

Noida DM Moves SC Against Allahabad HC Order Reprimanding Her For Student's Detention Under NSA

NEW DELHI, SEP 13: Gautam Buddh Nagar district magistrate Medha Roopam has moved the Supreme Court against an Allahabad High Court order which directed that a compensation amount of Rs 5 lakh be deducted from her salary over the detention of a student under the National Security Act during the Noida workers' protest in April.

On September 2, the high court quashed the detention of Akriti Chaudhary, a 25-year-old Delhi University history graduate, who was taken into custody under the National Security Act in connection with the Noida workers' protest in April.

Allowing Chaudhary's habeas corpus petition challenging her arrest, the high court found that the detention was based on a story "concocted" by the state and directed her immediate release if her arrest was not



warranted in any other case. It had strongly criticised the manner in which the detention order was passed by Roopam and warned that continued "despotic" conduct by "errant" bureaucracy could reduce Uttar Pradesh to an Orwellian dystopia.

It also awarded Rs 5 lakh compensation to Chaudhary and directed that the amount be recovered from the salary of Roopam, who passed the detention order, as well as other officers responsible

They were among several activists arrested in cases relating to the peaceful protest seeking higher wages. In the order, the high court also made several significant observations on the roles of the bureaucracy and the police. It said officers are entrusted with immense powers because they bear responsibility for upholding the constitutional and legal rights, dignity, honour and welfare of citizens.

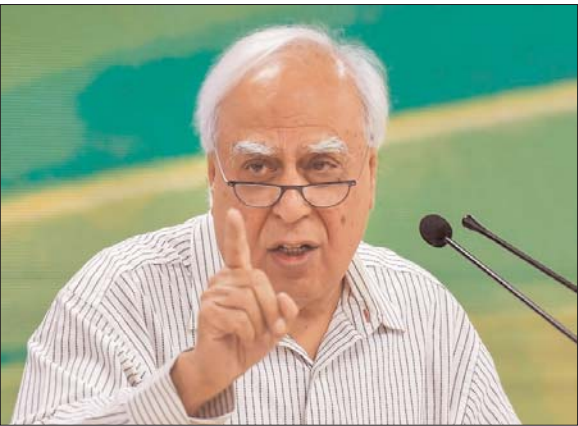
However, the court stressed that bureaucrats must remember that their "loyalty is towards the constitution and not the political executive". It further said that officers are servants who serve the people, who are "the masters in a democracy". Political news coverage It directed that the high court's displeasure against the DM and police officers involved in preparing the dossier be recorded in their service records. (Agencies)

I am a 'Dimagi Naxal': Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal

KOCHI, SEPT 13: Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Sunday said that he was a 'Dimagi Naxal', a term coined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and used by the BJP to attack those they accuse of being ideological sympathisers of Naxalism.

Sibal referred to himself as a 'Dimagi Naxal' while speaking at a talk here on 'Horse Trade and Democracy'.

"I have to make a confession. I am a 'Dimagi Naxal'," he said while beginning his speech. Modi had used the term as a warning to the country about "dimagi naxals" who have allegedly entrenched themselves in the system and continue to pose a threat to society by manipulating policies.



He had urged citizens to "identify and isolate" them. On the topic of horse trading, Sibal said that during ancient times the equine species playing an important role in "determining the outcome of wars".

He said that back then, due to the importance of horses,

their sellers played various tricks while selling them to the buyers. "It has now taken a different colour. At that point in time, it was the seller who used to be the trickster. At this point in time, it is the buyer who is the trickster. That is the

difference," he said while speaking at the event organised by LiveLaw. He further said that horse trading was not a "passing political scandal", but a "constitutional crisis". J&K political analysis

"It strikes at representative government, at the integrity of the vote, and the basic structure of parliamentary democracy. Horse trading is an ugly phrase for an uglier practice.

"It is the organised purchase or inducement of elected representatives so that a majority manufactured after the election replaces a majority chosen by the people. Sometimes it is crude -- cash, office, protection from investigation -- and sometimes it emerges as a respectable clothing of a merger.

Rahul, Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim meet over breakfast

NEW DELHI, SEPT 13: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday called on Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim for a breakfast meeting here and discussed India-Malaysia ties.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was also present during the meeting.

