

CJP protesters used AI tools to counter police measures: Probe

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

INVESTIGATION into the July 20 clashes during the 'Chalo Sansad' protest organised by the Cockroach Janta Party has revealed that some protesters may have used AI tools to learn methods of countering police crowd-control measures, including use of wet jute bags to minimise effects of tear gas, police sources said on Thursday.

According to the source, the

ongoing investigation has indicated that some participants may have searched artificial intelligence (AI) platforms for information on mitigating the impact of tear gas, and preparing for confrontations with security personnel.

"The investigation is being carried out through multiple methods. We have reasons to believe that some protesters used AI tools or other generative AI platforms to search for ways to immediately reduce the effects of tear gas, includ-

Cops are also probing the alleged distribution of hard hats, face masks and protective goggles among protesters before and during the demonstration, with the source claiming these items may have been intended to help participants withstand police action during the violence

ing use of wet jute bags, and to prepare themselves with hard hats, masks and goggles," the source told PTI.

He said police are in the process of collecting evidence, which is a time taking process.

Police are also probing the alleged distribution of hard hats, face masks and protective goggles among protesters before and during the demonstration, with the source claiming these items may have

been intended to help participants withstand police action during the violence.

The source said investigation is underway and police teams were collecting digital and other evidence to substantiate the findings.

Police have not disclosed names of any AI platforms allegedly accessed, nor have they said whether any digital devices have been forensically examined to establish such searches.

The July 20 protest wit-

nessed clashes between protesters and security personnel at multiple locations, including Parliament Street, Connaught Place and Jantar Mantar in the New Delhi district after demonstrators allegedly attempted to breach police barricades.

According to the police, several incidents of stone-pelting were reported during the violence, forcing security personnel to resort to repeated use of lathi-charge, tear gas, and even pellet guns to disperse the crowd.



Cop held for girl's murder, thrashed by hospital staff

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GORAKHPUR

A police constable arrested for the abduction and murder of a 10-year-old girl was allegedly assaulted by doctors, nurses and hospital employees when he was brought to the district hospital for a medical examination on Thursday afternoon, officials said.

Police said they took the accused, Abhishek Yadav (35), who was posted with Dial-112 in Gorakhpur, to the hospital around 2:30 pm. Upon seeing him there, agitated hospital staff allegedly chased and beat him before police personnel intervened and escorted him to safety, officials said.

According to police, the girl had gone to the district hospital on July 28 to deliver

Police suspect she may have been sexually assaulted before being killed. Her body was recovered on Thursday morning from a river



from a river on the accused's disclosure, officials said.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kaustubh said investigators examined more than 200 CCTV clips. He said Yadav, a 2018-batch constable, allegedly confessed to his crime during questioning. Police said they recommended his dismissal from service and said action under the National Security Act (NSA) will also be initiated.

They said Yadav had earlier been suspended and jailed in a molestation case involving a woman from West Bengal in 2025 before being reinstated later that year.

Pb sanitation workers' bandh call hits normal life

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OSHIAIRPUR/FEROZEPUR

NORMAL life was affected at most places in Punjab on Thursday with markets and commercial establishments remaining shut following a state-level 'bandh' call by sanitation workers against the Barnala lathi-charge incident. Sanitation workers also held protests at several places against the state government, demanding action against police officials involved in the lathi-charge incident.

On July 22, police resorted to a lathi-charge on sanitation workers after they allegedly hurled stones and garbage bags at police in Barnala in an alleged attempt to thwart a cleanliness drive undertaken by the local municipal corporation and district authorities. Almost all shops and business establishments remained closed in many parts of Punjab.

However, hospitals, medical stores, ambulance ser-



vices and other emergency services remained functional. Main markets in many places, including Barnala, Hoshiarpur, Sangrur, Tarn Taran, and Samana in Patiala, remained shut due to the 'bandh' call.

In Hoshiarpur, workers of the Municipal Corporation Safai Karamchari Union, including a large number of women workers, led by the union's president, Karanjot Adiya, assembled at the Municipal Corporation complex before taking out a protest march through the city's main bazaars on two-wheelers. The protesters carried black flags and brooms, wore black armbands and raised slogans against the Punjab government.

Channi conspicuous by his absence in Parliament

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

CONGRESS MP from Jalandhar, Charanjit Singh Channi, was conspicuous by his absence when party leader Rahul Gandhi spoke in a debate in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, bringing to the fore the recent rift within the party's state unit. Instead, the former Punjab chief minister was in Faridkot on Wednesday to take part in a protest to demand the resignation of the state's health and education ministers over the alleged paper leak in the recent pharmacy officers' recruitment examination.

Notably, after meeting

Congress general secretary K C Venugopal in Delhi on July 16, Channi had said that "all is well", asserting that he and the leaders in his camp would abide by whatever decision the party high command takes.

Yet, when Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, participated in the debate on The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill-2026 on Wednesday,

day, Channi was the only one among the seven Punjab Congress MPs who was absent. It is learnt that the Congress MP from Amritsar, Gurjit Singh Aujla, even sent a message to the state's MPs to remain present in the House from 12 noon onwards on Wednesday.

The development comes at a time when the Congress' Punjab unit recently witnessed an internal rift. The infighting was triggered after the Congress decided to retain Amrinder Singh Raja Warring as its Punjab unit president, while Channi was appointed the chairperson of its campaign committee.

Kinnaur Kailash Yatra begins with a batch of 90 devotees

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA

KINNAUR Kailash Yatra commenced on Thursday with 90 pilgrims beginning their trek from Tangling village on the first day, officials said. About 375 people will embark on the yatra that will culminate on August 10. The pilgrimage was originally scheduled to commence from July 1 but was postponed due to safety hazards and opposition from the local deity community.

