

Cong members stopped interview, pushed scribe and took away his phone: US Press Club

New Delhi, Days after the assault on a journalist in the US during an interview with Indian Overseas Congress (IOC) president Sam Pitroda, the US National Press Club has issued a detailed statement putting on record, the entire manhandling incident that was conveniently pushed under the carpet.

The US Press Club has pointed fingers at the IOC Congress and also Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's staff for the assault on India Today journalist Rohit Sharma in Dallas when he interviewed Sam Pitroda ahead of Congress MP's visit to the US.

A statement by US Press Club President Emily Wilkins said, "Several members of the IOC were listening to the interview as well as several members of Mr. Gandhi's advance staff. On the last question, members of the audience objected to the subject of the question and stopped the interview by shouting at Sharma and pushing him while taking his phone."

"The group, which included Gandhi's staff, deleted files from Sharma's phone," it further added. The Press club also informed that Sharma and Sam Pitroda had met before and conducted similar interviews amicably. This time, however, it went awry as the audience watching the interview erupted. It also said that Sam Pitroda later called up Sharma and apologised for the incident.

Notably, journalist Rohit Sharma was manhandled by Congress workers in Dallas while he quizzed Sam Pitroda about Congress' silence on the plight of Hindus in Bangladesh.

When he questioned Pitroda, whether Rahul would raise the matter of Bangladesh Hindus during his meeting with US lawmakers, the IOC workers erupted in protest and charged at the reporter. They snatched his mobile and deleted photos and videos. Rohit Sharma later also narrated his ordeal. Emily Wilkins also said the incident violated the First Amendment rights of Sharma and added that the security men had no role in commotion and disturbance during the interview.

The First Amendment Rights in the US give individuals freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and the right to petition.

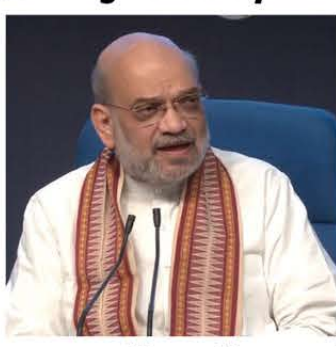
Amit Shah slams Rahul Gandhi over Agnipath scheme, says will give jobs to Agniveers after serving in Army

New Delhi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah hit out at Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for "playing politics" over the Agnipath scheme and said that is the BJP's responsibility to ensure jobs for Agniveers from Haryana, who are not retained after their four-year tenure in the armed forces under the short-term military recruitment plan.

Addressing a rally in Loharu in Bhiwani district of Haryana, which goes to the polls on October 5, Home Minister Shah accused the Congress of spreading fake narratives.

"They claimed that Agniveer soldiers would have neither work nor pensions. But I want to tell you that under the Agnipath scheme, soldiers are receiving 20 per cent reservations in police services... If any Agniveer returns, he will not be without a job and the BJP takes responsibility for this," he said.

Targeting Rahul Gandhi, Home Minister Shah said: "The Congress, especially Rahul 'Baba', is playing politics. I want to tell Haryana's youth that 'Hooda and company', whose job is to spread lies, are saying what will happen to Agniveers later... but what I say, I do it." He was referring to former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. The Agnipath scheme was introduced by the Central government on June 14, 2022, for short-term induction of personnel in the armed forces. It seeks to recruit soldiers for only four years, with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them in regular service. Those recruited under the new scheme are called Agniveers. The government said replacing the legacy system would lower the age profile of the armed forces,



ensure a fitter military and create a technically skilled war fighting force capable of meeting future challenges. But the decision sparked widespread protests and forced a concerted outreach by the government to scotch apprehensions about the scheme.

The controversy became a major electoral issue in Haryana, where tens of thousands of young men train for years to get into the armed forces.

The Congress promised to scrap Agnipath scheme if it came to power and the discontent around the scheme was seen as a major reason why the BJP slipped from 10 Lok Sabha seats in 2019 to just five in 2024. The issue is expected to play an even bigger role in the Assembly polls, when the BJP will vie for a third term. Launching a scathing attack on the Congress, Home Minister Shah said soldiers were seeking "One Rank, One Pension" for 40 years, but the party never fulfilled the demand.

"The people elected (Narendra) Modi ji as PM in 2014, and by 2015, he made it a reality," he said.

Referring to the J&K elections, Shah said Rahul Gandhi and NC leader Omar Abdullah have an agenda to release all terrorists after the polls and also hold talks with Pakistan.

Cong files complaint against 4, including Union Minister, for 'threatening' Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi, The Congress has lodged a police complaint against four BJP leaders, including Union Minister of State Ravneet Singh Bittu, for making objectionable remarks against the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi.