The Congress put out pictures of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi from the breakfast meeting with Ibrahim.



The meeting comes a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ibrahim held talks focusing on cooperation in the areas of trade, semiconductors, infrastructure and defence.

The two leaders had met on the margins of the BRICS Summit here.

Malaysia is a partner country in the BRICS grouping. It is also a key partner country for India within the ASEAN grouping. (PTI) South Asians & Diaspora

CSIR-IMMT-led consortium to develop India's first 100 pc hydrogen DRI pilot plant

KOLKATA, SEPT 13: The CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT) will lead a Rs 207-crore national pilot project to develop India's first direct reduced iron (DRI) plant running entirely on hydrogen, aimed at reducing carbon emissions from the steel sector, a senior official said.

The 20-tonne-per-day pilot project has received in-principle approval from the Ministry of Steel and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

It will receive Rs 113 crore in government support under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, with the remaining funding to be contributed by consortium partners.

CSIR-IMMT Director Ramanj Narayan told PTI that the facility is expected to be completed by August 2029 and will focus on developing and demonstrating hydrogen-based DRI technology suited to Indian conditions,

particularly the use of domestic iron ore.

The consortium led by CSIR-IMMT includes Godavari Power and Ispat Ltd, Lloyd Steel, Jindal Stainless and Thyssenkrupp Industries India.

Tata Steel has also agreed to join the consortium, and efforts are being made to bring other major steel producers, including Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL), into the project, said scientist P C Beuria, the head of the Mineral Processing Division at CSIR-IMMT.

SP Das, chief scientist in the division, said some private steelmakers are currently working on projects involving partial use of hydrogen, with plans to increase its share gradually.

"In contrast, the CSIR project is focusing on a 100 per cent hydrogen-based DRI plant," he said.

The proposed facility will use a vertical shaft furnace designed to operate entirely on hydrogen.

Beuria said a key challenge will be processing India's relatively low-grade hematite ores. Several international hydrogen-DRI projects use higher-grade magnetite, making the Indian raw material challenge different, he said. Das said Bhubaneswar-based CSIR-IMMT is working on ore processing and reduction technologies to ensure that the proposed plant can handle the characteristics of Indian iron ore.

"Globally, the technology is still at the pilot stage, and the Indian challenge is different because of the inferior quality of ore available here," he said.

Beuria said the economics of green steel, however, remains a major hurdle. Green hydrogen currently costs around USD 5 per kg and would need to become substantially cheaper, at around USD 1 per kg, for hydrogen-based steelmaking to become commercially competitive.

At present, green steel pro-

duction costs around USD 200 more per tonne than conventional steel produced using fossil fuels, they said.

To address the technological challenges involved in scaling up, CSIR-IMMT is undertaking intermediate-scale work before moving to the proposed national pilot plant.

"The behaviour of materials changes when the process is scaled up, so intermediate-scale testing is important before moving to the 20-tonne-per-day facility," Beuria said.

As part of this effort, the institute is setting up a 3-tonne-per-day DRI plant using its own resources to bridge the gap between laboratory-scale experiments and the larger national pilot plant.

CSIR-IMMT has also received in-principle approval for a separate Rs 20-crore rotary kiln pilot project to examine the injection of up to 30 per cent hydrogen along with biochar into existing DRI processes, officials said.

Calibrated capitulation: Cong slams PM Modi after his meeting with Xi

NEW DELHI, SEPT 13: The Congress on Sunday posed four questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his approach to India-China relations, and accused him of "calibrated capitulation" to that country.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh asked whether the PM's "infamous clean chit" to China on June 19, 2020 weaken India and why has he "allowed China's territorial advances in Ladakh and now Arunachal Pradesh".

