

# NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

## CJP Warns Of Nationwide Agitation If Union Education Minister Not Removed In 7 Days

**NEW DELHI, JUN 6:** The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), which organised a protest led by its founder Abhijeet Dipke at the Jantar Mantar here on Saturday demanding Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's removal, warned that the agitation would expand across the country if he is not sacked or does not resign voluntarily.

Addressing a press conference, CJP spokespersons Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das said the protest had drawn participants from several states and marked the beginning of a broader youth movement centred on education and governance issues.

Born as an online campaign in May, the CJP, which garnered over 22 million followers on Instagram, had exhorted youths to take part in the protest in the national capital over the issue of alleged irregularities in examinations and recruitment tests, in an apparent show of strength.

"We are giving the government seven days. Either Dharmendra Pradhan should resign respectfully, or Prime Minister Narendra Modi should sack him. If his resignation does not come within seven days, this movement will spread throughout the country," Ranka said.

He said the organisers were receiving messages from supporters in different states expressing readiness to hold peaceful demonstrations, and claimed the group would wait for a week before announcing its next course of action.

Describing the turnout on Saturday as a significant moment, Ranka said the protest demonstrated that young people were willing to mobilise around issues affecting them.

"June 6, 2026, will be written in history because today the politics of this country



has completely changed," he said, adding that many young people who were often discouraged from taking to the streets had come together for a peaceful demonstration.

The organisers repeatedly projected the protest as a youth-led campaign and sought to frame it as a response to concerns surrounding the education system.

"The time has come to reset our education system, and we have started that reset today," Ranka said, asserting that the demand for Pradhan's resignation was the immediate focus of the movement.

According to him, removing the education minister was necessary if meaningful reforms were to be undertaken. "Until this education minister is there, we will not be able to improve the education system of this country," he said.

While maintaining that the resignation demand remained the top priority, Ranka indicated that the campaign would continue beyond that issue.

"This is just the beginning. There are so many problems of the youth of this country," he said, arguing that concerns relating to education had not received adequate attention.

Asked whether the mobilisation should be viewed as a protest, a movement or a political platform, Ranka described it as "a platform for the youth", "a collective for the youth" and "a movement for the youth", while leaving open how it may evolve in the future.

The organisers also rejected suggestions that the mobilisation was linked to any established political formation and described themselves as "pro-youth, pro-education, pro-Constitution and pro-India".

Ranka claimed the turnout had exceeded expectations and emphasised that the gathering remained peaceful despite the crowds. "It was such a huge crowd, and yet it remained a very, very peaceful protest. Maybe one of the most peaceful protests the country has seen in a while," he said.

"The Gen Z and the youth of this country have Gandhi and Ambedkar in their blood," he added, thanking participants who had travelled from different parts of the country to attend the event.

Saurav Das said people from several states, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and those in the Northeast, had joined the protest.

He also referred to online support for the campaign, claiming that hundreds of thousands of people had signed petitions seeking the minister's resignation. Asked if they would send any representation to Pradhan or request a meeting, Ranka said, "Why doesn't he just resign." Das said several other student groups have written to the minister over the issue but have not received any response.

"The youth wants to talk, but when the government is not talking, that is when they are getting on the road," Das said.

He also thanked Delhi Police for facilitating the demonstration and said maintaining peace had been a priority for the organisers. "We are very happy that the Delhi Police's priority was peaceful demonstration," he said.

The protest was called by Dipke, who started the online satirical account of the Cockroach Janta Party, also called "CJP", amid demands for accountability over recent developments in the education sector.

Earlier in the day, Dipke had urged Pradhan to step down by 5 pm, with organisers later announcing the seven-day deadline for action by the minister or the government. (Agencies)

## 3 Prince Teotia gang members held after encounter in south Delhi; 2 injured

**NEW DELHI, JUN 6:** Three alleged members of the Prince Teotia gang, including a notorious criminal wanted in a recent extortion-linked firing case, were arrested following an exchange of fire with police in south Delhi's Pushp Vihar area, officials said on Saturday.

The accused were identified as Rakesh (31), Sonu (25) and Bharat Jatav (23). Rakesh and Sonu sustained bullet injuries to their legs during the encounter and were admitted to a hospital for treatment, police said.

According to police, the trio was wanted in connection with a recent extortion and firing case registered at the Saket police station. The case was lodged on the complaint of a Lado Sarai resident who had allegedly been receiving extortion calls and threats from Rakesh.

On June 1, two motorcycle-borne assailants allegedly fired multiple

rounds outside the complainant's residence to terrorise him and continued issuing threats thereafter, police said.

During the investigation, technical surveillance, CCTV footage analysis and local intelligence established the involvement of Rakesh and Sonu, who had been absconding since the incident.

Acting on specific information that Rakesh, Sonu and Bharat would be travelling through the Birla Vidya Niketan Marg area with illegal firearms, the police laid a trap near Machhi Market Road in Pushp Vihar during the intervening night of June 5 and 6. At around 12.20 am, the suspects were spotted riding a black motorcycle without a registration number. When police signalled them to stop, they allegedly attempted to flee and opened indiscriminate fire at the police team. Police said the accused fired around six rounds during

the encounter. A bullet allegedly fired by Rakesh struck the bulletproof jacket of Head Constable Sandeep Dhayal, preventing what could have been a serious injury.