Congress treasurer and former Union Minister Ajay Maken went to the Tughlak Road Police Station in Delhi on Wednesday morning with this complaint.

Maken stated that BJP leader Tarvinder Singh Marwah had issued a death threat to Rahul Gandhi in Delhi last week.

According to Maken, this BJP leader said, "Rahul Gandhi, be careful, or the same fate will happen to you as it did to your grandmother." (Translation of Marwah's Hindi statement)

Talking to the reporters outside the Tughlak Road Police Station, the Congress Rajya Sabha MP said, "We all know that Indira Gandhi was martyred after taking 34 bullets to her chest. Rajiv Gandhi was blown to pieces because he initiated peace talks. Rahul Gandhi's family has made sacrifices for the country, and today, Rahul Gandhi is being told to be careful, or he will meet the same fate."

Maken further stated that politics in India cannot stoop any lower than this. He criticised the BJP for not condemning the statement or taking any action against it.

"How can you say things like this to a person whose



grandmother and father laid down their lives for the country?" he questioned, adding that maybe the statements were Bittu's "personal remarks, but even the BJP high command did not stop him from saying these things." Following this, the Congress leader also pointed out another leader from a BJP ally, who said that anyone "who cuts off Rahul Gandhi's tongue would be rewarded with 11 lakh rupees."

"If someone doesn't like what Rahul Gandhi says because he speaks in the interest of the country, the poor, and the labourers, it doesn't justify issuing a threat to cut his tongue," Maken pointed out.

Congress warned the BJP, stating that both the Congress party and Rahul Gandhi are not afraid of such threats.

Maken emphasised that their voice would not be silenced, and Rahul Gandhi would continue to raise his voice for the backward, Dalits, and the poor. He also mentioned that Bittu called Rahul Gandhi a terrorist just

because he didn't like what the LoP in the Lok Sabha said. Consequently, Congress has filed a police complaint to ensure strict action is taken against these individuals.

Maken stressed that if someone says that Rahul Gandhi will meet the same fate as his grandmother, it is a "direct death threat."

Congress has filed this complaint against four individuals, including Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu, Tarvinder Singh Marwah, a former BJP MLA from Delhi, BJP-supporting Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad, and Raghuraj Singh, a minister from Uttar Pradesh.

Maken approached Tughlak Road Police Station to file an FIR against BJP leader and Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu for his controversial statement about Rahul Gandhi. It is noteworthy that recently, Union Minister and BJP MP Ravneet Singh Bittu called Rahul Gandhi the "number one terrorist" in the country. Bittu stated that Rahul Gandhi is the country's "number one terrorist."

RG Kar case: Protesting doctors to seek fresh discussions with Bengal govt

Kolkata, West Bengal Junior Doctors' Association (WBJDF), the umbrella body organising a protest against the ghastly rape and murder of a junior doctor of R.G. Kar Medical College Hospital in Kolkata, will seek fresh discussions with the state government on their unfulfilled demands, especially on the one related to the removal or replacement of the current state health secretary, Narayan Swarup Nigam.



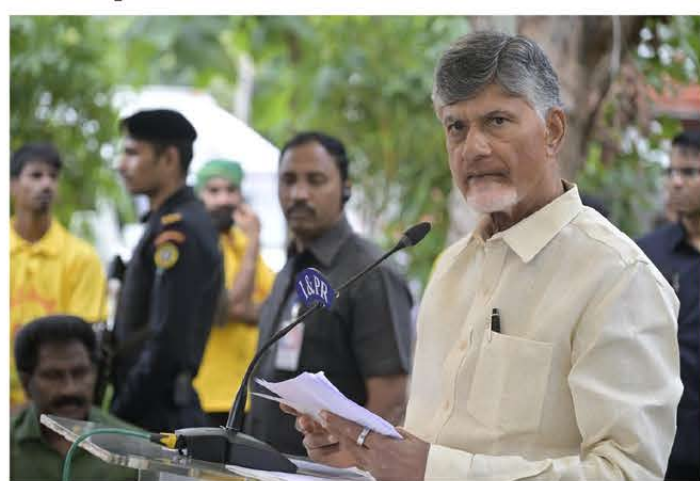
the junior doctors in front of Swastha Bhavan, the state health department headquarters at Salt Lake on the northern outskirts of Kolkata will continue.

Besides the demand for the removal of the state health secretary, WBJDF Representative Aniket Mahato said the second demand is ensuring the safety and security within the campuses of medical colleges &

hospitals to avoid the recurrence of the R.G. Kar-like situation.

