

Rahul Gandhi savours dosa at Patna restaurant on his way back after court hearing

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Diners at a city restaurant were pleasantly surprised on Saturday when Congress leader Rahul Gandhi walked in to have a quick bite.

After appearing before a court here and getting bail in a defamation case filed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, Gandhi was on his way back to the airport to catch his return flight.

However, midway, Gandhi – who was flanked by senior Congress leaders like AICC spokesman Shaktisinh Gohil, state party chief Madan Mohan Jha and Rajya Sabha member Akhilesh Prasad Singh – said he was feeling hungry and wanted to have a plate of dosa.

The cavalcade subsequently pulled up close to Maurya Lok market complex and the leaders walked to one of the restaurants famous for serving

south Indian delicacies.

Sources said the Congress leader, who stepped down as the party's national president recently, taking moral responsibility for the debacle in Lok Sabha polls, ordered dosa along with coffee which he enjoyed in a leisurely manner before heading towards the airport.

Several people clicked snapshots of the leader having his meal from a distance that the SPG – which looks after Gandhi's security – permitted, the sources said. Meanwhile, Modi attacked Gandhi for having charged the BJP with hounding out those engaged in dissent, saying on Twitter, "Instead of tendering a much required apology, he is playing the victim card".

Upon emerging from the court, Gandhi had told reporters, "Whoever raises a voice against the Narendra Modi government or the BJP-RSS gets cases slapped against

him. My fight for the country's poor, its farmers and workers will nonetheless continue".

The Bihar Deputy CM had filed the defamation case against the then Congress president in April this year alleging that he was aggrieved by a speech delivered by Gandhi in a Maharashtra district wherein he had made the remark "why is it that all thieves have the surname Modi".

The Deputy CM had alleged that Gandhi's remark, obviously aimed at the Prime Minister besides bank fraud accused Nirav Modi and former IPL commissioner Lalit Modi, had made him feel insulted since he shared the same surname.

"Rahul Gandhi breached all decorum when he tried to mislead the people for electoral gains, calling an honest Prime Minister a thief and made fun of lakhs of people who shared the same

surname. It was for this misdeed that he had to depose before the court," Modi wrote on Twitter.

The Deputy CM, who had in April appeared before the court to record his statement was, however, not present at the court on Saturday as he was busy with the BJP's country-wide membership drive which was launched here with him, along with party national general secretary in-charge for Bihar and state unit chief and Union minister Nityanand Rai, in attendance.

Assam Govt to develop over three hundred tourist spots

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Assam government has taken a step to develop 316 tourists spot in the state.

Participating in an AIR talk show, Managing Director of Assam Tourism Development Corporation Bhaskar Phukan said that 150 crore rupees will be spent to develop these locations under Axom Darshan.

Mr Phukan said that toilet, waste management, drinking water and waiting shades to be built or develop across the state in important locations. He also said that stress has been given to generate employment opportunities in the tourism sector.

Mr. Phukan added that river tourism is one of the sought after sectors in Assam and the state government will utilise the mighty Brahmaputra to develop the sector. He mentioned that trainings are also being given to those who are involved with the sector for skill development.

Supreme Court our only hope says family of paralysed Assam man declared a foreigner

Agency
Guwahati July 7,

Every time someone from the family goes to meet him, they promise to bring him back home soon. But for now, the Supreme Court remains the only ray of hope for the family of Azizul Hoque, a partially paralysed man from Assam's Nagaon district languishing in a detention camp for declared foreigners since 2017. Hoque even made it to the draft national register of citizens list in 2018 but was part of the recent list of exclusions.

"The Supreme Court will give us justice," said Nazirul Islam, Hoque's brother who does odd jobs for a living. The family stays in Singiaphar village of Nagaon district in central Assam.

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court, after accepting Hoque's petition issued notices to the state government and the Centre.

According to Nazirul Islam, the problems for Hoque started in 1997, when for the first time the name of 41-year-old featured on the voters list but with a "D" next to it. He had been marked a suspected illegal immigrant, a doubtful voter.

