

## Matuas met Rahul Gandhi in Bihar, sought support from Cong on citizenship demand: Adhir

**KOLKATA:** A delegation of the politically significant Matua community of West Bengal met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Bihar last week, and sought the party's support for their long-standing demand for citizenship, senior leader Adhir Chowdhury said on Wednesday.

Gandhi, who was leading the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in the neighbouring state, asked them to come to Delhi, where a detailed discussion on the issue could be held, Chowdhury told PTI. Matuas, originally from East Pakistan, are a weaker section of Hindus who migrated to India during the Partition and after the creation of Bangladesh, following religious persecution. The SC community holds sway over several constituencies in the state, where assembly elections are due next year. Both TMC and BJP have lawmakers from the Matua group.

"Rahul ji met the delegation from the Matua community on Saturday at Ekma in Saran district of Bihar and listened to their problems for some time. He told them to come to Delhi, where he would listen to them elaborately on their demand for citizenship and possibly throw some light on what could be their next course of action," Chowdhury said.

Though the Matuas possess voter cards, Aadhaar cards, and ration



cards, the community members have been demanding "legal citizenship" as those documents do not suffice as proof of that.

The former state Congress president said that members of the group had met him in Murshidabad a few weeks ago when they expressed their interest in supporting the grand old party of the country.

"They believe that under Rahul ji's leadership, they would be able to get their dues, as they think that both TMC and BJP have used them for their political benefits. They were quite influenced by Rahulji's leader-

ship in the movement against the SIR of the electoral rolls. I advised them to go and meet Rahul ji during the yatra," Chowdhury said.

When contacted by PTI, TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh declined to make any statement on the meeting.

Senior BJP leader Rahul Sinha did not want to give any importance to the matter.

"Anyone from anywhere claiming to belong to the Matua community will not get any attention. This is a very insignificant thing to gain any attention," the former state BJP president said.

## Motorist killed, pillion rider injured in accident in Bengaluru

**BENGALURU:** A motorist died and the pillion rider was injured in an accident on Wednesday after their two-wheeler, allegedly hit by another vehicle from behind, rammed into a stationary state run BMTC bus here, officials said.

According to Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), the accident occurred near Sonnenahalli area when the two-wheeler allegedly attempted to overtake the bus which was halted at a bus stop near Doddabasti on the Ramasandra- K R Market route.

The mini truck coming from behind crashed into the bike, causing it to hit the rear portion of the bus.

While the rider died on the spot, the per-



son seated behind sustained leg injuries and was shifted to a nearby hospital, the BMTC said, in a statement.

BMTC further stated that neither its bus nor its driver were respon-

sible for the accident. Chief Traffic Manager (Operations) Prabhakar Reddy G T, along with senior officials and accident investigation staff, inspected the spot. A case has

been registered in the regard, police said, adding investigation is underway. Meanwhile, a woman was killed and two others injured in a head-on collision be-

## Six arrested for kidnapping realtor, extortion

**BENGALURU:** Six people were arrested for allegedly kidnapping a realtor and extorting Rs 2.9 lakh from him, police said on Wednesday. Among those arrested by the Central Crime Branch of the Bengaluru police, four were rowdy-sheeters, they said.

According to police, Manoj Kumar had lent Rs 1.2 lakh through Rajesh to film director Nanda Kishore. When Kumar demanded the money back after a year, Rajesh allegedly decided to kidnap him and seek ransom, upon learning that he had made a lot of money through real estate business

recently.

Citing investigation, a senior police officer said that to execute his plan, accused Rajesh allegedly roped in the others and called Kumar to Modi Hospital Road on August 26 on the pretext of returning money and kidnapped him.

They allegedly kidnapped him in a car, drove him around Nelamangala, Dobaspet and other locations, and confined him in a lodge where he was threatened and forced to transfer Rs 2.96 lakh, he said.

The next day, they released him after demanding an additional Rs 10 lakh.



Later, Kumar approached the police and lodged a complaint following which a case was registered and the accused were arrested, police said.

## TV actor Ashish Kapoor held for rape by Delhi Police

**NEW DELHI:** Television actor Ashish Kapoor was apprehended by Delhi Police from Pune after a woman accused him of rape at a house party in the national capital, an officer said on Wednesday.

Police said the complainant had met Kapoor on social media and alleged that the incident took place at a party in Delhi in the second week of August.

"In her complaint, she stated that Kapoor sexually assaulted her in a washroom," said the officer. According to police, the initial FIR named Kapoor, his friend, the friend's wife, and two unknown persons.

However, the woman later revised her statement, alleging that only Kapoor raped her. She also claimed the incident was recorded on video.' Investigators have not yet found any such footage so far, he said.

The woman alleged that after she came out of the washroom, Kapoor's friend's wife assaulted her. Police said it was this woman who eventually made the PCR call to inform authorities.

Kapoor was tracked to Pune and detained.

