

"Nothing Less Than Pradhan's Resignation": CJP's Abhijeet Dipke Sets Terms Ahead Of Talks With Govt

NEW DELHI, JULY 24: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke, following social activist Sonam Wangchuk's decision to end his 26-day hunger strike, asserted that the party's agitation will persist until Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan steps down from his post.

Speaking to reporters, Dipke expressed relief over Wangchuk's health but remained firm on the movement's primary demand regarding accountability for examination irregularities.

"Our protest will continue until Dharmendra Pradhan resigns. We are very happy and relieved that Sonam sir has ended his hunger strike, as it had been over 26 days. His life is extremely precious to this country," Dipke told reporters.

Reiterating the party's stance on negotiations with the Centre, the CJP leader emphasised that any dialogue must occur on neutral ground.

"Our demonstration will go on until Dharmendra Pradhan steps down. Any meeting must take place at a neutral location or venue. Nothing less than the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan will be accepted," he added.

Meanwhile, another Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) representative, Ashutosh Ranka, also stated that the ongoing protest at Jantar Mantar will persist until



Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan tenders his resignation.

Addressing the media, the CJP representative shared the schedule for high-level deliberations and upcoming media briefings related to the ongoing protest.

"There is a meeting with JP Nadda Ji at the CCI scheduled for 12:30. As far as we have been told, Jitendra Singh Ji might also be present there. Whatever is discussed will be shared with you all. We have also organised a press conference at 11:00, where we will provide more details," he told reporters.

Ranka confirmed that while the hunger strike led by Sonam has concluded following certain government assurances, the core objective of the movement re-

mains the removal of the Minister. Commenting on a video released by the Prime Minister earlier, Ranka said that the government is feeling the weight of the public outcry and urged for immediate action.

"Finally, we noticed that for the first time, the Prime Minister had to release a selfie video at 12 midnight, which shows that the pressure is very high. Prime Minister, you said that today you want to take very strict action; for us the strictest action would be to remove Dharmendra Pradhan. If you remove him quickly, then we will believe that you are truly serious about the youth of this country," he added.

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) spokesperson Deepak Balyan also announced that

ongoing demonstrations will persist without interruption until Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan steps down from his post, dismissing government assurances regarding fast-track courts as insufficient, adding youth of this country are awakened and won't be fooled.

CJP spokesperson outlined the core stance of the agitation, stating, "CJP's clear call is that this protest will continue indefinitely until Dharmendra Pradhan (Union Education Minister) resigns. PM Modi says cases will be tried in fast-track courts, but those are just words; we don't trust them because the youth have been cheated many times before. The youth feel betrayed and are troubled." (Agencies)

Make statement in Parliament instead of delivering 'one-sided Mann Ki Baat': Kharge to PM

NEW DELHI, July 24: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday said when Parliament is in session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi should be making a statement on the paper leaks issue on the floor of the House and not delivering a "one-sided Mann Ki Baat".

Kharge's remarks came after Modi announced on Thursday night in a video message that a bill containing provisions for strong action against paper leaks would be introduced in Parliament next week.

In a video message, Modi also said the contours of the bill would be discussed at a meeting of the Union Cabinet on Friday, where the proposed legislation will be finalised.

Reacting to the PM's remarks, Kharge said, "Before coming to Parliament today, please dismiss Dharmendra Pradhan. First, apologise to the students and

take strict action against those who ordered the use of batons and pellet guns to suppress the students' voices. Then we are ready for a detailed discussion on the education system."

"When Parliament is in session, the prime minister is required to make a statement on the floor of the House. He should not be delivering a one-sided 'Mann Ki Baat' outside Parliament," the Congress chief said in a post in Hindi on X. In his remarks last night, Modi said the cabinet would discuss the issue of paper leaks on Friday and after taking suggestions of the cabinet colleagues, further action would be finalised.

On Monday, when the second week of the Monsoon session of Parliament will begin, a bill will be brought with provisions for strong action against paper leaks and we will try to pass it as early as possible," he said.

The Prime Minister said he knows

that paper leaks are not a small issue and for lakhs of students and their guardians, such incidents are extremely painful.

Therefore, since allegations of the NEET paper leak surfaced about two and a half months ago, several strong steps have been taken, he added.

"The guilty have been caught. They are now in jail. Our most significant responsibility was to ensure that the students did not lose a year. It was necessary to hold the examination immediately. By using all resources, the Government ensured that 22 lakh students could attend the retest," Modi said.

