

Protesting Students Not Terrorist
Action Must Against Those Responsible
For Assault On Them: Rahul

NEW DELHI, JUL 22: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday accused the Modi government of destroying India's education system and expressed full support for the protesting students, saying their demands, including Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation, are fully legitimate and non-negotiable.

The protesting students are not terrorists and are simply asking for an education system that works and is fair, said Gandhi while also backing demands for an apology to students from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and holding everyone responsible for the assault on students accountable.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Gandhi alleged that the education system is not only rigged, but it is also unaffordable.

A video of alleged "police brutality" against students during Monday's 'Sansad Chalo' protest was shown at the start of the press conference.

Referring to the police action, Gandhi said, "The question is why is this happening to our students. What have they done to have security forces aiming weapons at them, to be beaten up, to be thrashed.

"They are protesting peacefully, asking for what this country owes them. They are simply asking as students in this country- 'we deserve an education system



that is fair'." Children have committed suicides, they go through unlimited stress and there is a legitimate, very deep problem in this country, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

He claimed 152 paper leaks have taken place in the last decade.

"Every month lakhs of students are told that all the stress you went through, you will have to undergo it again and 'we don't give a damn,'" Gandhi said.

He further said that 7.5 crore students were affected by the breakdown of the education system.

"There have been zero convictions despite 152 paper leaks," he said.

"A group of people are destroying our education system and the lives of our students," he said.

Annual exam expense of families is Rs 1.32 lakh crore, which is nearly equal to the

education budget of Rs 1.4 lakh crore, Gandhi claimed.

"This is pure theft from these families, and after you steal from them you tell them the paper is leaked," he said, hitting out at the government.

The second reason why students are protesting is that after acquiring education, students are told that the doors that were opened to you are now closed.

"So manufacturing is closed, entrepreneurship is closed, corporate jobs are closed, public sector is closed. The only choice they have is a government job. Then you rig the system and make it unaffordable. We are 100 per cent in agreement with students. There must be some consequences," he said.

Gandhi asserted that the demands of the students are legitimate.

"They are demanding the

resignation of the Education Minister. Dharmendra Pradhan, who is known to be corrupt, should be relieved of his duties," the former Congress chief said.

He has shown he is incapable of running this system, Gandhi said.

"Second demand is everyone who raised a finger on students must be held accountable, and PM Modi must apologise to students for what has happened," he said.

"We fully support these demands and every single student who is on the street," Gandhi said.

His remarks came a day after he, along with Priyanka Gandhi and Samajwadi Party's (SP) Akhilesh Yadav, were forcibly removed by police after they held a dharna outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence here, demanding his resignation.

Democracy is finished, oppn not being allowed to
speak in Parliament: Priyanka Gandhi slams govt

NEW DELHI, JUL 22: Dressed in black in solidarity with protesting students, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday said "democracy is finished" and what is happening in Parliament is "undemocratic" with debate not being allowed on students' issues.

Referring to the Congress' protest outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 7, Lok Kalyan Marg residence on Tuesday, Priyanka Gandhi said the biggest thing in democracy is freedom of expression and right to peaceful protest.

"There is nothing undemocratic about that. What is undemocratic is what is happening in Parliament and on the streets," she said.

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and several other opposition MPs, dressed in black, staged a protest outside Parliament on Wednesday against the alleged police brutality on protesting students.

"In Parliament, debate is not being allowed. The Leader of Opposition is not allowed to speak, and neither are other opposition leaders. Whenever they rise to speak, they are stopped," Priyanka Gandhi told reporters in the Parliament House complex.

"The Speaker says he has to ask the government whether a debate can take place. What is this? Democracy is finished," the Congress general secretary said.

The Congress' protest outside the PM's residence during which Rahul Gandhi, SP's Akhilesh Yadav and many others were detained, Priyanka Gandhi said, "What happened to us is irrelevant. We are standing with the students and raising their voice. What happened to the students, was it right or wrong? They are all



young students.

"They are protesting, and this is not just any protest. It is a genuine issue, a genuine problem. Every parent in this country knows it. Every student in this country knows it. Every teacher in this country knows it. Everyone knows this is a genuine issue," the Congress MP said.