## Court grants interim protection to Bikram Gogoi in abduction case against R&AW ex-officer Vikash Yadav

**NEW DELHI:** A Delhi court has granted interim protection from arrest to Bikram Gogoi, whose name surfaced in the abduction and attempted murder case against R&AW ex-officer Vikash Yadav.

ThePrint had reported about Gogoi applying for anticipatory bail after an investigating team sent him four notices and summoned him for questioning.

"In these circumstances, as the applicant/accused, is willing to join the investigation, hence, he is directed to join the investigation on 06.09.2025 at 2.00 p.m. before the IO (investigating officer). Fresh reply/report be filed by the IO to the present bail application on 11.09.2025. Till then no coercive action be taken against the applicant/accused (sic)," the court said.

The next date of hearing is 11 September.

In response to Gogoi's an-

ticipatory bail plea, the IO stated that the Guwahati resident's name surfaced after co-accused Abudullah Khan, in his disclosure statement, said that he had come in contact with the other accused, Jalaluddin, through the 24-year-old.

Though Gogoi stated that he studied with Jalaluddin alias Sameer (an accused in the abduction case) in a Delhi school and had introduced him to Khan, he claimed innocence in the abduction case.

"Thus, the role of the applicant/accused, as per reply of the bail application, is that of introducer, as he introduced co-accused Abdullah Khan and co-accused Jalaluddin. Further investigation is to be carried out to find out whether the role of the applicant was more than what is stated in the reply of the bail application," the court noted.

The Special Cell of the Del-

hi Police is investigating the abduction and attempted murder case lodged in 2023 against Yadav and others. All three accused (Yadav, Khan and Jalaluddin) are currently out on bail.

Delhi businessman Raj Kumar Walia had accused Yadav and Khan of abducting and torturing him, while demanding ransom in the name of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi. Subsequently, the charge sheet filed last year in the case says that it was Jalaluddin who allegedly gave Bishnoi the contract to kill Walia.

Yadav was arrested just weeks after the US Department of Justice indictment named him in the alleged murder-for-hire plot against Sikh separatist Gurbhag Singh Pannun. While Yadav is wanted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), co-accused Nikhil Gupta awaits his trial in the US from a Brooklyn prison.

## Cousins plan to destroy our family & BRS, says beleaguered Kavitha after resigning from party

**HYDERABAD:** Telangana Jagruthi leader and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) chief K Chandrashekhhar Rao's daughter K Kavitha on Wednesday lashed out at BRS leaders T. Harish Rao and J. Santosh Rao, accusing them of "planning to destroy our family and party" in connivance with Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

On Tuesday, BRS had suspended Kavitha for "anti-party activities", a day after her outbursts against party leaders T. Harish Rao and J. Santosh Rao. The two leaders, relatives of K Chandrashekhhar Rao, are considered close to the party chief. Harish Rao has been associated with the BRS since its inception.

Kavitha also said in today's press conference that she is resigning from BRS and submitting her MLC resignation letter to the Council Speaker.

"Yesterday afternoon, I saw media reports about the BRS Party's suspension of me. After being released from Tihar jail, I participated in various programs and worked for BC Reservations and other initiatives against the Congress government while wearing the BRS flag. I don't understand how these actions constitute anti-party activities," Kavitha said.

"I'm requesting my father to examine the party leaders surrounding him. I spoke straightforwardly and requested him to consider my words. Revanth Reddy and Harish Rao planned to destroy our family while travelling together on a flight; Revanth Reddy should answer for this," she said.

"Revanth Reddy booked cases



against only my family members, KTR, and KCR, but not against Harish Rao. When the Kaleshwaram project began, Harish Rao was the Irrigation Minister, and Revanth Reddy didn't speak out against him," she added.

She said that she had previously spoken with her brother and BRS Working President KT Rama Rao about people in the party plotting against her, and asked him to take action.

"Harish Rao and Santosh Rao are planning to destroy our family and party. Harish Rao wasn't a troubleshooter but was a 'bubble shooter.' He gave money to work against KCR and KTR in the Assembly elections," she said.

On September 1, BRS MLC K Kavitha, while reacting to the Telangana government's decision to order a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the Kaleshwaram project, alleged that any taint on KCR's image regarding the Kaleshwaram issue is due to BRS leaders Harish Rao and Santosh Rao, accusing them of conspiring against her and KCR.

Kavitha was suspended from the party after her remarks against Harish Rao and Santosh Rao.

## Bill to regulate coaching centres passed by Rajasthan Assembly

**JAIPUR:** A bill to regulate coaching centres was passed by voice vote in the Rajasthan Assembly on Wednesday, with the state government stressing that it would help bring transparency and accountability in their functioning.

After protests from multiple quarters, the BJP government had brought in an amended version of the bill, but the opposition alleged that it was inadequate and had failed to address key issues like student suicides.

During the discussion on the Rajasthan Coaching Centre (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2025, Deputy Chief Minister Premchand Bairwa said that this is not just a law but an important step to provide the right di-

rection to the coming generations, as it is directly related to lakhs of candidates and their parents.