As the proceedings of the case started in the foreigners tribunal in Nagaon, Hoque appeared for a couple of times

in the beginning. In 2011, he was declared a foreigner ex parte after he failed to appear.

Responding to a question put up by MP Shashi Tharoor, minister of state for home G Kishan Reddy said 63,959 people have been declared foreigners ex parte in Assam out of a total number of over 1,00,000 declared foreigners.

One night in March 2017, Hoque was picked up by the Assam Police and taken to detention centre in Tezpur. "We told the police he is physically challenged and cannot even walk properly, but they expressed inability to help," Islam said.

The family decided to approach the foreigners tribunal for a review of the ex parte ruling and subsequently the Gauhati High Court after the foreigners tribunal rejected the review.

Among other documents, to explain his absence from tribunal proceedings, Hoque submitted a medical certificate which said he suffers from paralysis of the lower limb and has been advised rest.

The High Court took cognizance of the medical certificate but noted he ought to have made alternative arrangements for the proceedings in the tribunal. The court also said the petition to review and vacate the ex parte order ought to

have been filed within 30 days of the original order in 2011. "We had no money then," claims Islam.

The petition in the Supreme Court explained his absence from the tribunal proceedings and said "petitioner had to remain present before the tribunal during the proceedings because only he could have answered the questions being put to him. However being suffering from lower limb paralysis the petitioner was in no position to appear before the tribunal."

It also notes how the foreigners tribunal and the HC took into account various documents in name of his grandfather issued by the deputy commissioner of Nagaon in 1941-42 along with voter lists excerpts of 1965 showing name of his grandfather, grandmother, father and mother.

According to the petition, Hoque also produced the school certificate, "certifying his date of birth to be 5.03.1978 and therefore he is an Indian citizen by birth as per section 3 of the Citizenship Act."

His family is still baffled on how he was branded a foreigner. "How can he be a foreigner, when everyone else in the family is an Indian," said Islam. "Even we are against foreigners coming to Assam," he said.

New PAN card, Aadhaar rules: 5 things to know about the budget Those who do not have

Agency
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Under the new income tax rules, as announced in the Union Budget 2019 by Nirmala Sitharaman, PAN cards and Aadhaar cards will be made interchangeable soon. This means that taxpayers will need either Aadhaar card or PAN card to file their income tax returns (ITR). At present, you need to have both to file ITR. "For ease and convenience of tax payers, I propose to make PAN and Aadhaar interchangeable and allow those who do not have PAN to file Income Tax returns by simply quoting their Aadhaar number and also use it wherever they are required to

quote PAN," Nirmala Sitharaman said in her budget speech.

According to the proposed rules, the Income Tax Department shall allot PAN to such person on the basis of Aadhaar after obtaining demographic data from the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). If a taxpayer has already linked his Aadhaar with his PAN, he or she has the choice to use Aadhaar instead of PAN under the Income Tax Act. The finance ministry has also taken another step to track high-value transactions by making it mandatory to provide the quoting and authentication of PAN/Aadhaar for certain prescribed

transactions. The budget also introduced a provision that in person receiving relevant documents shall ensure correct quoting and authentication of PAN and Aadhaar for the prescribed transactions. To ensure compliance of these provisions it is also proposed to amend penalty provisions. Presently, the Income Tax Act provides for making PAN invalid if it is not linked with Aadhaar within a specified date. The finance ministry has now taken a step to protect past transactions. In the budget it has been proposed that if a person fails to intimate the Aadhaar number, the PAN allotted to such person shall be made inoperative.

FIR against Subramanian Swamy in Chhattisgarh for remarks on Rahul Gandhi

Agency
Chhattisgarh July 7,

Chhattisgarh police registered a case on Saturday against BJP MP Subramanian Swamy for allegedly insulting Rahul Gandhi.

The case has been registered with Pattalgaon police of Jashpur district on the complaint of district Congress president Pawan Agarwal.

"A written complaint was submitted by Congress district president after which a case has been registered

under IPC section 504 IPC (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 505(2) (intent to incite any class or community of a person) and 511 (punishment for attempting to commit offences punishable with imprisonment for life or other imprisonment)," said Jashpur superintendent of police SL Baghel.