Shortly after, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hit out at Modi for sidestepping the issue of Pradhan's resignation in his video message and said the PM should not insult the intelligence of students with this "pathetic midnight video". (PTI)

Sonia Gandhi's Criticism Misplaced; Several Paper Leaks Took Place Under Congress Rule: BJP

NEW DELHI, JUL 24: The BJP on Friday dismissed Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's criticism of the government's handling of the student protests, and accused the opposition of trying to derive political mileage from the issue.

Gandhi had said that students have demanded accountability and educational reforms, but the Modi government has responded to their courage with "cowardice and wanton cruelty, treating them not as inheritors of the future but as enemies of the nation".

In her article, An Education System's Collapse, Young India's Trauma, published in The Hindu, she accused the government of degrading India's education landscape and asserted that the country's students have called the Modi regime's bluff.

Reacting to Gandhi's article, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey said the Congress lacks the moral authority to criticise it.

"Do you think such an ar-

ticle has any meaning? What moral authority does the Congress have left? What moral authority? The Congress is a shop of lies," he told reporters in Parliament House complex.

He accused the Congress of taking up the students' issue only to derive political mileage.

The Congress jumped into the agitation only after it saw the public response to the students' protests. It did not launch any movement of its own. It is merely trying to derive political mileage from the issue," he said.

On the proposed legislation to tackle paper leaks, Dubey maintained that the government will introduce a stringent law.

"I had said yesterday that when Parliament functions, a Bill will be brought under which those involved in paper leaks, and even their generations, will tremble.

"The prime minister has made that position absolutely clear. He has been telling us consistently that a separate and very stringent

law will be brought. Yesterday, the prime minister himself asked everyone to wait for the Cabinet's decision," he said.

BJP MP Shashank Mani Tripathi said Gandhi's criticism is misplaced as several paper leaks had taken place when Congress-led governments were in power, but no one had sought or offered resignations.

"Sonia Gandhi is saying that we mishandled the issue, but that is incorrect. If you look at the record since 2004, there were several paper leaks, including PMT, AIEEE, CBSE and other examinations, but no resignations were sought or given when the Manmohan Singh government was in power. They should stop shedding crocodile tears and instead think about how India's future can be shaped through its youth," he said.

Tripathi said the Centre is taking action at every level to address concerns over the NEET paper leak, asserting the government is committed to restoring students'

confidence.

"The prime minister had announced that a Cabinet meeting would be convened. He made several announcements, and you also saw that a secretary was transferred. So, in my view, administrative action is also being taken. Our government is committed in every way to removing the doubts in the minds of students," Tripathi told reporters in Parliament House complex.

He said the government wants a discussion in Parliament so that the ruling party and the opposition can together find ways to address irregularities in NEET and guide the country's youth.

"We have been saying there should be a debate in Parliament so that, in the future, both the ruling party and the opposition can together guide the country's youth and address the irregularities in NEET. But, for some reason, the opposition is trying to derive political mileage from the issue, and I condemn that," he said. (Agencies)

India expands medical education; number of medical colleges more than doubled since 2014

NEW DELHI, JULY 24: The number of medical colleges in India has increased from 387 in 2014 to 844 now, while undergraduate MBBS seats have grown from 51,348 to 1,39,489, Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel said on Friday. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, the minister also said that postgraduate medical seats have increased from 31,185 to 86,360 in the same time period.

The minister said the establishment of new medical colleges in remote and underserved regions, along with the expansion of MBBS seats, is expected to improve the availability of doctors and strengthen healthcare delivery across the country.

Patel also highlighted the Family Adoption Programme (FAP), which has been integrated into the

MBBS curriculum.

Under the programme, medical colleges adopt villages, while MBBS students adopt families within those villages to provide regular follow-up on vaccination, growth monitoring, menstrual hygiene, iron and folic acid supplementation, nutrition, healthy lifestyle practices, vector control and medication adherence.

She noted that the District Residency Programme (DRP), introduced by the National Medical Commission (NMC), mandates a three-month posting for postgraduate medical students at district hospitals as part of their training.

Responding to a question on the impact of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Patel said an evaluation commissioned by NITI Aayog found encouraging outcomes, including improved infrastructure

and higher community footfall due to expanded access to comprehensive primary healthcare services.

The study cited better availability of care for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), outpatient services, free medicines and diagnostic facilities. According to the minister, the deployment of Community Health Officers has strengthened frontline healthcare delivery, while digital platforms such as e-Sanjeevani have expanded access to specialist consultations.

Patel said that under the National Health Mission (NHM), the performance of health programmes is regularly monitored through review meetings, field visits, mid-term assessments, service delivery benchmarks and annual Common Review Missions.

The Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare has launched several initiatives to improve service delivery, including integrated training modules in collaboration with regional training institutes, the Swasth Bharat Portal to enhance digital interoperability, and greater use of the Drugs and Vaccine Distribution Management System to strengthen drug inventory and supply chain management.