Bairwa said under the amended bill, the minimum number of students for registration of coaching institutes has been increased from 50 to 100, so that small and unorganised coaching centres will be able to provide their facilities to the students.

In the second amendment, the penalty for irregularities by coaching institutes has been reduced from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 50,000 and from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 2 lakh for the second time. A provision has been made to cancel the registration if the violations continue.

The Deputy Chief Minister

said that the state government believes in maintaining balance and ensuring justice.

He said that coaching institutes also make an important contribution to the economy of the state. "Due to this, lakhs of people are getting employment," he said.

The minister asserted that the bill is not against coaching institutes but to ensure that all such centres follow the same standards. Coaching institutes that follow the rules will be encouraged, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that provisions have been made in the bill for steps to prevent suicide among students and remove mental stress. He said

that this bill is in line with the spirit of the National Education Policy- 2020. Through this, emphasis will be laid on the skill development of students.

It will play an important role in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to make India a developed nation, he said.

He said that the objective of this bill is to give respect to the students as well as to empower them as citizens.

"Far-reaching and important reforms have been ensured in the education sector through the bill. Now, no coaching institute will be able to operate without government registration," he said.

He said that coaching institutes should not be just

"centres of ranking but of culture, where students can learn social values".

Bairwa said that a state Authority has been established to control coaching institutes at the state level. Rajasthan Coaching Centre Control and Regulation Authority will be formed. Appointment of a psychological counsellor in every coaching institute and stress management sessions will be mandatory for stress-free study of students.

Arrangements will be made for regular communication with family members. Helpline numbers will be available for counselling in every district, he said.

"Students will get transparent facilities, and account-

ability of coaching institutes will be fixed, which will help in establishing a healthy education system," he said.

He said that a web portal will be created on which information about all coaching institutes will be available to the general public. "This will bring transparency".

During the debate on the bill, Leader of Opposition Tika Ram Jolly questioned the reduction in fines and said the bill did not focus much on preventing suicide by students.

"What improvement did you make by sending this bill to the Select Committee? You benefited the coaching centres by reducing the fine.

## Have faith, our people in Marathwada and western Maharashtra will get reservation: Jarange

**CHHATRAPATI:** Members of the Maratha community will now get reservation in Marathwada and western Maharashtra, said quota activist Manoj Jarange on Wednesday, appealing to his supporters to maintain calm and have faith in his decision.

The 43-year-old activist, who returned from Mumbai after ending his hunger strike, was talking to reporters in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, where he is receiving medical care in a private hospital for dehydration and low blood sugar.

"We have scored a victory, and the credit goes to the Maratha community. Maratha people from

Marathwada and Western Maharashtra will now get quota," he said.

Jarange on Tuesday ended his five-day-old fast after the Maharashtra government accepted most of his demands, including granting eligible Marathas Kunbi caste certificates, which will allow them to avail of quota in education and jobs enjoyed by Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The activist called off his hunger strike in the presence of senior BJP minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, who heads the cabinet sub-committee on Maratha reservation, and other members of the panel at south Mumbai's Azad Maidan, the site of

his agitation since August 29. "Not a single line had been written by the state government in our favour till now. People should not believe in the 'joker-type' individuals (who have criticised his move). Those speaking against the decision have done nothing for the Maratha community," Jarange said.

The activist said the members of his community will eventually understand his decision to call off the agitation. "No Maratha in the Marathwada region will be left out of quota," he said, adding that village-level committees will be made to help Marathas establish their Kunbi lineage.

## Law will take its course: BJP on Telangana Guv's son allegedly threatening Tripura MLA

**AGARTALA:** The ruling BJP in Tripura on Wednesday said the law will take its course after Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma's son Pathik allegedly threatened Tripura Motha Party legislator Philip Kumar Reang at the MLA Hostel in Agartala.

Pathik was among the four youths who allegedly threatened Reang on Monday night. They were granted bail after surrendering before the New Capital Complex police station on Tuesday night.

Speaking to reporters, state BJP president Rajib Bhattacharjee said, "Soon after the incident, necessary steps were taken. DGP Anurgag Dhankar,

West Tripura's SP Namit Pathak and Deputy Speaker Ramprasad Paul visited the MLA Hostel in Khejur Bagan and spoke to the legislator." Asserting that the police will take appropriate action against those who are trying to disrupt the law and order situation, he said the BJP doesn't promote or support such acts.

"The law will take its own course in the incident to ensure justice because the government has zero tolerance for any kind of crime," he said.

In his police complaint, Reang claimed he was engaged in a discussion with his family when some persons, including Pathik Dev Varma, started interfering.

He alleged that when he asked them to leave, "they became more aggressive and started uttering violent, abusive words targeting me, threatening to slit my throat".

"They said that they would bring 400 to 500 BJP workers to kill me and my family members," alleged the legislator.

Meanwhile, Bhattacharjee said the law and order situation was fine, and the large turnout during Ganesh Puja showed that people were confident about their safety.

State Congress president Asish Kumar Saha alleged that the situation in the state was such that even the MLA Hostel was not safe.