The students are only asking for their rights, she asserted.

These students study with immense dedication and struggle to build a future for themselves, and their future is being destroyed, she said, lashing out at the government.

"The entire education budget for the youth of this country is Rs 1.4 lakh crore. But you are writing off loans worth Rs 16 lakh crore for Adani ji and Ambani ji. The farmers get nothing, the poor get nothing, and the students get nothing," Priyanka Gandhi said.

In a dramatic turn of events, opposition leaders, including Congress's Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Samajwadi Party's (SP) Akhilesh Yadav, were forcibly removed by police on Tuesday after they staged a dharna outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resi-

dence here, demanding his resignation.

The surprise sit-in in the high-security zone sent the government into a tizzy, prompting it to rush Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Jitendra Singh, along with Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, to persuade the opposition leaders to vacate the sensitive site.

Gandhi's discussion with the minister lasted a few minutes, after which Singh and the home secretary left as the talks remained inconclusive.

Soon after Singh left the protest site, police forcibly removed and detained Gandhi and other leaders in the evening.

Rahul Gandhi was taken to the Chhatrasal stadium in Model Town after his detention, but was released a few hours later. Priyanka Gandhi and some other MPs were taken to the Mandir Marg police station, where Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi visited them.

They were released after a few hours. Some other MPs and leaders were taken to the Kingsway Camp police station and released later.

After his release, Rahul Gandhi said in a video that once it was clear that the government had no intentions of scheduling a debate on the students' issue, they decided to hold the sit-in outside the prime minister's residence.

"The idea was to protest outside the prime minister's residence in order to bring to national attention the issues related to students, the way they were attacked by the Delhi Police on Monday.

Brain disorders associated with
increased brain ageing: Study

NEW DELHI, JUL 22: Brains of people with dementia, alcohol addiction, or psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia might show an increased ageing, with each condition leaving its own patterns in specific areas of the brain, a study has shown.

Scientists calculate how old the brain is relative to the body using 'predictive age difference' -- difference between chronological age and age predicted by brain imaging -- with a positive value indicating that ageing has increased.

Researchers, including those from Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, China, collected structure magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) data from 45,900 healthy people across several brain imaging banks, and compared them with of 2,698 patients with different brain conditions and differences.

The conditions analysed included attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), alcohol or tobacco addiction, Alzheimer's disease, mild



cognitive impairment, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depressive disorder.

The authors found that neurodegenerative disorders -- Alzheimer's disease and mild cognitive impairment -- had the largest association with a high predictive age difference.

Addition and psychiatric disorders were also associated with an increased predictive age difference (PAD), whereas brains of people with ADHD or ASD and healthy participants showed no differences in PAD values.

"Results showed that while PAD was consistently greater

across disorders, different brain disorders showed different degrees of abnormality, the highest effects in dementia, followed by addiction and psychiatric disorders, but not different from expected in developmental disorders," the authors wrote.

They also looked at PAD values in specific areas of the brain, and examined which genes showed an increased expression in people with different brain conditions.

The prefrontal cortex -- responsible for higher level functions such as attention and decision-making -- showed a higher PAD across

brain disorders.

A higher predictive age difference in the frontal and temporal lobes -- involved in executive function, voluntary movement and language comprehension -- was associated with psychiatric disorders, while a high value in the frontal and occipital cortex (visual processing) was associated with dementia.

Addiction was connected with a high PAD in the default mode network, which is involved when one is thinking idly, among other brain regions.

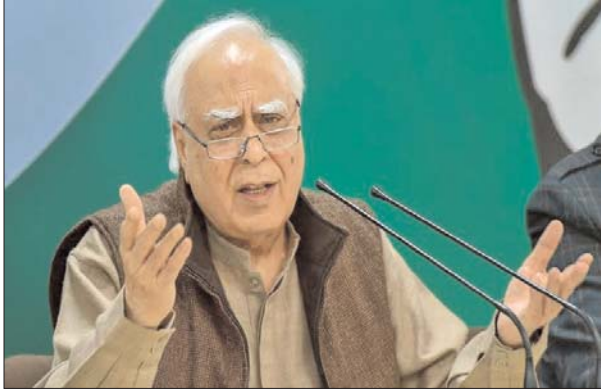
While the results are correlational, and not causal, and while some conditions such as psychiatric disorders and addiction have high co-occurrence, the authors suggest that understanding more about predictive age difference could help provide biomarkers for commonly occurring brain disorders.