The FIR says that Swamy gave a false statement against Rahul Gandhi which can disturb peace of the region. "The allegations are

not acceptable and it hurts the sentiments of people of the state," the FIR says.

Pawan Agarwal, who lodged the complaint, accused Swamy of "spreading hatred" with incorrect statements. The BJP claimed the FIR was nothing but vendetta politics. "The Congress government in Chhattisgarh is registering FIRs against political opponents. The people of Chhattisgarh understand this and this government will not last long," said Gaurishankar Shirvas, BJP spokesperson.

A R conducts friendly volleyball matches cum organises tree plantation drive

IGAR (South)
Imphal July 7,

Keithelmanbi and Thoubal Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted friendly volleyball matches on Yesterday.

With an aim of strengthening the bond and mutual trust between locals and Security Forces, Andro Company Operating Base (COB) organised a friendly volleyball match. The match was played between the team of Laupachum Youth Club and troops of Andro Company Operating Base. Yairipok Company Operating Base of Thoubal Battalion also organised a friendly volleyball match for the locals of the area. The match was played between the team of Angtha youth club and troops of Yairipok COB.

The matches were played with full vigor and enthusiasm showcasing true team spirit by the teams. All teams gave their best efforts on the field. At the end of the matches, both the winning and the runners up teams were felicitated with tokens of appreciation. The matches were followed by tea and refreshments for all the



attendees. The events provided a forum to the youth of the area for interaction with the troops of Assam Rifles. The villagers and youth appreciated the efforts of Assam Rifles to promote sports and ensuring healthy environment. In continuation with the efforts to educate the locals regarding the importance of trees and to conserve the natural resources for future generations, Tulihal Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised a tree plantation drive as part of Van Mahotsav on.

drive under "Go Green Initiative". The drive commenced with an informative lecture on "Trees and Global Warming" in which the locals were enlightened on global warming, its harmful effects and the benefits of tree plantation to counter it, followed by a plantation drive in which various varieties of saplings were planted by the children and locals in and around the village.

In addition to tree plantation, a friendly Volleyball match was also organised between troops of the COB and team of Paubitek Islamic Multi Cultural Association, Paubitek village. Both the teams played with full vigor and enthusiasm

showcasing true team spirit during the game and gave their best efforts on the field. At the end of the match, the winning and the runners up teams were felicitated with tokens of appreciation. The event witnessed attendance over 100 locals of the area. The event concluded with tea and refreshments for all the attendees.

The locals of the area appreciated the efforts of Assam Rifles for educating the locals to conserve the natural resources for the future generations and further requested to organise more such events for benefit of the society in future as well.

Govt to invest 50 lakh crore rupees in railways by 2030

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Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has said that the government is eyeing investment of 50 lakh crore in railways by the year 2030 to make it the best in the world. The Minister said that the rail infrastructure in the country increased by mere 30 per cent

in the last 65 years due to the lack of adequate investment, while freight and passenger traffic increased by 1500 per cent.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function organised to launch membership drive for the BJP in Panaji yesterday.

Mr Goyal announced that the entire Konkan Railway route

from Mumbai to Mangaluru via Goa would be electrified at the cost of 11,000 crore rupees.

He said that electrification of railways will improve speed and reduce pollution on the scenic Konkan railway route. The Minister said, there is a thrust on improving railway connectivity in Goa as the state is an important tourist d.

Central Govt to set up three CoE in Sports at Itanagar in AP

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Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju has informed that central government is going to set-up three Sports Centre of Excellence in Itanagar very soon.

He said this while briefing media persons in Itanagar

yesterday after holding a review meeting with the Arunachal Pradesh government on the sports infrastructure in the state.

Mr. Rijiju said that the three centre of excellence will be for Martial Arts, Weight Lifting and Boxing. He said these centres will have a capacity of 300 sportspersons with residential facility.

He said the government will

also set up 12 to 15 football stadiums with Astro-turf football pitches across the state in the next three years. Mr. Rijiju further announced that this year Arunachal Pradesh will host the North East Youth Festival.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein and State's Sports Minister Mama Nating were present in the meeting.