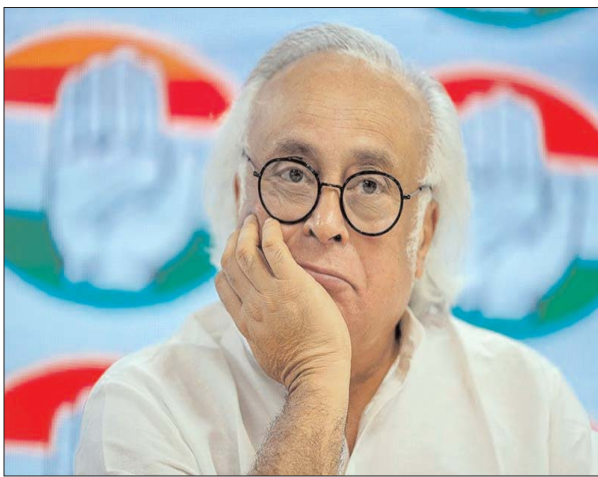
There was no immediate response from the government or the BJP over the Congress' claims.

Ramesh's remarks came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed to Chinese President Xi Jinping that peace and tranquillity along the frontier remains an "essential" basis for development of India-China relations, even as the two leaders welcomed "steady progress" in the bilateral ties.

In their talks on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, the two leaders reaffirmed that both the countries should take a strategic and long-term perspective of their ties and differences should not become disputes, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

In a statement posted on X, Ramesh said, "Now that his bilateral summit with President Xi Jinping is over, here are four questions for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to which the nation continues to seek answers. Did not your infamous clean chit to China on June 19, 2020 weaken India?"

The night of June 15-16, 2020, twenty of our soldiers made the supreme sacrifice in hand-to-hand combat with Chinese troops in the Galwan valley, the first such loss of life on the border in 45 years, the Congress leader re-



called. "Just four days later, on June 19, 2020, you inexplicably told an all-party meeting 'Na koi humari seema mein ghus aaya hai, na hi koi ghusa hua hai.' That statement has never been retracted. Has this not greatly weakened our subsequent negotiating position?" Ramesh said.

Ramesh further asked why has the PM "allowed China's territorial advances in Ladakh and now Arunachal Pradesh".

Our traditional patrolling and grazing rights across large stretches of Eastern Ladakh have been quietly but definitely "surrendered", he alleged.

Meanwhile, there have been reports of Chinese encroachment in Arunachal Pradesh, including loss of India's access to patrolling points and fresh standoffs, Ramesh claimed.

"China's posture on Arunachal Pradesh has only hardened: renaming towns, reasserting claims to what it calls 'South Tibet', and pushing ahead with its 60,000-MW Medog mega-dam on the Brahmaputra's Great Bend, a project that gives it a stranglehold over the water security of our entire north-east," the Congress leader said in his statement.

Why has the PM allowed softening of India's position

on China's role in support of Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, Ramesh asked.

"On July 4, 2025, Lt. General Rahul Singh, the Deputy Chief of Army Staff, had publicly spoken of the military establishment's assessment of the deep and pivotal role of China in assisting Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. But all of a sudden, on August 25, 2026, the former Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Anil Chauhan took a completely different position in a lecture at the VIF with which the National Security Adviser has himself been closely associated. Was this part of a strategy to change the atmospherics leading up to yesterday's meeting?" the Congress leader said.

Why has the PM allowed the trade deficit with China to reach record levels, Ramesh asked.

India's trade deficit with China hit a record USD 112.6 billion in 2025-26, destroying large sections of our industry, especially MSMEs, he said.

"The dependence on China for critical raw materials, manufacturing components and intermediates has reached dangerous levels. 'Make in India' and 'Import from China' have become two sides of the same coin. Where is the roadmap for changing this unacceptable situation?" the Congress

leader said.

"Prime Minister, normalisation of India's relations with China is one thing, but what has been in evidence on your part is calibrated capitulation," Ramesh said.

The MEA said that on the economic front, Modi and Xi underlined the need to address each other's concerns, including structural trade imbalance and supply chain issues, and facilitation of meaningful and predictable market access.

The two leaders expressed commitment to a "fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable" resolution of the boundary question proceeding from the political perspective of their overall bilateral relations and the long-term interests of the two sides, it said. J&K political analysis

Xi's visit to India came on the heels of several high-level exchanges, including the Special Representative dialogue in Beijing between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, even as lingering concerns remain over aggressive Chinese military posturing along the Arunachal Pradesh sector.