Praveen Bhardwaj, the Kalpa SDM and chairperson of the Kinnaur Kailash Yatra Organising Committee, said the risk of landslides and falling stones at some places forced the yatra to be postponed earlier.

"A reconnaissance team was

sent again on July 10, which submitted its report on July 16. Based on the report, safety and repair works are being completed at sensitive locations, after which the decision to start the yatra has been taken," he said.

Online registration for the pilgrimage began on July 28, while offline registration will commence on Thursday. Of the total 375 devotees, 175 slots will be allotted online, 125 offline, and 75 through the Kinnaur Adventure Tour Operators Association. The yatra will be conducted via the Tangling-Maling-Khata-Gufa route.

Kinnaur Kailash, locally known as Kinner Kailash, is situated at an elevation of 6,050 metres above sea level in Kinnaur Panchayat.

Oppn turns up heat on paper leak; AAP govt trashes charge

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

THE opposition parties have been turning up the heat on the AAP government in Punjab, alleging multiple examination paper leaks in the past four-and-a-half years following the detection of a cheating racket in the pharmacy officers' recruitment examination recently. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, however, has stood his ground, claiming that not even a single exam paper was leaked in the state during the AAP's tenure.

The AAP also claimed that the Congress, SAD and BJP are trying to create a fake narrative to mislead people as they do not



have any issue against the Mann government.

The opposition parties are cornering the Mann government in poll-bound Punjab ever since police on July 19 unearthed a cheating racket in the pharmacy officers' recruitment exam, pressing for the resignation of Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains and Health Minister Balbir Singh. On July 19, Punjab Police dismantled a sophisticated,

Gehlot alleges scam in plantation drive in Raj

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR

FORMER Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday alleged a scam in the state government's plantation drive and demanded an inquiry into the matter. He also claimed that the BJP government has failed to carry forward the legacy of the previous Congress regime in increasing the state's green cover.

Citing figures presented in the Lok Sabha, Gehlot said the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023 of the Ministry of Environment,



Forest and Climate Change showed that Rajasthan's forest and tree cover increased from 26,995 sq km to 27,389 sq km during the previous Congress government's

tenure, registering a rise of 394.46 sq km.

The veteran Congress leader also claimed that Rajasthan ranked fourth in the country in terms of increase

in forest and tree cover during the period. The achievement was significant for a state where nearly two-thirds of the geographical area is covered by the Thar desert, Gehlot said.

He also claimed that Rajasthan accounted for more than 27 per cent of the country's total increase of 1,446 sq km in green cover during the period. Madhya Pradesh, which is ruled by the BJP, recorded the country's largest decline in green cover, while Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab together could not match Rajasthan's increase, the former chief minister claimed.

Rivers in spate as rain batters U'khand

Char Dham Yatra remains suspended, 109 roads shut

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN

MAJOR rivers across Uttarakhand, including the Ganga, swelled after incessant rain on Wednesday, forcing authorities to suspend the Char Dham Yatra and battle landslides that blocked 109 roads. According to the State Emergency Operation Centre, 109 roads are currently closed across the

state, and restoration work is underway.

The Tyuni-Mussoorie-Maletha National Highway has been blocked near Nagthad due to a landslide. The pedestrian route from Janakichatti to Yamunotri was also damaged near Ram Mandir after the river swelled, although alternative arrangements have been made for movement in the area. In Haridwar, the Ganga was flowing at 292.90 metres,

just 0.10 metres below the warning level and 1.10 metres below the danger mark.

In Rudrapur, both the Alaknanda and Mandakini rivers crossed their warning levels.

The Alaknanda was recorded at 626.18 metres against the warning mark of 626 metres, while the Mandakini was flowing more than half a metre above its warning level of 625 metres.

In Pithoragarh district, the Kali River touched 888.90 metres, just 0.10 metres below its warning level of 889 metres. Authorities have advised people to stay away from riverbanks and urged residents living in low-lying areas to move to safer locations as a precaution. Meanwhile, the Char Dham Yatra remained suspended due to incessant rain and landslides.

MP raises moong procurement to 60%, suspends fertiliser etoken system

The government also extended the last date for procurement from August 10 to August 20 and the slot-booking deadline from July 30 to August 10

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL

THE Madhya Pradesh government on Wednesday agreed to procure 60 per cent of the moong crop from eligible farmers, extended the procurement deadline and suspended the e-token system for fertiliser distribution pending a review, prompting agitat-

ing farmers to call off their protest in Bhopal. The announcement came after talks between representatives of the state government and farmer leaders at the state secretariat, hours after thousands of protesters marched to within about a km of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's residence after staging a demonstration outside Union Agricul-

ture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's house.

In an official statement, the government said it had decided to increase procurement from each eligible farmer from the existing 25 per cent to 60 per cent of the moong crop in the larger interest of farmers. The decision will take immediate effect for farmers producing around

three quintals of moong per acre in districts such as Narmadapuram, Sehore and Harda, it said, adding that efforts would be made to extend the benefit to the maximum number of cultivators.

The government also extended the last date for procurement from August 10 to August 20 and the slot-booking deadline from

July 30 to August 10. State Agriculture Minister Aidil Singh Kansana said a committee would be constituted to examine complaints and practical difficulties relating to the e-token system for fertiliser distribution and recommend improvements. Till the committee submits its recommendations and necessary changes are carried out, the e-token-based

fertiliser distribution system will remain suspended with immediate effect, he said. Some farmer leaders initially maintained their demand for procurement of 100 per cent of the moong crop at the minimum support price (MSP) and said a final decision would be taken after consulting all stakeholders and that the agitation would continue.

