

# NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

## 'PM Wants Youth To Keep Making Reels, Fry Pakodas': Rahul Gandhi Hits Out At PM Modi On CBSE OSM Row

**NEW DELHI, JUN 7:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday hailed whistleblower student Sarthak Sidhant and his associate Nisarga Adhikary for exposing the "collusion" between the CBSE and COEMPT and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants the youth to keep "making reels and fry pakodas" but these two youngsters asked questions and found answers too.

Gandhi shared on X a video of his meeting last week with Sarthak Sidhant, an 18-year-old student affected by the CBSE's on-screen marking system (OSM) who has pointed out alleged irregularities in the tendering process to select a vendor for the OSM exercise in Class-12 board exams.

In his post in Hindi accompanying the video, Gandhi said, "Sarthak is 18 years old, yet, in terms of mindset, courage, and principles, he is second to none."

"He and his associate, Nisarg, accomplished what the country's major media



houses and investigative journalists could not: they exposed the collusion between CBSE and COEMPT to the nation." An 18-year-old from the country proved faster and sharper than the CBI; this victory for the youth is, in the true sense, a defeat for the government, Gandhi said. "Modi ji wants our youth to keep making reels and frying pakodas, without asking questions or opening their eyes. But these young men did ask questions, and they found the answers, too," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

"This is India's true youth power — inquisitive, aware and informed. And remember, the country's future will not be led astray," he said.

While the government has shunted out two top CBSE officials following the on-screen marking system row, the opposition Congress has dismissed it as an eyewash and a cover-up, with Rahul Gandhi demanding that Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan be sacked and an independent judicial inquiry be ordered immediately.

In the video, Gandhi asks Sidhant how he was able to

find out information about alleged irregularities in the OSM tendering process. Gandhi also hails him for doing the job of investigative journalists.

After meeting Sidhant and his family last Tuesday, Gandhi had posted pictures from the meeting and said, "Sarthak, stay firm on your principles."

Sidhant also made a presentation before a parliamentary panel on Tuesday on the alleged irregularities in the OSM tendering process.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) replaced the traditional method of checking papers with digital evaluation for Class 12 through the on-screen marking system.

However, a controversy erupted after some Class 12 students alleged that the scanned copies of their answer sheets uploaded by the board did not match their handwriting, raising concerns over possible answer-sheet mismatch in the OSM system. (Agencies)

## Yoga for healthy ageing theme reflects pressing global health priority: Ayush Minister

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 7:**

The focus on health ageing in this year's International Day of Yoga reflects one of the most pressing global health priorities as countries grapple with rapidly ageing populations and a growing burden of lifestyle-related diseases, Union Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav has said.

The main International Day of Yoga celebration on June 21 this year will be held in Kolkata with the theme of 'Yoga for Health Living'.

Jadhav said the focus must now shift from merely increasing life expectancy to ensuring healthier, more active and dignified lives.

"The theme 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing' reflects one of the most pressing global health priorities today. As life expectancy increases across the world, the focus must shift from merely living longer to living healthier, more active, and dignified lives," he told PTI.

The minister said yoga offers a holistic approach to physical fitness, mental well-being, emotional balance and preventive healthcare throughout the ageing journey.

Highlighting the choice of Kolkata as the host city, he said the city represents India's rich cultural and intellectual legacy.

"The choice of Kolkata as the host city is equally significant. Kolkata embodies India's rich cultural, spiritual, and intellectual heritage, making it an ideal venue to showcase yoga as a timeless tradition that continues to address contemporary health challenges," Jadhav said.

He noted that the world is witnessing a major demographic transition, with the elderly population growing rapidly, even as stress-related illnesses, non-commu-



nicable diseases and lifestyle disorders become increasingly prevalent.

"The world is witnessing a major demographic transition, with the elderly population growing rapidly. Alongside this, lifestyle disorders, stress-related illnesses, and non-communicable diseases are becoming increasingly prevalent," he said.

According to the minister, yoga offers a simple, accessible and cost-effective solution that promotes mobility, flexibility, mental resilience and overall wellness.

"Through this theme, we seek to encourage citizens to adopt yoga as a lifelong practice that supports healthy and active ageing," Jadhav added.

Regular Yoga practice helps improve balance, flexibility, strength, respiratory efficiency, and cardiovascular health, Jadhav said.

It also supports mental well-being by reducing stress, anxiety, and loneliness.

Scientific studies increasingly demonstrate yoga's positive impact on cognitive health, emotional stability, and quality of life among older adults.

"I would encourage every senior citizen to embrace yoga as a companion for healthy and graceful ageing. One does not need to perform difficult postures to experience its benefits. Simple asanas, breathing practices,

and meditation can significantly improve physical health, mental peace, and confidence. Yoga empowers individuals to remain active, independent, and engaged with life," he said.

On the Ayush ministry's preparation for IDY 2026, Jadhav said the ministry has initiated extensive preparations through awareness campaigns, training programmes, institutional partnerships, and community outreach activities, 100 days of countdown.

"We are also leveraging digital platforms to ensure wider engagement and greater accessibility for people across India and abroad," he stated.