Modi and Xi held wide-ranging talks on August 31 last year on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in the Chinese city of Tianjin.

In the last few months, the two sides have taken a series of measures to rebuild their relationship after it came under severe strain following the deadly Galwan Valley clashes in 2020.

After over four years of frosty ties over the eastern Ladakh military standoff, India and China began to repair the relations following a meeting between Modi and Xi in the Russian city of Kazan in October 2024 that took place after the face-off ended. (PTI)

As long as Sanatan Dharma flag flies high, no one can harm India: Yogi

RAEBARELI (UP), SEPT 13: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday asserted that no one can harm India as long as the flag of Sanatan Dharma continues to fly high, emphasising that the country's spiritual traditions preserved social unity and cultural consciousness even when foreign invaders attacked its sacred sites.

Speaking at a Shiv Mahapuran Katha held in Rae Bareilly, Adityanath said, "We did not limit 'Dharma' merely to modes of worship; we embraced it as the vital life force of society, linking it to our duties and regarding it as the motivating power of the nation."

He explained that this was the reason that, even though political weaknesses forced the country to confront foreign invaders during the medieval period, a time when they trampled upon India's sacred sites, the wisdom from the Vyas Peeths (traditional seats of spiritual discourse) continued to foster social unity while advancing India's cultural and spiritual upliftment. J&K political analysis

Citing the example of Goswami Tulsidas (composer of Ramcharitmanas), Adityanath said the composer received an offer from Akbar's court to be inducted into the 'Navratnas'.

"When the proposal was put before him, he asked, 'Who is this Akbar?' People told him that he is the emperor of India. Tulsidas declared, 'I have only one king - Ram. Barring Ram, I do not consider any Akbar, a foreigner, as my king'. In that era, he challenged Akbar by asserting that Ram alone was his king."

Adityanath asserted that as long as the sacred 'kathaa' continues to resonate across India, the Sanatan Dharma flag will never bow. "And as long as that banner flies high, no one will be able to cause the slightest harm to India," he said. (PTI)

FPIs withdraw Rs 13,138 cr from equities in Sep so far amid global uncertainty

NEW DELHI, SEPT 13: Foreign investors pulled out Rs 13,138 crore from Indian equities in the first half of September, as heightened global uncertainty pushed crude oil prices higher, while rising US bond yields and a firm dollar weighed on risk appetite.

The latest outflow comes after Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) turned net buyers in July and August, infusing Rs 20,200 crore and Rs 29,630 crore, respectively, according to data from the Central Depository Services (India) Ltd (CDSL).

Prior to that, FPIs remained net sellers for four consecutive months from March to June. With the latest withdrawal, the total outflow from Indian equities by FPIs has climbed to Rs 2.37 lakh crore so far in 2026, surpassing the Rs 1.66 lakh crore withdrawn during the entire 2025, the data showed.

According to NSDL data,



FPIs withdrew Rs 13,138 crore from Indian equities in the first two weeks of September, till September 11.

Vedant Gupte, Co-founder and CEO of investment platform Trackk, said the September selling was driven more by global factors than domestic concerns. "September selling is a dollar-and-crude story, not an India story. When US yields firm up and oil climbs, money leaves every emerging market," he said.

Brent crude surged to

USD 109.97 per barrel on Friday and continued to remain above USD 102 per barrel, its July-high level, amid heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

Rising bond yields and a high probability of a rate hike at the US FOMC meeting in the coming week have also weighed on investor sentiment, said Pabitra Mukherjee, Deputy Vice President-Research, Bajaj Broking.

Looking ahead, FPI flows are likely to be significantly

influenced by the Iran-US conflict and its consequent impact on crude oil prices.

"Elevated crude prices (Brent is above USD 108) and higher inflation imply tighter monetary policy, which means bond yields will rise further," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, said.

"If the US 10-year bond inches up to 5 per cent, there can be a sharp correction in equity markets globally. In such a scenario, FPIs may turn sellers and move money to high-yielding bonds," he added.

Foreign investors also extended their selling to the debt market during the period under review. They withdrew Rs 1,350 crore through the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) and Rs 955 crore through the general route, while investing Rs 29 crore through the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR). (PTI)