border, were found inside the checkpoint on Sunday.

In a post on X, Mann said, "Salute to the bravery and supreme sacrifice of martyrs ASI Gurnam Singh and PHG Ashok Kumar, who laid down their lives in the line of duty. "The Punjab government will provide an ex-gratia of Rs 1 crore each to their families, while the



HDFC Bank will provide an additional insurance amount of Rs 1 crore each."

"We stand strongly with our martyrs and their families. Their sacrifice inspires us all to perform our duties with honour and courage," the chief minister added. A forensic team visited the spot on Monday, a police officer said, adding that the case is being probed from all angles. The matter came to light when the sarpanch of Adhian village, Kamaljeet Singh, visited the checkpoint after being informed by the Dorangla SHO that both policemen were not answering their calls.



Probe exclusion of displaced residents from voter list: SC

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Monday asked the Lucknow district election officer to examine and take remedial action on the grievances of 91 residents of Akbar Nagar in the state capital who were allegedly excluded from the Uttar Pradesh SIR of electoral rolls following demolition of their homes in September 2023. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi was initially of the view that the matter, pertaining to the disputed facts relating to abode of the petitioners, cannot be looked into by it in a writ petition here. The bench, however, took note of the petition filed by one Sana Parveen and 90 others and asked the district election officer of Lucknow to enquire into the grievances and take remedial measures. It also granted liberty to the petitioners to approach the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court if they fail to get relief from the district election officer. The petitioners sought a direction to submit their enumeration forms to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to ensure their right to vote is preserved despite their lack of a permanent address following the September 2023 demolition drive.

The petitioners said they were long-term residents of Akbar Nagar whose names had appeared in the voter lists as far back as 2002, with younger residents appearing in subsequent lists. However, following the demolition of "unauthorised" constructions in the area, a move previously upheld by the courts, they found themselves excluded from the UP Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process.

Punjab govt to provide food kits to 40L families under 'Meri Rasoi'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

CHIEF Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday announced the launch of the 'Meri Rasoi' scheme, under which the Punjab government will provide essential food kits to 40 lakh families registered under the National Food Security Act.

Speaking to the media after chairing a cabinet meeting here, Mann said the initiative aims to ensure that children from poor families receive adequate nutrition.

He mentioned that the state government already provides subsidised wheat to these beneficiaries, saying that it remains committed to keeping every person healthy in the state.

Under the new scheme, the government will prepare food kits containing two kilograms of pulses, two kilograms of sugar, one kilogram of iodised salt, 200 grams of turmeric powder and one litre mustard oil. Mann stated that it was found that several children belonging to poor families were not getting adequate nutrition.

The chief minister said the kits will be distributed on a quarterly basis, with the first round of distribution scheduled to start in April. The scheme will be run by Markfed and the Department of Food and Civil Supplies, he said, adding that the quality of the food items will be checked from time to time to maintain standards.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SINGAPORE/LUCKNOW

ON the first day of his visit to Singapore, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday secured three memoranda of understanding (MoUs) worth Rs 6,650 crore with Universal Success Group for investments in group housing, a logistics park and a hyperscale data centre in the state, officials said on Monday.

The proposed projects are expected to generate more than 20,000 jobs and further strengthen the state's industrial and urban infrastructure,

Yogi secures Rs 6,650-crore investment pacts in Singapore



the government said in a statement.

The chief minister briefed investors on policy stability, improving connectivity and the rapidly expanding

industrial ecosystem in Uttar Pradesh.

He also invited the group to visit Lucknow to explore opportunities for setting up data centre facilities and assured investors of

full support at all levels. Officials described the agreements signed on the opening day of the visit as a significant step towards boosting the state's economy, accelerating urban development and generating large-scale employment.

Under the first MoU, an international theme-based township will be developed on 100 acres near the Jewar International Airport in the area of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority. The project entails an investment of Rs 3,500 crore and is expected to create around 12,000 jobs.

Man stabbed to death in Ambala

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMBALA

A 22-year-old man was killed and two others seriously injured in a fight between two groups at a marriage palace in Ambala Cantonment, police said on Monday.

The police have registered a case regarding the incident that occurred late Sunday night and formed a team to nab the accused, they said. According to the police, Sonu, 22, a resident of

Ambala City, along with his friends Bhupinder, 20, and Jasraj, 19, had arrived to attend a wedding reception in Ambala Cantonment on Sunday night. An altercation broke out between two groups present there over some issue, which later turned violent, police said.

During this, some youngsters allegedly attacked Sonu and his two friends with knives, leaving them seriously injured. The injured were taken to the civil hospital, where doctors declared Sonu

dead, police said, adding that the accused fled the spot. Police arrived at the scene after receiving information.

The CCTV footage from the venue shows some men assaulting the three friends. Information about the attackers is being gathered, police said.

Based on statements from family members, police have registered a case, they said, adding that a special team formed to search for the accused, conducted raids at several locations on Monday.

Cong walkouts of Assembly over minor's rape, murder

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR

THE Rajasthan Assembly witnessed heated exchanges between the treasury and opposition benches on Monday, leading to a walkout by Congress MLAs over the alleged rape and murder of a 12-year-old girl in Bikaner district. Raising the issue through an adjournment motion, opposition members sought details on the investigation and demanded the immediate arrest

of the accused.

Minister of State for Home Jawahar Singh Bedham, responding on behalf of the government, said the incident occurred on February 21. The minor had left home for school when she was allegedly attacked in a secluded area.

The Minister told the House that special teams are working to identify and trace the accused. "Special teams have been formed for immediate investigation. They are questioning suspects and

carrying out a thorough probe," Bedham said.

He added that the body is being kept in the mortuary and senior police officers are present at the spot. "Law and order is under control.

I assure the House that whoever the accused may be, Rajasthan Police will arrest them and put them behind bars," he said. Leader of Opposition Tika Ram Jolly questioned the government over the delay in making arrests.

Himachal govt to launch scheme to tackle malnutrition

The scheme aims to provide high-quality protein, essential calories and vital micronutrients to children below six years of age as well as to pregnant women and lactating mothers

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA

THE Himachal Pradesh government has planned to launch the Indira Gandhi Matri Shishu Sankalp Yojna (IGMSSY) with an outlay of Rs 207.11 crore to strengthen women and child healthcare services and combat malnutrition in the state. The scheme

aims to provide high-quality protein, essential calories and vital micronutrients to children below six years of age as well as to pregnant women and lactating mothers.

It would benefit 2,99,488 eligible beneficiaries across the state, a statement issued here on Monday said. "Ensuring access to nutritious food for

vulnerable groups would significantly reduce the social and economic burden of malnutrition and contribute to building a healthier and more prosperous society," Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said. The initiative will focus on addressing intergenerational malnutrition, particularly during the critical



first 1,000 days of life, through coordinated nutrition, health and care interventions, the statement added. It also seeks to reduce child mortality and morbidity while improving overall nutritional outcomes.

Under the scheme, early identification, continuous monitoring and effective management of high-risk groups, including Severely

Acute Malnourished (SAM) and Moderately Acute Malnourished (MAM) children, as well as low birth weight infants, will be ensured through strengthened referral and follow-up mechanisms, the statement added.

Capacity-building initiatives will be undertaken for frontline workers to enhance their

ability to tackle prevalent health challenges such as anaemia, diarrhoea and pneumonia. The scheme will provide scientifically designed, nutrient-dense and fortified food premises aligned with revised Government of India nutrition norms, including the provision of milk and eggs to enhance protein and micronutrient intake.