The third demand is the immediate formation of resident doctors' associations and students' councils in every medical college in the state. Mahato said that although there had been discussion on the matter before with the state government, including Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, no conclusion has been reached as yet. He emphasized that the formation of resident doctors' associations and students' councils at all medical colleges in the state is necessary to bring back a democratic atmosphere in these institutes.

Andhra CM announces compensation for flood victims



Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday announced compensation for those who suffered losses due to the recent heavy rains and floods. He told a news conference that the government will rebuild houses for those who lost their houses.

For every damaged house, Rs 25,000 will be paid, he said. The Chief Minister announced that Rs 10,000 will be paid for each flooded house. For the families staying on the first floor, the government will pay Rs 10,000, CM Naidu said.

He also announced a compensation of Rs 25,000 each for small traders affected by the floods. The government will also pay Rs 3,000 each for two-wheelers and Rs 10,000 each for three-wheelers damaged in the floods.

For affected fishermen, Rs 20,000 will be paid if their boat and fishing net are fully damaged. In case of partial damage, they will get Rs 9,000 each.

The government will give Rs 50,000 each for cattle. Paddy farmers will be paid Rs 10,000 per acre while cane growers will be paid Rs 25,000 each. Affected weavers will be provided Rs 15,000 each.

Chief Minister Naidu also announced financial assistance for affected Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). For SMEs with a turnover of Rs 40,000 to Rs

1.5 crore will be given Rs 1 lakh and for those with a turnover of more than Rs 1.5 crore will be given Rs 1.5 lakh.

The Chief Minister alleged that the negligence and irregularities of the previous government has become a curse to the state and had the Budameru works been completed the state would not have faced this calamity.

Breaches to Budameru Rivulet had flooded several parts of Vijayawada city and other areas.

He said that the previous government had completely grabbed the land near Budameru and misused it to the maximum extent possible. He added that the state government was moving forward despite the calamity.

He said that boats were released when the Krishna river was receiving 11.43 cusecs of water due to the floods and it took almost 10 days to restore normalcy.

"Had the previous government been in power it would have taken six months or more to restore normalcy," he added. Reiterating that the funds released for Polavaram and Rs 990 crore from the Panchayat Raj department have been diverted, CM Naidu said that the expenditure too was not shown in the accounts.

Special langar with 4,000 kg sweet rice organised at Ajmer Sharif Dargah on PM Modi's birthday

Ajmer, On the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 74th birthday, a special langar was organised at the Ajmer Sharif Dargah.

As part of the Seva Pakhwada (Service Fortnight), 4,000 kg of 'Zarda' (sweet rice) was prepared along with a special prayer held for PM Modi on his birthday at the famous Muslim shrine on Tuesday evening.

Preparations for the langar, including decorations around the 'Big Shahi Degh', began early Tuesday morning.

For the first time, such a big event was organised at the Dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti on the birthday of any Prime Minister. On the birthday of PM Modi, Gaddi Nasheen of Ajmer Sharif Dargah, Syed Afshan Chishti, said, "The Ajmer Sharif Dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti is one of the largest places of worship in the whole Indian subcontinent where people of different faiths like Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Parsi, etc visit. India is like a 'guldasta' and the head of the state leading the country is our beloved Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Indian Minority Foundation and the Chisty Foundation Ajmer Sharif organised a langar on the occasion of PM Modi's birthday



which is being celebrated as 'Seva Pakhwada' across the country. "The Prime Minister has earlier also offered a sacred 'chaddar' in the past and has a deep faith in Khwaja Garib Nawaz's dargah. PM Modi had earlier met the Dargah's organising members through video conferencing and as a member of the Dargah, we pray for the good health and long life of the Prime Minister. We also wish that India emerges as a strong nation where communal harmony, brotherhood and peace always prevail. We wish that India emerges as a Vishwaguru soon and plays the role of a messenger of peace for humanity especially when the world is currently undergoing a war crisis," he added. Haji Syed Salman Chishty, Chairman of the Chisty Foundation, in a special

conversation with IANS, said, "For the last 550 years, a 'Big Shahi Degh' of 4,000 kg has been kept in the Dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, in which vegetarian langar is prepared. This langar is being prepared in 'Degh' on PM Modi's 74th birthday. While preparing the langar, some things have been taken special care, so that this langar can be distributed to people of every religion." He added, "Under the 'Seva Pakhwada' initiative which is celebrated as the Swacchata Bharat Abhiyan, several people across the country are contributing towards this initiative by organising cleanliness drives or langars at different religious places of worship. We have prepared a vegetarian langar to spread a message of brotherhood, peace and harmony among countrymen.

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