The Ministry has also issued revised guidelines for village health, sanitation and nutrition committees and Jan Arogya Samitis to boost community participation, developed standardised information, education and communication materials for beneficiary outreach, and introduced incentive mechanisms at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs to improve retention of healthcare personnel, she added. (PTI)

No Talks Until Pradhan Resigns, PM Apologises For Brutality Against Students: Rahul

NEW DELHI, JUL 24: Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said that no discussion would be held with the government until Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigns taking accountability for exam paper leaks, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi apologise for the alleged police brutality against the protesting students in Delhi.

Speaking in the Parliament House complex, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha also claimed that he was not allowed to speak on the floor of the House.

"(Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren) Rijiju ji made a statement in Lok Sabha asking Congress MPs to start a discussion. Whenever someone is named, it is normal to ask the person to respond. However, when I rose to reply to Rijiju, I was not allowed to speak, and my



mike was shut," Gandhi said.

The opposition and the government are in the middle of a stand-off over issues related to paper leaks, the students' protest led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), and the police crackdown on them on the streets

of the capital.

"I wanted to present the opposition's stand clearly. The students have three demands – corrupt Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has to go; those who beat up students must face action; and the prime minister

should apologise to the students.

"These are the three conditions. We are not going to have any conversation, any discussion before Mr Pradhan is sacked," Gandhi said. (Agencies)

Chinese National Among Three Held In Noida For Running Shell Firms, Hawala Racket: UP STF



NOIDA, JUL 24: Three persons, including a Chinese national who was allegedly staying illegally in India after his visa expired, have been arrested in Noida for operating a hawala network and setting up multiple shell companies to launder money, the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) said.

The accused were identified as Chinese national Liao Longhui, currently residing in Sector 93, Noida, Sanjeev Kumar, a resident of Ghaziabad, and Kaushalendra, a resident of Auraiya, it said on Thursday evening.

Additional Superintendent of Police, STF Noida Unit, Rajkumar Mishra said the trio was arrested on Wednesday night from Purvanchal Silver City in Sector 93 following a probe into suspicious financial transactions.

According to the STF, the gang established fake companies in India and China and illegally transferred large sums of money abroad through hawala channels.

The STF recovered five laptops, nine mobile phones, one tablet, a forged Aadhaar card bearing the name "Samuel Lotha" but carrying Liao's photograph, two PAN cards, 10 company stamps, two Chinese passports, one Chinese identity card, 11 cheque books of different banks, invoices, cheques valued at Rs 4.72 crore and Rs 15,400 in cash.

Mishra said the investigation led the STF to YTL Man-

ufacturing Pvt Ltd, a company registered at a Noida address and operating from Sector 83. The firm was allegedly being run by Liao Longhui.

The STF summoned Liao along with his Indian associates, Sanjeev Kumar and Kaushalendra, for questioning along with company documents.

During interrogation, Liao failed to produce complete visa and company-related records and informed investigators that the remaining documents were kept at his residence in Purvanchal Silver City.

A subsequent search of the premises led to the recovery of cheque books and documents related to several suspected shell companies, following which the three accused were arrested at around 10 pm on Wednesday, Mishra said.

During questioning, Liao told investigators that he

came to India in 2018 and had been managing YTL Manufacturing Pvt Ltd, a company established by his father-in-law Mugen Yu and brother-in-law Quiping Tang.

The company manufactured mobile phone covers by importing raw materials from China at inflated prices and selling finished products in Delhi's Karol Bagh and Nehru Place markets through under-invoicing, police said.

According to the STF, the remaining funds were allegedly transferred abroad through hawala channels and eventually routed back to China.

Investigators alleged that Liao induced several employees of YTL Manufacturing Pvt Ltd to provide their documents, which were then used to establish shell companies, including JNS Infra Heights Pvt Ltd, Refan Enterprises India Pvt Ltd, Tidy-

desk Essential Pvt Ltd and Z One Enterprises.

Another shell company, Hanuraj Trading Solution Pvt Ltd, was allegedly floated in the name of his driver Devendra and used for money laundering, the STF said.

Police alleged that the entire racket was operated by Liao with the assistance of Kaushalendra and Kumar, a chartered accountant, who is suspected to have played a key role in incorporating the shell companies and opening bank accounts used for hawala transactions.

The STF said investigations also revealed that Liao's Indian visa expired in 2020 and that he had been living illegally in the country since then while allegedly carrying out hawala operations and other financial crimes through the network of shell companies.

Further investigation is underway, police said. (Agencies)