On the role of the 'Yoga 365' initiative plays in this year's celebrations, he said "Yoga 365 is designed to transform yoga from a one-day event into a year-round movement. Through continuous engagement, training programmes, and public participation initiatives, Yoga 365 encourages citizens to integrate yoga into their daily lives".

Preventive healthcare is a key pillar of our healthcare strategy. Yoga helps reduce the risk of many lifestyle-related conditions by promoting physical activity, stress management, healthy habits, and mental well-being. By encouraging regular yoga practice, IDY 2026 reinforces the idea that main-

Another notable initiative is the 'Yoga for Air Travel' protocol, a specially designed five-minute routine comprising seated yogic practices, breathing exercises, and brief meditation. (PTI)

taining health is often more effective than treating disease after it occurs, Jadhav stated.

On Yoga's impact internationally, he said since its adoption by the United Nations in 2014, the International Day of Yoga has evolved into one of the world's largest wellness movements.

"Today, yoga is practised across continents, transcending cultural, linguistic, and geographical boundaries. IDY has strengthened India's role as a global ambassador of holistic health and wellness while promoting the universal message of harmony between mind, body, and nature," he said.

This year, special emphasis is being placed on inclusive participation, community engagement, and creating sustainable yoga ecosystems.

The ministry has strengthened platforms such as the Yoga Sangam Portal and the Yoga Park initiative to expand outreach and facilitate greater public participation. These efforts will help build long-term yoga infrastructure and encourage regular practice among citizens.

In addition, the ministry has launched 10 yoga protocols for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and target groups, designed to address the specific needs of individuals across different age groups and health conditions. These evidence-based protocols reinforce yoga's role in preventive, promotive, and integrative healthcare.

Another notable initiative is the 'Yoga for Air Travel' protocol, a specially designed five-minute routine comprising seated yogic practices, breathing exercises, and brief meditation. (PTI)

## CJP's Agitation To Continue Until Union Minister Pradhan Resigns: Abhijeet Dipke

**CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR,**

**JUN 7:** Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Sunday asserted that his agitation over alleged irregularities in examinations and recruitment tests will not stop until Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigns.

Speaking to reporters here, Dipke also claimed that the protest organised under the CJP's banner at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Saturday was largely successful, with around 7,000 people participating in it. The movement would now expand nationwide, he added.

The CJP, a youth-led online movement that has been demanding accountability for alleged irregularities in examinations and recruitment tests, including NEET, CBSE, CUET, and SSC examinations.

Dipke reached his residence in the MIDC Waluj area in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district on Sunday morning and was welcomed by his family members.

Later, speaking to reporters, he said the agitation undertaken by the Cockroach Janata Party will not stop until Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigns.

"The protest we staged (at Jantar Mantar) was success-



ful, as 6,000 to 7,000 people attended it. This agitation will go nationwide. We won't step back till Dharmendra Pradhan resigns," Dipke asserted.

"We will roll out a further action plan to take this agitation nationwide," he added.

Meanwhile, security at Dipke's residence was beefed up. "We have increased the security at his residence from today. Earlier, 11 security personnel were deployed, now the number has reached 15. The deployed staff is from the local police station as well as the city police headquarters," an official from MIDC Waluj police station said.

On Saturday, hundreds of protesters gathered at Delhi's Jantar Mantar under the banner of the CJP, demanding Pradhan's resignation over alleged irregularities in examinations and

recruitment tests, with Dipke delivering the message not to be "scared".

At a press conference later in the national capital, CJP spokespersons announced that they will wait for a week either for the Centre to sack Pradhan or his voluntary resignation, after which they would launch a countrywide protest.

Dipke, who called for the protest, arrived in Delhi from the United States on Saturday morning, walking out of the airport carrying a copy of B R Ambedkar's autobiography. After receiving permission from the Delhi Police, he reached Jantar Mantar.

Protesters, armed with posters demanding Pradhan's resignation, were seen wearing cockroach masks, which were being distributed at the venue. Besides demanding the education min-

ister's resignation, the protesters also raised slogans demanding that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stop indulging in "Hindu-Muslim" politics, and hailed the motherland with "Bharat Mata ki Jai" slogans.

Borned 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.

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, CPI's Annie Raja and activists from Left student and youth organisations also participated in the protest. (Agencies)

## Pakistan's Interior Minister Naqvi travels to Tehran to revive US-Iran dialogue

**ISLAMABAD, JUNE 7:**

Pakistan has accelerated efforts to revive the US-Iran dialogue with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi travelling to Tehran with a message for Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, according to a media report.

Naqvi landed in Iran on Saturday night and was received by his counterpart Eskandar Momeni. The two had met during the week in Bishkek on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting.

The Dawn newspaper quoted Iran's official news agency IRNA as saying that Naqvi was carrying an "important message" from Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir for Khamenei.

Diplomatic sources said Naqvi's mission was part of Pakistan's efforts to prevent the collapse of a ceasefire arrangement that Islamabad helped broker earlier this year and to create space for the resumption of meaningful negotiations between Washington and Tehran.