They added, "Different neurological disorders appear to leave different signatures on the brain aging clock, which may help researchers better understand the neural and biological pathways involved in these conditions." (PTI)

SC agrees to hear Kapil Sibal's plea on
interpretation of Tenth Schedule

NEW DELHI, JULY 22: The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to list for hearing on July 27 a plea filed by senior advocate Kapil Sibal seeking reconsideration of the interpretation of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, which allows MLAs and MPs to avoid disqualification under the anti-defection law by claiming a merger with another political party.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana was urged by Sibal, an Independent Rajya Sabha MP, that he has filed a plea in per-



sonal capacity and it may be listed for an urgent hearing.

"I have filed a petition in person. It relates to the issue of whether the composition of Parliament can change in the fashion in which it is

happening in this country and the interpretation of the Tenth Schedule paragraph four in that context," the senior lawyer said.

He said that similar pleas are pending in the top court

and a petition filed by Shiv Sena (UBT) challenging the Lok Sabha speaker's approval of the merger of some of its MPs with the Shinde Sena is listed today before a bench headed by Justice P S Narasimha.

Taking note of the submissions, the CJI agreed to list Sibal's petition for hearing on Monday.

The plea comes against the backdrop of MPs from AAP, Trinamool Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT) joining the ruling BJP and other political parties by invoking the merger provisions under the Tenth Schedule. (PTI)

'Don't Waste Our Time': SC Declines Urgent Listing
Of Plea Against Police Action During CJP Protest

NEW DELHI, JULY 22: The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined a request for urgent listing of a plea challenging the police action against students during the Cockroach Janta Party-led protest march in Delhi, with Chief Justice of India Surya Kant asking the petitioner not to waste time.

The matter was mentioned before a bench comprising the CJI and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana.

"I have the videos as well regarding police brutality... If it can be listed tomorrow (Thursday)... students are there," the lawyer said.

He said that students had allegedly been subjected to police brutality during the protest and said the petition contained three prayers.



The CJI declined the request and made it clear that the bench was not inclined to examine video footage at the mentioning stage.

"We are not interested in videos, we don't have time to watch... We don't want to watch videos," the CJI said. < The counsel reiterated

that students had been beaten up and again referred to the video evidence, the CJI said, "Don't waste our time. We don't want to watch any videos." The plea relates to the police action during the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest march to Parliament on Monday, the opening day of the Monsoon session, when thousands of students and young protesters converged in the heart of Delhi to demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination irregularities.

The march witnessed clashes between protesters and security personnel, who used lathis and tear gas to disperse crowds attempting to move towards Parliament. (PTI)

CJP Protesters Continue Sit-In At Jantar
Mantar; More Supporters Gather Overnight



read.

Several people sent food to the protest site on Tuesday night as more supporters gathered at Jantar Mantar, where protesters continued their sit-in despite heavy security de-

ployment in the area following Monday's police crackdown on the CJP's "Sansad Chalo" march.

CJP spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka said the agitation would continue until Pradhan resigns.

"We will not leave this spot until Dharmendra Pradhan resigns. July 20 was a milestone moment in India's political history, especially in post-Independence India. The youth won't stay quiet anymore," he said.

Late Tuesday night, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke issued a clarification that the movement had not called for any gathering any-

where other than Jantar Mantar. "Cockroach Janta Party has not given a call to assemble anywhere but at Jantar Mantar, where our peaceful protest is on," Dipke said in a statement, alleging that the group had received reports that "some goons" may have been sent to other parts of Delhi to create disturbances.

"They are not with CJP," he said.

The agitation began on June 20, demanding accountability over alleged examination irregularities, reforms in the education system and the resignation of Pradhan. Activist Sonam Wangchuk, who joined the protest on June 28 and has been on an indefinite hunger strike since then, has continued his fast from Medanta Hospital after being shifted there from Safdarjung Hospital following a Delhi High Court order.