Another round was fired towards Head Constable Arvind, but he escaped unhurt, officials said.

The police retaliated in self-defence, during which Rakesh and Sonu sustained gunshot injuries to their legs and were overpowered. Bharat was apprehended after being disarmed, police said. Rakesh is an active "bad character" of the Ambedkar Nagar police station and an alleged member of the Prince Teotia gang. He has previously been involved in 11 criminal cases, including cases of attempt to murder, illegal possession of arms and other offences, police said. Sonu has previously been involved in two criminal cases, including a murder case registered at the Saket

police station, while Bharat has a criminal record in an Arms Act case, officials said.

Police recovered two semi-automatic pistols, believed to include the weapons used in the Saket firing incident, seven live cartridges, six empty cartridges, three mobile phones, and a stolen motorcycle allegedly used in the commission of crimes.

The arrests have helped police solve two cases registered at the Saket police station, including the recent extortion and firing incidents, officials said.

A separate case relating to the encounter, possession of illegal firearms and the recoveries has been registered at Saket police station. Investigators are also probing the involvement of the accused in other criminal activities and trying to identify additional members of the Prince Teotia gang and its alleged extortion network. (Agencies)

## Durable peace depends on power balance, not empty pledges: Iranian adviser

**TEHRAN, JUNE 6:** Ali Akbar Velayati, adviser to Iran's Leader on international affairs, said lasting peace can only be achieved through a balance of power, warning against reliance on "empty promises" or compromise with adversaries.

In a post on X on Saturday, Velayati said Western concerns over Iran's rising influence have materialized, adding that "a new geometry of power" has emerged.

He cited reports from Western media suggesting the U.S. may seek a temporary deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, describing this as evidence of "the failure of threatening Iran" and "the victory of resistance."

Velayati cautioned regional actors against weakening resistance through political compromise, saying diplomatic wishful thinking carries high costs and that durable peace stems from a balance of power rather than "mirage-like pledges."

His remarks were seen as indirectly addressing Lebanese President Joseph Aoun, who has called for the disarmament of Hezbollah and recently criticized Iran's regional role.

Aoun has accused Iran of



using Lebanon as a "bargaining chip" in its negotiations with the United States.

Iran has consistently said that a regional security framework should be established in the Gulf region without the presence of the U.S.

"It's not your country, it's our country," Aoun said, addressing Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the main backers of Hezbollah. He added that Iran is using Lebanon as a bargaining chip in its negotiations with the U.S. during an exclusive interview with CNN.

Addressing Iran, he said: "You are not trying to help us the people of Lebanon are paying the price for the sake of your own interest," adding

that "our interests do not coincide with your interests."

Lebanon's Aoun is compelled by circumstances despite a ceasefire between Tehran and Washington in April. Subsequent negotiations have left Beirut increasingly entangled in the wider regional conflict, after Iran conditioned an agreement to end the war with the U.S. on Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

Meanwhile, as negotiations continue with Iran on a memorandum of understanding, with the nuclear issue as a major sticking point, President Trump said that only the U.S. and China have the capability to retrieve enriched uranium from Iran's buried nuclear sites, adding that the facilities were so

badly damaged by strikes that recovery would be extremely difficult.

"We attacked their nuclear sites and they were obliterated," he told reporters in the Oval Office.

"It turned out that CNN was wrong. They said, 'Well, maybe they weren't hit that hard.' They were hit so hard nobody knows if you could even get it out," he added.

Trump went on to argue that only the U.S. and China have the equipment capable of reaching it.

"But the only ones that have the capability of getting it out are us and China," Trump said.

"We're the only ones with that kind of equipment that's powerful enough to go down that deep into a mountain. That mountain crushed it." "That mountain literally collapsed on top of it."

Referring to assessments by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), he said the agency agreed that it would be extremely difficult to access.

"They think it's a very, very hard thing to get to, but we'll get it anyway. But we're the only ones — and China, I believe, too — that have the capability," he said. (UNI)

## Mango 'magic' takes over US as Indian Consulate in Seattle brings seven premium varieties to Americans

**NEW YORK/SEATTLE, JUNE 6:** Indian mangoes are taking US cities by storm, with Americans devouring popular varieties of the fruit and wanting more, as the Consulate General of India in Seattle hosted a special event that highlighted the potential for exports and consumption of the 'king of fruits' by connoisseurs in the US Pacific Northwest region.

The Consulate General of India in Seattle hosted the second edition of 'Mango Magic: Promotion and Tasting Event of Indian Mangoes'.

Over 100 leading importers of Indian fruits, including senior leadership of US retail giants like Costco participated in the event. They also relished the opportunity to taste seven premium varieties of Indian mangoes on display, including Alphonso and Kesar from Maharashtra, Banganapalle and Himayat from Andhra Pradesh, Langra and the famed Dussehri from Uttar Pradesh and Ripe Rajapuri from Gujarat.