The ceasefire, reached in April after weeks of intense fighting involving Iran, the US and Israel, remains formally in place but has been repeatedly tested by military incidents in and around the Gulf region.

The interior minister held consultations with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other senior officials before leaving for Tehran.

The visit comes at a delicate moment in the diplomatic process that Pakistan has been facilitating for months, as indirect negotiations between Washington and Tehran have drifted into what diplomats describe as a



"fragile stalemate".

The Dawn reported that recent exchanges involving US strikes on Iranian military assets and Iranian retaliatory actions have further complicated efforts to move negotiations beyond crisis management towards a more comprehensive political understanding.

At the centre of the deadlock are disagreements over Iran's enriched uranium stockpile, its enrichment programme, the future of sanctions, reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and regional security issues.

While US President Donald Trump has repeatedly claimed that negotiations remain active and that progress is being made towards a deal, Iranian officials have struck a far more cautious tone.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi recently said there had been no tangible progress in the talks and that Tehran was still reviewing proposals conveyed through intermediaries.

Diplomatic sources familiar with the process said both sides remained far apart on key questions, particularly Washington's demand for substantial restrictions on Iranian enrichment activities and Tehran's insistence that

its right to peaceful enrichment remains non-negotiable.

Complicating matters further is the Lebanon question, which Iranian officials increasingly view as linked to the broader diplomatic track.

Tehran has repeatedly argued that any durable arrangement must address developments across all theatres of confrontation, including Lebanon, while Washington has sought to treat the Lebanon-Israel track separately from the nuclear and sanctions negotiations.

Against this backdrop, Naqvi's discussions in Tehran are expected to focus not only on the state of the US-Iran talks but also on regional issues that continue to affect prospects for a settlement.

Besides talks with Interior Minister Momeni, the Pakistani minister is expected to meet Foreign Minister Araghchi and President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Meetings with parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Bagher Zolghadr are also expected, according to Iranian sources.

The significance attached to the visit has fuelled specu-

lation that Islamabad may be attempting to inject fresh momentum into a process that appeared to be losing traction after weeks of military incidents and diplomatic setbacks.

Meanwhile, in a related development, Lebanese Army Commander General Rodolphe Haykal left for Pakistan on Saturday on an official visit.

The Lebanese Armed Forces announced that the visit was being undertaken at the invitation of General Haykal's Pakistani counterpart, but did not disclose details of its agenda or duration.

Officially, the trip is being described as part of ongoing military-to-military cooperation and discussions on training and institutional support.

However, the timing of the visit has generated speculation because it coincides with Pakistan's efforts to overcome obstacles in the US-Iran negotiations and follows renewed tensions in southern Lebanon.

Lebanon has increasingly emerged as one of the factors complicating the broader diplomatic process.

President Joseph Aoun has recently called for strengthening state authority and reducing the role of non-state armed groups, while Iranian officials have strongly rejected suggestions that Tehran uses Lebanon as leverage in its dealings with Washington.

Iran has also linked progress in its discussions with the US to developments on what it describes as other fronts of the conflict, including Lebanon.

## CBI conducts searches in Rs 661 cr IDFC First Bank-AU Finance Bank fraud case

**NEW DELHI, JUN 7:** The CBI has conducted searches at six locations in Chandigarh, Panchkula and Delhi-NCR in connection with an alleged Rs 661 crore fraud involving the siphoning of government funds from departments of the Haryana government and the Chandigarh administration, officials said on Sunday.

The searches were carried out on Friday at premises linked to senior Haryana cadre public servants and Noida-based Vipam Consultancy Pvt Ltd and its director as part of an ongoing probe into the alleged misappropriation of funds parked with IDFC First Bank and AU Finance Bank, an official statement said.

According to the agency,

the fraud affected eight departments of the Haryana government and two departments of the Union Territory of Chandigarh — Municipal Corporation Chandigarh and Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science and Technology Promotion Society (CREST).

"During investigation evidences have surfaced suggesting that the public servants had colluded with bank officials and had facilitated in opening of accounts, transfer of funds and subsequent diversion thereof," the statement said.

The agency alleged that the public servants received undue advantages for facilitating the transactions and failing to act against the irregularities.

The investigating agency also alleged that Vipam Consultancy Pvt Ltd received proceeds of crime in its bank account, which were later transferred to the personal account of its director.

"Incriminating documents, digital devices, property documents and other relevant material were seized during the search operations," the agency said.

The probe stems from one case taken over from the Haryana State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau and two cases originally registered by the Economic Offences Wing police station in Chandigarh.

The cases relate to alleged criminal conspiracy, misappropriation of government funds and related offences

committed in connivance with bank officials and public servants, the agency said.

The CBI said it has already filed its first chargesheet before a special court in Panchkula detailing the alleged role of public servants from the Haryana Power Generation Corporation Ltd and Haryana School Shiksha Pariyojna Parishad.

The chargesheet also outlined the alleged modus operandi used to siphon off government funds parked with the IDFC First Bank and AU Finance Bank, it said.

The investigation is continuing and additional chargesheets will be filed against other accused found involved in the case, it added. (Agencies)