The 'Mango Magic' event further amplified the potential of regional mango varieties from India and their potential for exports and consumption by wider global audiences in the US Pacific Northwest region, a press release by the Consulate General of India in Seattle said.

Hosted in partnership with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), the Indian Mango promotion event also



featured a special luncheon with dishes of Indian cuisine made using the seven varieties of Indian mangoes on display.

In an enthusiastic endorsement and reaffirmation of mangoes from India, Washington State Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck said in a video message that "I will never ever ever miss opening day of mango availability again as long as I live."

Addressing the special event, Heck welcomed the introduction of the wide variety of Indian mangoes to Washington State, particularly at leading US retailers like Costco.

Bob Huskey, Vice President of fresh produce at Costco Wholesale, said that the retail giant has just recently started selling the Indian Kesar mangoes, "and they have been selling faster than we can bring them back in. We are very happy to sell the mangoes and happy that we could be part of this mango celebration at the

Consulate."

Other dignitaries who attended and savoured the flavours of Indian Mangoes included Washington State Senators Tina Orwell, Manka Dhingra and Vandana Slatter and Consuls General from Japan and Uzbekistan.

The Indian Consulate had initiated the introduction of Indian mangoes in Seattle in July last year and had partnered with various stakeholders both in India and the Greater Seattle area with an attempt to bring new premium varieties of Indian mangoes to retail giants like Costco for American consumers.

These efforts received a "significant boost" following a meeting with Costco CEO Ron Vachris in April, after which 'Bhagwa' variety pomegranates from Maharashtra were introduced at Costco stores in the region, subsequently followed by Kesar mangoes last month.

Later in May, Costco im-

ported its first tranche of Indian Kesar mangoes, bringing them to its massive stores across the US — in Greater Seattle (Seattle, Kirkland, Issaquah, Woodinville, Lynnwood, Redmond), Las Vegas (Summerlin, SW Henderson, Spring Valley), New Jersey (Clifton, Union, Bridgewater, Edison, North Brunswick, Princeton) and Greater Los Angeles (Chino Hills, City of Industry, Eastvale).

Costco Representatives had then noted that "all the Indian mangoes were sold out from these locations within two hours of their arrival on the shelves", underscoring the huge demand potential for Indian mangoes in US, the release said.

India is the world's largest producer of mangoes, with an annual output of over 26 million metric tonnes and more than 1,000 named varieties. Indian mango exports to the United States, which resumed in 2007 after an 18-year suspension, have grown rapidly.

## Osteoarthritis increasingly affecting people in their 30s; personalised treatment is the key: study

**NEW DELHI, JUN 3:** Osteoarthritis (OA), long considered a wear-and-tear disease of old age, is increasingly being diagnosed in patients as young as 30 years, according to a review by researchers published in the journal International Orthopaedics.

The review, published on May 15, reframes osteoarthritis as a heterogeneous syndrome rather than a single disease, driven by diverse biological, biomechanical, metabolic, genetic and molecular mechanisms.

The findings suggest that the traditional "one-size-fits-all" approach to treatment often fails because patients present with different underlying disease drivers.

More than 500 million people worldwide live with OA, accounting for 7.6 per cent of the global population. Prevalence has surged 132 per cent in the past 30 years and is projected to rise by another 60 per cent by 2050, according to Global Burden of Disease estimates. Women, individuals with obesity, and those with



joint injuries are disproportionately affected.

"Osteoarthritis is no longer confined to the elderly. We are now seeing patients as young as 30, often driven by obesity and sedentary lifestyles."

"This research makes clear that osteoarthritis is not a single disease but a spectrum of conditions, and recognising the specific phenotype in each patient allows us to deliver far more effective, personalised treatment than a one-size-fits-all approach," said Dr Raju Vaishya, senior consultant Orthopaedic and

Joint Replacement Surgeon at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals. The review identifies six disease subtypes, in-

cluding inflammatory, metabolic and pain-sensitisation variants, and recommends MRI-based tools alongside biomarker panels to guide treatment decisions.

Researchers cited examples illustrating the need for personalised care. A 33-year-old IT professional with persistent knee pain was found to have vitamin D deficiency, elevated body mass index and early joint degeneration. Treated as a case of metabolic osteoarthritis with weight management, supplementation and structured exercise, the patient showed significant improvement.

In another case, a 60-year-old woman with severe

burning knee pain and disrupted sleep experienced little relief from standard medication. Further assessment revealed a pain-sensitisation phenotype, and treatment with neuromodulators targeting nerve pain pathways brought substantial relief. The study also highlighted that MRI-based structural phenotypes, including inflammatory, meniscus-cartilage, subchondral bone, atrophic and hypertrophic forms, along with molecular endotypes such as low tissue turnover, structural damage and systemic inflammation.

These tools, combined with biomarkers, including COMP, CTX-II and hsCRP, are expected to help clinicians make more precise treatment decisions, the authors said. Emerging technologies such as AI-assisted MRI scoring and PET-MRI with 18F-NaF are enabling earlier detection and patient clustering, though wider clinical adoption will require standardised protocols, validation across joints and large-scale clinical trials, the review noted. (Agencies)